



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. I, No. 8

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2000

The past month has bustled with activity. In late February we had another skiing outing and then enjoyed an overnight stay with the Slaters. Sally Slater was once a boarding student and knows what it is like to be away from home. Her husband Vern is a great cook, and they graciously invited us for the second time to their home.

Shortly after Ash Wednesday, we had a visit from Fr. Casimir Puskorius, CMRI, the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Tacoma. Fr. Casimir gave us a weekend retreat, our first experience of attending a retreat. He then stayed on a few days to substitute for Fr. Benedict, who was out of town.

During the following week we had a visit from Mr. Mark Glenn. Mr. Glenn is a traditional Catholic teacher who is interested in teaching at the seminary next year. We have enjoyed his visit and look forward to having him as a teacher next year.

Finally, as we mail out this issue of *The Guardian*, we are preparing to leave for Omaha, where we will attend the

ordination ceremony. None of us has ever seen an ordination to the priesthood, so we are certainly looking forward to this event.

Retreat

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 9

On the weekend of March 10-12 we experienced our first retreat. A retreat is an annual event in seminaries. The retreat includes conferences on the spiritual life, along with silence and prayer to help us focus in the right direction.

The first evening featured a conference on the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell. Later that evening we had all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed in our chapel, with each seminarian taking an hour of adoration during the night. This was also a new experience for most of us.

The second day included several more conferences on the rules, silence, vocations and the importance of the sacraments. Unfortunately, our retreat

master came down with a flu bug on the last day of the retreat. Consequently, the time scheduled for the final conference was spent in silent reading.

Silence was kept throughout the retreat except during recreation and appointed times, which made the retreat seem like one long prayer. This spirit of silence helped us to be attentive to God's inspirations during the retreat.

This retreat helped us to become spiritually focused on our final goal.

Our software program technician

by Isaac Martin, gr. 9

Several weeks ago we started a class in computers with Mr. Mark Mazurik as head coach. If you were new to the world of computers, you would be surprised on how much there is to learn. It takes a great deal of knowledge just to master the fundamentals of the computer world, but for people like Mr. Mazurik everything about computers comes easily. Of course, when you are a software program technician you are bound to know a lot about computers.

Mr. Mazurik is our computer class teacher and is one of the best. So far, he has taught the seminarians the various components of a computer, including an inside look at a computer's hard drive, all the latest models, viruses, software and hardware. Unfortunately, he is a busy man and has limited time with us, but during our time together we gain a lot of useful technical information. We are blessed to have a teacher like Mr. Mazurik, with his in-depth knowledge of the world of computers.



The seminarians enjoy learning about computers.

Mr. Gilfoil

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 10

Since the beginning of the second quarter we have had Mr. Richard Gilfoil for a science teacher, and every day at sixth period he brings in something new. You never know what he will bring next. He brings in articles on every subject under the moon and all sorts of interesting things. He definitely knows how to make the class interesting for us. Science class can be really boring for a teenager, and Mr. Gilfoil knows that. He never fails to captivate our attention with his interesting bits of information.

When he first started teaching us at the beginning of the second quarter we had two classes with him — physical science and geography. They were the last two classes of the day and we should have slept right through them. It's strange but that never happened. I stayed awake all the time. How exactly this happened I just don't know, but he managed to keep us awake all quarter long.

Then the third quarter came and with it, health class. Health class, we thought, who needs that? We're all healthy, or at least that's what we thought. After a few weeks we realized that we're not as healthy as we supposed ourselves to be. We learned that all that pop and candy we consume is killing us. At first we thought that this could never be true. It all tastes so good it just couldn't be that bad. After all, didn't God give it to us? Surely, it would be foolish to pass it up just because the book says it's bad, toxic stuff. Mr. Gilfoil, even though met by much opposition, has managed to convince most of us to cut our daily candy intake. This is truly amazing considering how much we like our candy.

Another reason we are lucky to have Mr. Gilfoil for a teacher is his kind heart. He always seems to understand when we don't do our homework. He obviously must have been a kid once himself and remembers the agonizing pain of homework and calls it to mind when we tell him our sad stories. It isn't very often you find a teacher like that. He must also read the Bible for he definitely knows about forgiving seventy-times-seven. All these above reasons are probably why Mr. Gilfoil's class is one of our favorite classes, and we are all glad we have him for a teacher.

The soggy days

by Fulton Abernathy, gr. 9

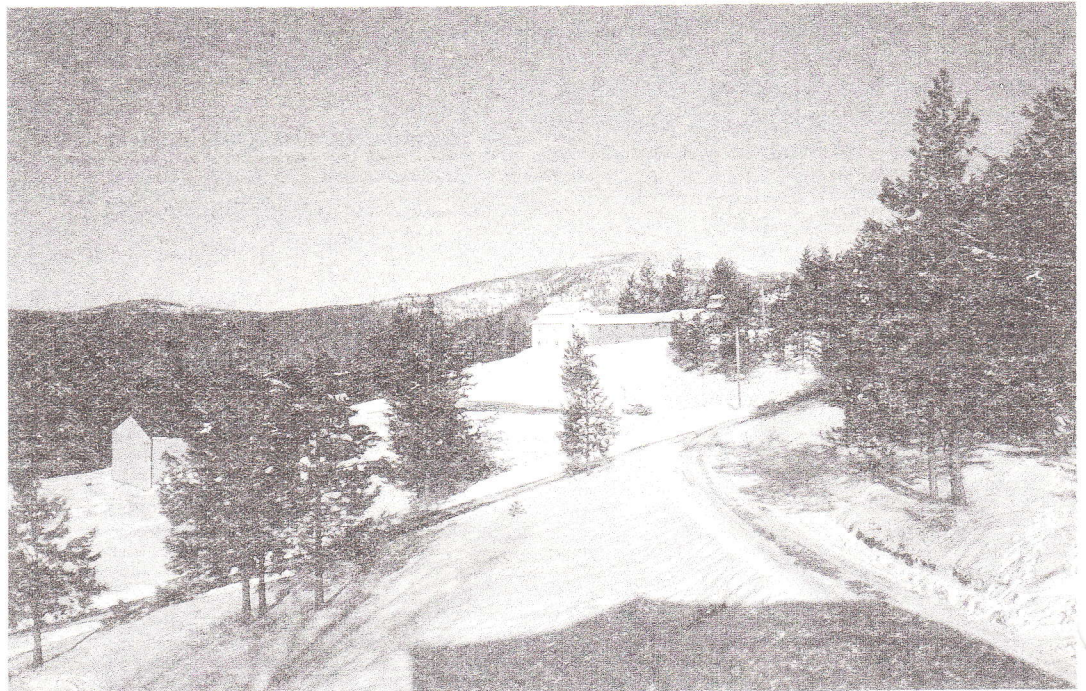
As the snow begins to melt and all the birds start to come back from wherever they spend their winters, there seems to be magic in the air. One morning you step outside and one word comes out of your mouth — SPRING!

Although spring means that finally the snow is going to melt, there is a minor setback to all this thawing out and that is the mud. Now mud is not necessarily bad because it can help you obtain some wonderful virtues, such as humility, obedience and patience. An opportunity for humility occurs at those times when the ground under which you are standing seems to vacate the premises and your apparel suddenly changes colors to a quaint, speckled brown. Obedience is practiced each time that Father tells you to clean up all the mud that you just tracked across the kitchen floor. And you need patience so that you don't blow up after both of the above-mentioned things happen ten times a day, all week long.

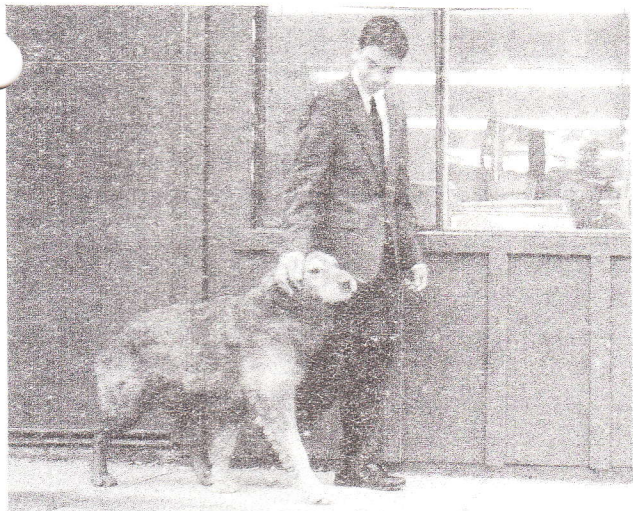
As the season of spring blossoms the days grow longer and, toward the end of each, it seem like you just want to sit in the sun and sleep. School can sometimes be a little bit long, but then that is just another opportunity to practice virtue.

Well, even though it is spring, most of the seminarians are already looking forward to summer. Wade says that he can't wait for the snow to melt away completely so that he can find a button he had lost earlier in the year; Kevin, on the other hand, likes the snow; and Charlie was wanting spring after a few months of winter.

So spring is a great season which shows us God's power and glory.



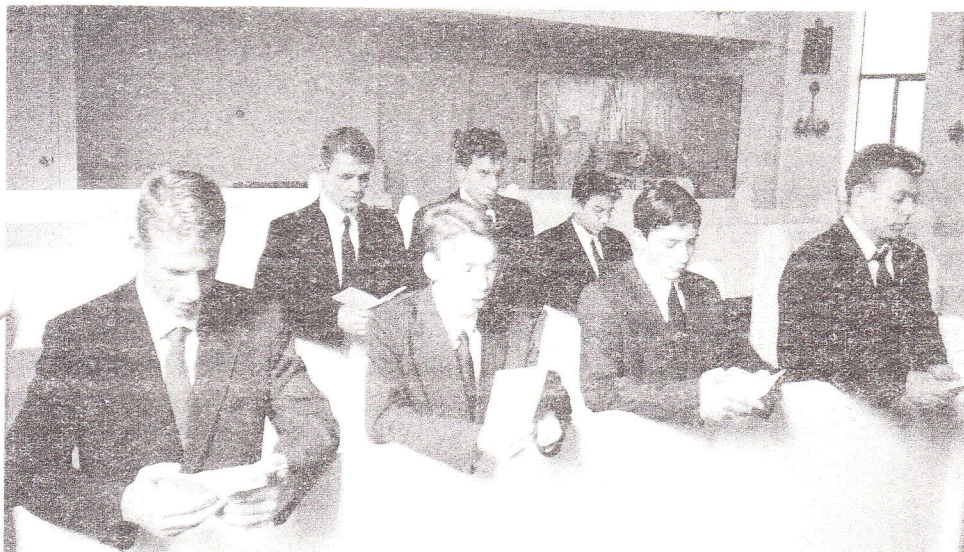
Spring is here and we now have mud where we once had snow cover as this scene shows.



Caesar, our newest addition, follows Charlie around.



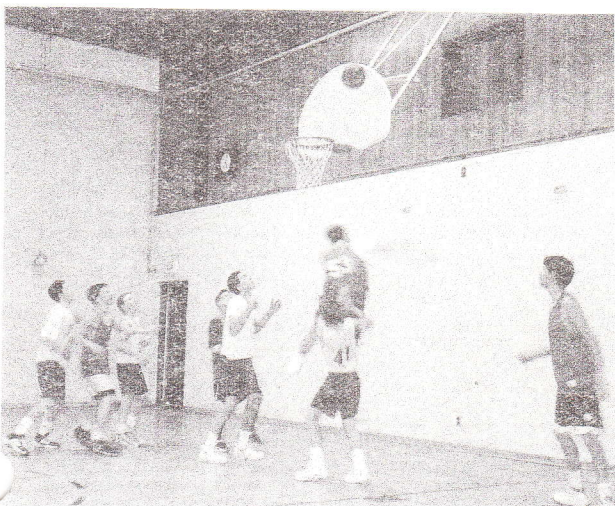
A seminarian reads from a spiritual book during breakfast.



Seminarians gather in the chapel for daily prayer and meditation.



Caesar gives the camera his best canine profile.



The seminarians (in white jerseys) enjoy competing against another local basketball team.



Vern and Sally Slater have graciously opened their home to the seminarians for a couple of Friday night sleep-overs.

The newest seminarian

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 9

He is fast, playful, spunky, and has fur all over his body. He races as fast as he can in order to catch wild Frisbees that fly through the air. His favorite pastimes are playing, sleeping, or wrestling with the mud. Who is this newcomer you ask? It's our dog Caesar!

We seminarians finally got what we'd been requesting for months — the final ingredient that would make the seminary more of a home. We finally got a dog! Caesar is a docile, six-year-old golden retriever that came to us from a member of our parish.

Although an older dog at six years, Caesar never acts his age. Apparently, he is living his days to the fullest a canine possibly can! He is always ready to play. He picks fights with the mud and always loses. Caesar loves to be outside and would prefer being outside all day long. He chases loose balls, Frisbees, and sticks, promptly returning them for another round.

Caesar's coat always needs a cleaning! He must not feel comfortable being clean, for as soon as he has been washed, he and his friend Mud are out there wrestling — and again, Mud leaves his mark. Better luck next time, Caesar. Although rambunctious and spunky, Caesar always heeds his masters' call. When it's time to come inside he does so dutifully. He is a good dog and has become part of our family. We just don't know how we ever got along without him.

Caesar loves his masters as we love him. When play time is over he can be found lying or sitting beside one of the seminarians keeping him company. I hope Caesar is here to stay for a while. It would start to get pretty boring without him.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

Month of the Eucharist

The month of April is often referred to as the month of the Blessed Sacrament. Here at Mary Immaculate Queen Church we traditionally hold our Forty Hours' adoration during this month. This year's Forty Hours will be on the second weekend of the month, providing the seminarians once again with the opportunity to spend extra time before Our Lord in the sacrament of His love. They must learn to relish the time spent with Our Lord if they are one day to be His priests.

The practice of Forty Hours began in the 16th Century to atone for sins committed during carnival time and to honor the 40 hours the body of Jesus rested in the tomb. I well remember participating in the ceremonies of Forty Hours as an altar boy. The gathering of priests from other parishes for the opening and closing processions was quite impressive. I pray that our seminarians' participation in Forty Hours, serving and making Holy Hours, will be a great source of their spiritual growth.

During this month we will hold a vocations day. This will be an opportunity for eighth- or ninth-grade boys to learn about the daily routine in the seminary, to sit in on classes, and to have a chance to get to know the seminarians. Please pray for the success of this vocations day.

We all look forward to the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week and, of course, to a welcome Spring Break during the Easter Week. May you all have a most blessed Lent and a joyous Easter. As always, we thank you for your support and assent of our prayers.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This newsletter is free upon request.

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