



# THE GUARDIAN

The highlight of the past month, without a doubt, was our attendance at the annual Fatima Conference. It began with the bishop's Pontifical High Mass, followed by his lecture. Six of us were privileged to serve the Mass, while others sang in the choir. After the bishop's lecture we listened to several other lectures and also attended the Conference banquet.

The following week we had our bi-annual reception ceremony for our sodality, with three new candidates joining. The first sodality was in a Jesuit seminary in Rome in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, there have been sodalities throughout the world. Our seminary sodality is optional and is available for those who want to foster their devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

Throughout the past month we have

also been enjoying trips to the park, since the weather has been excellent.

But now it has finally turned much colder, and we have received our first snowfall of the season. The snow makes us think of winter skiing and sledding, but it also

means shoveling!

During the month of November we will especially be praying for the souls in purgatory. Let us, in charity, remember these suffering souls, who cry out for our prayers. They cannot help themselves, but we can help them. By doing so, we shall obtain intercessors who will never forget what we have done for them, in allowing them to enter heaven sooner than they otherwise would.

## November Calendar

- 1 – All Saints Day; no classes; seminary outing
- 2 – All Souls Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 21 – Presentation of Our Lady; chanted Vespers
- 23 – Thanksgiving Vacation
- 28 – Classes resume

## Purgatory:

### A Temporary Hell

by John Biehl, gr. 12

I know for certain that both you and I, dear reader, as well as every single human on this afflicted earth, can give a prompt answer to the following question: What is the worst thing that has ever happened to you? I myself almost immediately take a painful journey down to the deep recesses of my memory and pluck that one specific tragedy or catastrophe which stands out from the rest. We can all agree life is simply a time period of our soul which, according to Google, has a current average lifespan of 76.4 years – 76.4 years of sorrowful darkness, illuminated only by God, His creation, and the hope of being with Him after death.

Well, my dear reader, we have yet to experience purgatory. According to the book *Purgatory*, written by Father Schouppe S.J., there is *no proportion* between the sufferings of this life and those of purgatory. From the infinitely

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Two seminarians hold the book and candle for the bishop at the Pontifical Mass

On the next day we attended lectures throughout the day, concluding with the candlelight procession with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Several of us served as statue-bearers. Although we stayed home on Saturday, we returned to Mount Saint Michael in the evening to hear the fascinating lecture of Dr. Hughes on lessons from a Japanese POW camp. All in all, the Conference was a wonderful experience.

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## **Purgatory: A Temporary Hell**

detailed and comprehensive realm of mathematics, no fraction, no comparison, no similarity can be found between the sorrows of earth and purgatory. Yet, blinded by the detrimental first sin of Adam, naive men across the world are simply oblivious to the striking reality of purgatory. One and *only* one conclusion can be derived from this information: avoid purgatory and pray for those who have failed to do so.

After reading this you may be filled with a holy and just fear of God, but on the other hand this information might cause you to have unnatural fear, to be riddled with scruples, or to even fall into despair. To these unfortunate souls I will present the comforting fact that purgatory is the

## **Lover of the Sacred Heart**

*by Brendan Rabjohns, gr. 11*

**P**redating St. Margaret Mary by over three hundred years, St. Gertrude was one of the first writers of the Sacred Heart. Born in 1252, St. Gertrude was entrusted to the Abbey of Helfta at the young age of five. Through a mix-up with her abbess whose name was also Gertrude, St. Gertrude and her great writings were unknown to the world till the late seventeenth century. The writings of St. Gertrude are full of the devotion to the Sacred Heart and her collection of prayers was highly recommended by Sts. Philip Neri and Francis de Sales.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart which St. Gertrude



*The ping-pong table hosts plenty of games among the seminarians.*

result of God's justice, but also His *mercy*. In fact, the previously referenced book called *Purgatory* has two sections: The Mystery of God's Justice and the Mystery of God's Mercy. Because of the infinite compassion and mercy of God, purgatory exists. Without it, any soul with the slightest stain of un-expiated sin (roughly 99% of the human race) could never enter Heaven. Though it may be difficult for our faulty brains to comprehend, purgatory is an act of love from God. God is the *definition* of perfection and purity; therefore, by definition an imperfect and impure soul cannot be in His presence. God is also the definition of love, so even when we are offending Him, He is creating a place which will allow us to remit that offense!

Let us forever keep in mind the harsh reality of purgatory, and as we approach All Souls Day, utilize the special indulgences granted by the Church to alleviate the burning pains of the purifying flame. Finally, let us always remember that God is and always will be the perfect combination of both infinite justice and mercy.

teaches us reminds us of the great love of God and how to use the infinite merits of Our Lord's Sacred Heart. It stresses our weakness and our unworthiness but shows us how, by replacing our lack of merits with the perfect merits of Our Lord and availing ourselves of Our Lord's great gift of His

Sacred Heart we can fulfill the great desires of Our Lord for return of love. If we cannot return actual sacrifices for God's great love we can give desires.

Viewing our great weakness, God gives us the benefit of our good desires even if we cannot or fail to achieve the ends we hoped for. With this great gift from God, we can attain great heights of spiritual perfection, repair the offenses committed against God, offer to Our Lady the Sacred Heart of her dear Son and please our dearest Mother with the perfection of Our Lord, free from all faults that will be present in any other offering we could make, and release numerous souls from purgatory.

Imagine the benefits that the world will receive if Our Lord's great gift of His Sacred Heart would be used by all Catholics. Sadly, the world has not heeded the desires of Our Lord's Sacred Heart. We can achieve a greater level of sanctity if we learn the lessons which St. Gertrude wrote for our salvation.



*The seminarians sang a few songs for the Conference guests at the City of Mary.*



*Father Aloysius gives Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the church.*



*Father Benedict, Frater Alphonsus, and Frater Martin enjoy a break between the lectures of the Conference.*



*In October we daily prayed our Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.*



*One of the seminarians rings the bell in front of the seminary each day as we recite the Angelus.*



*Louis makes use of his free time to play the piano.*

## The Daily Life of a Minor Seminarian

by Henry Harris, gr. 10

You all may be wondering, what do the seminarians do after school? The answer to this question is many things. On weekdays, for example, if we don't have too much homework we will play many games outside on the large parking area below the church. We play games like soccer, football and other sports. We also go to the park that is near the seminary to play games in the nice grass.

On Saturday we do all sorts of chores, such as picking apples and raking leaves. We also do many chores around the seminary such as deep cleaning the kitchen and the class room. Another big project that we did not too long ago was picking the grapes. After we finished picking them, Mr. Keaveney processed them to make wine for the Mass.

After school on Tuesday and Thursday we have chores, such as cleaning the bathrooms the kitchen floors and other household chores. We also have milking of the cow every morning and evening. The milking takes about 45 minutes. We have a machine that we hook up to her then we filter the milk through a giant strainer. We also take turns cooking. There are crews; each crew has assigned days that we cook the meals.

Also, we have prayers such as morning and night prayers, and we also have Noon prayers. For our other minor responsibilities we have things such as sacristan duty. The sacristans keep the church in good order and help set up for Mass. There is also "Victor Duty" which is not a popular job in the seminary. The person on Victor Duty takes him on walks and give him baths. These things and many other things are the occupations of us seminarians.

### "... At least you, my friends..."

One of our many privileges here at the "City of Mary" in northern Idaho is that we have a parish cemetery. Our cemetery was started in 1972 and later was consecrated by His Excellency, Bishop Pivarunas. It is the resting place for the mortal remains of close to 100 faithful Catholics who have passed away since its inception.

Saint John Marie Vianney, the holy Cure of Ars, called his parish cemetery his "reliquary," for he rightly believed that very many departed parishioners had lived good Catholic lives. Their mortal remains await the general resurrection at the end of the world, where they will be re-constituted and united once again to their immortal souls. It is for this reason that the Catholic Church has always maintained her cemeteries.

Our cemetery is on the hillside, overlooking our church. It is a peaceful acre, well-maintained by a generous parishioner who spends many an hour keeping it in good condition. A prayerful visit to the cemetery is a way to help the Poor Souls, and it is also a reminder of our own inevitable death. As Scripture says: "Remember thy last end, and thou shalt never sin."



*Brother Fidelis, from the novitiate in Olathe, Colorado, joined the seminarians for the lectures of the Fatima Conference.*

Speaking of the Bible, the lessons that are read in the Office of the Dead, such as on All Souls Day, are taken from the Book of Job. In his heavy trials, Job was reminded of the emptiness of this life and the importance of preparing for eternity. One of his most memorable statements is frequently used by the Church as applied to the souls in purgatory: "Have pity on me, have pity on me, at least you my friends, because the hand of the Lord hath touched me" (Job, 19:21). May the pathos of that earnest plea sink into our hearts and inspire us to do all we can for the poor, suffering souls in purgatory.

As always, we assure you seminary supporters of our deep gratitude for your charity. May God bless you abundantly! We hope that you will enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with your families. Indeed, we all have much for which to give thanks to Almighty God, our loving Creator and Father in heaven.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*