



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. I, No. 9

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2000

Shortly after mailing our last newsletter, most of us left on a trip for Omaha, Nebraska, to attend the ordination of Fr. Paul Andrade. Our trip was quite eventful, as you will read below, and most enjoyable. It was particularly gratifying to meet so many of you who read our newsletter and support our seminary.

Recently we had a "Vocations Day" at the seminary. We followed our regular class schedule as eleven young men in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades sat in and observed. Only time will tell how many will respond to Our Lord's invitation and join us.

We also recently celebrated the Forty Hours' devotion. The opening and closing processions were particularly beautiful. All the seminarians were involved in singing and serving for these ceremonies. It was a great blessing to participate in this solemn occasion and

to spend some time with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Well, time marches on. We have received our Third Quarter report cards and are now in the final quarter of the school year. We are now in Holy Week, and we will soon leave for a full week of vacation for our Easter Break. Please continue to pray for us that we will use the final two months of the year to grow in knowledge and holiness.

May, the Month of Mary

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 10

April showers bring May flowers and the wonderful month of Our Lady. May is a fitting month in which to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. The earth is awakening from winter and budding flowers fill green fields with color and fragrance. During the month of May we

should make a special effort to develop our devotion to the Blessed Virgin. She loves us very much and is a great source of grace and aid to those who call upon her.

One very good way to give honor to Our Lady is to pray her rosary every day with devotion. There are also many other excellent devotions we can perform during this month that honor Our Lady. Here at the seminary we will pray extra prayers each day of the month in her honor and we will place fresh flowers daily at her shrine in chapel.

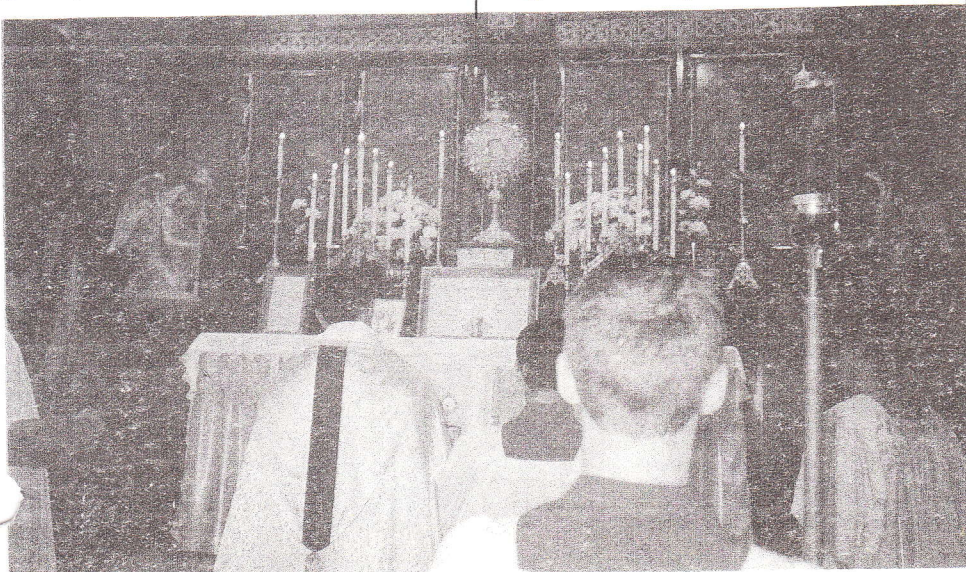
It is important that we have a strong devotion to Mary throughout our lives so that she won't forget us when we appear before her divine Son. There is a wonderful saying that wherever Our Lord closes a door, His Mother opens a window. Our Lady is always there to help us when we are in trouble, and often we don't thank the Blessed Virgin for all she does for us. So especially during May we should try to honor our good Mother Mary in the way that she deserves.

Holy Week

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 9

Holy Week, the most important week in the year, commemorates the week in which Our Lord redeemed us. It is filled with liturgical ceremonies and practices. All of us are partaking in serving for the liturgy of Holy Week, especially on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Holy Week has significant meaning, telling of Our Lord's Passion with long Gospels and special ceremonies which



The Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar during the Forty Hours' ceremonies.

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Journey to Omaha

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

A familiar sound woke us up at an unfamiliar time on the twenty-second of March. On that morning we were awakened at 5:00 a.m. so that we would be ready to shove off right after Mass. So before we left we made an extra visit to the Blessed Sacrament to ask for guidance and safety on our long trek. We all packed into the van and tried to start it but nothing happened. Finally, we figured we had better try to jump it—as two of the seminarians had suggested in the beginning—and, lo and behold, it started. The van gave us no problems the rest of the way to Omaha.

As our trip began the passengers took a nice long nap as Father drove for several hours. The rest of the day was spent in conversation and games, and, of course, in saying our prayers. We stayed that night in Gillette, Wyoming. As we traveled, we began to talk about going to Mount Rushmore, even though it would delay our arrival in Omaha. We all agreed that it would be worth the time, and so we took a small detour to take in the monument. As we looked at the magnificent sight and visited the visitors' center, time flew by rather quickly, so we shortly returned to the road.

Finally, after almost 24 hours of driving, we arrived in Omaha, our destination. In the morning after Mass, we were introduced to the major seminarians and some of the priests that we hadn't met before and then began a practice for the ordination ceremony. The afternoon was occupied with basketball, which was most enjoyable after such a long trip.

The following morning was the ordination. What a ceremony it was. We were privileged to be allowed to serve in this Mass, the most beautiful Mass I have ever witnessed. That ordination Mass is something we will long remember.

After a few more games of basketball with the priests and the other seminarians, we headed out once more—this time heading in a different direction, to Colorado. What happened on this trip was certainly unplanned, because after about four hours of driving, our driver, Julian Gilchrist, noticed an unwanted vibration in the car. So he pulled into a small town to have the car evaluated and found it needed urgent repairs. Julian called Fr. Benedict, who had flown to Colorado the day before, and Father called the Bollingers, who live near our stop. They showed us the way to a motel for the night and made arrangements for the van to be repaired the following morning. Finally, at about three in the afternoon of the next day, we were back on the road,

arriving in western Colorado around 7:30 p.m. After meeting the Barnes family, who so kindly opened their home to us, we had dinner and went to bed.

Following Mass the next morning we ate a good hearty breakfast and headed home, reaching the seminary at about 11:00 p.m. All in all, we had a great trip, and we thank everyone who helped us along the way.

Free time

by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 9

Free Time is a phrase which thrills the mind of a seminarian and opens the imagination to many things that could be done.

Although free time may last only a few hours in the afternoon it is always the most active part of the day. It is a time when, after the long school day, you doff your school uniforms and release your energy in the newly-arrived spring air.

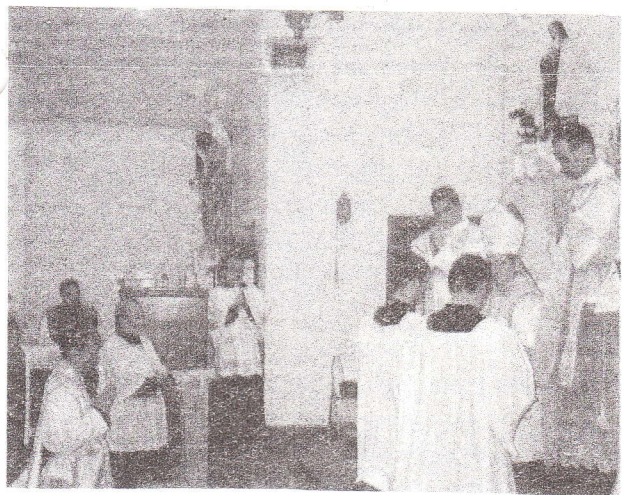
Free time is usually divided between basketball or other outdoor activity and indoor games, such as cards or chess. But now that the warm weather has come, basketball is definitely the preferred activity. The seminarians all go down to the gym or the outdoor court and play a vigorous game, which really gets us tired out. It seems like we have been playing for only a few minutes, when actually we've been there for a couple of hours. So we quickly rush off to the seminary to change for prayers in chapel.

Especially lately, now that the weather is warm, we try to get as much sports in as we can before we have to go back inside. The days are getting longer, and it is harder to stop playing and go back indoors. But penance is good for you, and it certainly is a good penance to stop a good game of basketball and get ready for prayers.

And so free time is a great time of day for every reason.



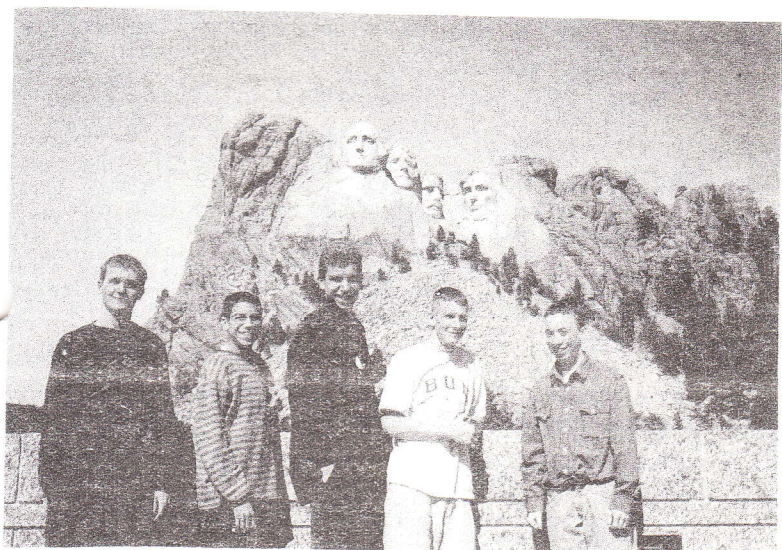
The seminarians were privileged to attend the ordination of Fr. Paul Andrade in Omaha, Nebraska.



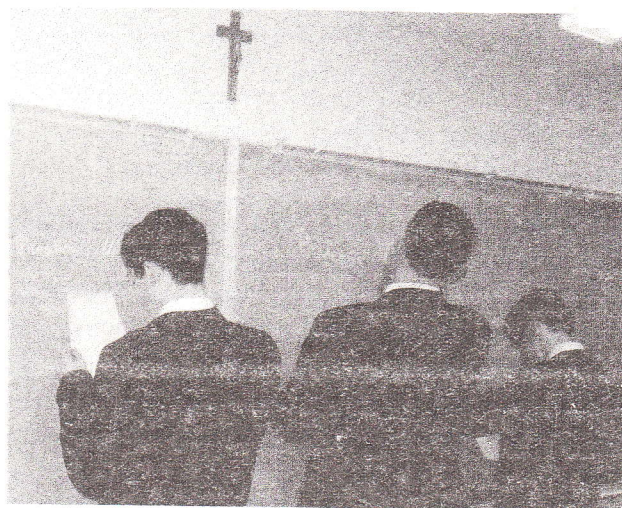
Ordinand Paul Andrade is called to the altar to be ordained.



Fr. Paul Andrade administers his first priestly blessing to the seminarians.



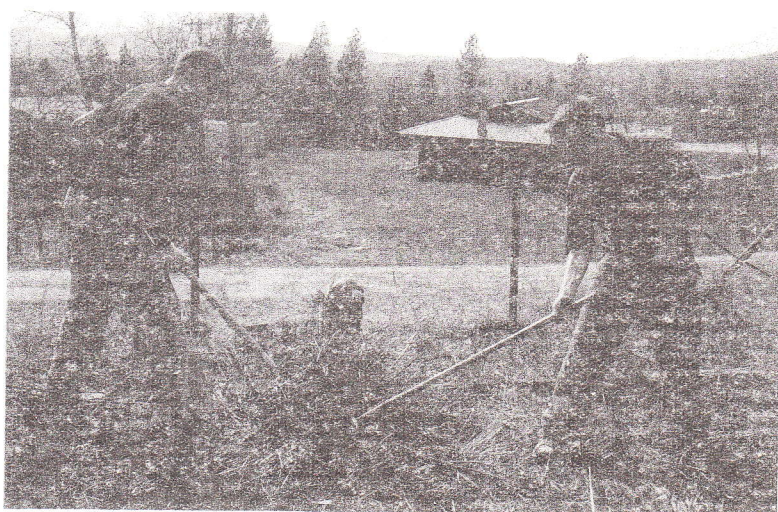
Five of the seminarians pose for the camera at Mount Rushmore.



The seminarians write out Latin translations from their homework assignment.



Fr. Casimir Puskorius, CMRI, gives a lecture to the seminarians during their Lenten Retreat.



Caesar watches as two of the seminarians help Mrs. Carpenter prepare the garden for planting.

Holy Week

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almost reenact what happened two thousand years ago. All these things help us to focus on the Passion of Our Lord.

Serving for Holy Week is a great privilege, but it requires special practices for each ceremony, because each one is different. On Holy Thursday there is the ceremony of washing the feet of twelve men and the procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose. On Good Friday, Stations of the Cross begin the solemn ceremonies or readings, prayers, the veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. Finally, on Holy Saturday there is the lighting of the Paschal candle, the blessing of Baptismal water, and many other ceremonies. These ceremonies last for hours, so it is hard to learn your part in so short a time.

Holy Week has beautiful liturgical ceremonies, but it also is significant in the time that must be spent in serving practices. Despite that time, all of us love to serve, especially the elaborate ceremonies of this week.

The House of God

by Isaac Martin, gr. 9

What is the most profitable thing someone can do for his soul on earth? Let me give you a hint — it has the word *church* in it. If you said to go to church you guessed the right answer but not the one I am looking for. Let me explain. The answer I am looking for is to work on building the House of God. You see, we get grace for receiving Holy Communion but we must first have a stationary place where we can attend

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.

Mass. So we must build churches with the utmost respect so that all men can see the beauty and truth of God's Church.

Right now, Father is enlarging his church here in Rathdrum, Idaho. It is our privilege to assist Mr. Cornel Strain, the contractor. We thereby gain graces and know that we have had a part in all the Masses and sacraments which will be offered in the new sanctuary when it is completed. This is a great privilege and one that will help us to love God more.

A Blessed Easter!

All the seasons of the year are beautiful, but there is something grand about spring. After the long winter, it is a great joy to see the flowers bloom, the trees bud and the grass grow. How fitting that the glorious feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord occurs during this season of the year!

The theme of Easter is new life. Our Lord died and rose again to give us supernatural life. The rebirth of nature reminds us that we too must leave off old habits and live a spiritual life, imitating the virtues of Christ.

So the celebration of Easter reminds us that we must strive for spiritual progress. This progress is achieved only by degrees, not by leaps and bounds. It is not easy for seminarians to learn the importance of fulfilling each little task, following each little rule, obeying each little direction. Cumulatively, however, these practices result in the spiritual reward of a supernatural life, a life modeled on that of our Risen Savior.

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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