



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2000

It seems like we just returned from Easter vacation, and already the end of the school year is at hand. We are all looking forward to going home to be with our families during the summer months. June 9 will be our last day of classes.

Father has announced that we will take a trip to Seattle shortly before the end of the school year. We will enjoy a Major League baseball game and the other sights of the Seattle area. We will be staying for two nights with the Rodriguez family in Tacoma, which should be a lot of fun. Above all, it will be nice for us all to be together before we separate for the summer.

As we approach our summer vacation, it is only natural for us to look back over the past year and think of the highlights, which is the topic of one of the articles. But we are already talking about next year. Before we know it, we

will be back here for another year at St. Joseph Seminary, and we are wondering what the new year will bring. Until then, however, enjoy your summer and please pray for us.

Our Lady's month

by Wade White

Although we are drawing near to the end of the month of May, we can never write too much about Our Lady. So I would like to tell you about our seminary practices of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary during the past month.

Our Marian devotions during the month of May have included: chanting Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, crowning the statue of Our Lady with a wreath of flowers, praying the Little Crown, joining in the daily public recitation of the rosary in the church, and gathering fresh flowers each day for Our Lady's shrine in the seminary.

All of us have learned Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Latin and how to chant it. The chanting of Vespers is a very uplifting experience. If any of us is in a melancholic mood, chanting Vespers will leave him with a light heart and a feeling of consolation.

Every day before Mass, a parishioner leaves a beautiful wreath of freshly picked flowers on the altar rail. One of the altar servers takes the wreath and, as we all sing one of the beautiful hymns to Our Lady, places it atop the pristine head of our heavenly Queen. Also, each day a different seminarian is assigned to gather a bouquet of flowers for our heavenly Mother, to be placed before the lovely statue of Mary in our classroom.

Another exquisite practice is the recitation of the Little Crown of Our Lady, which the school children pray every day. We pray this together every Wednesday after Mass, and, afterwards, you feel like kissing the feet of Mary Immaculate Queen!

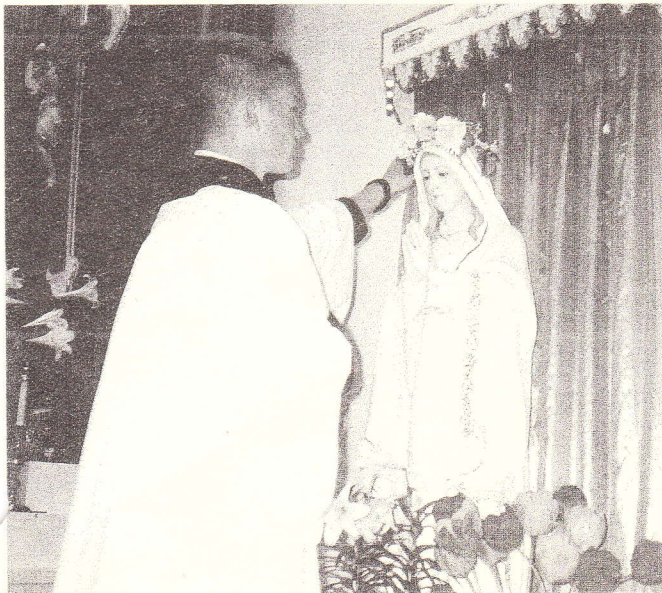
Some of us wish that the month of May would be fifty days long in order to give the Mystical Rose more homage. Nevertheless, heaven lasts for all eternity so we will then get our wish.

The hardest work of mercy

by Isaac Martin, gr. 9

I used to wonder why the Church puts "to bury the dead" as a corporal work of mercy. When Father announced that there was going to be a funeral and he needed several volunteers to dig the grave, four of us readily offered our services. Well, let me tell you something — after you dig through five feet of dirt as hard as a rock, with the last two feet being of decomposed granite, you find out that digging a grave is not as easy as it sounds.

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Fulton places the crown of flowers on Our Lady's head.

Work of mercy

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It was hard work, but we were happy to know that we gained the merit of performing a corporal work of mercy. The lady who passed away was a resident of Arizona who had previously been a member of this parish. Her husband is buried at the City of Mary so she was buried right beside him. All of the seminarians participated in the funeral. We had a Requiem High Mass with incense and then a procession to the graveyard which is at the top of a big hill.

It was a privilege for us to participate in this work of mercy, and we learned that no matter how hard the work, there is always a reward at the end.

A great year

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 10

On June 10th we seminarians will pack our bags and leave for summer vacation. The year has gone by so fast. It seems like yesterday was the first day of school. As I look back over the year, I have to say that it has been a great year!

The year started off with the seminarians taking a camping trip together. It was a lot of fun and we all got to know each other. I still laugh when I think of Isaac on that trip. He did one crazy thing after another. While the rest of us were swimming he went rock climbing. When he was up on the mountain he found a nest of paper wasps and came back all swelled up and covered with red marks.

The next morning Father left early to say Mass at the church. When we woke up the Suburban was gone, along with the cooler that was in it. We were all starving and so we went down to the lake to look for food. Fulton and Kevin found a duck and spent a long time stalking it before they finally realized it was smarter than they were.

After that trip there was the first month of school which really wasn't that bad. There were a few times when we would all despair over homework, but we were usually able to find some way out of it. Finally it snowed. Everyone had been waiting for winter. Charlie especially was anxious because he had never been sledding before and there are a lot of awesome hills by the seminary. Those of us who are used to snow couldn't wait to go snowboarding. We all got our wish. When there was snow on the ground, we went sledding every day and snowboarding several times.

In the spring five seminarians went with Father to the ordinations in Omaha. We also saw the relics of St. Thérèse in Seattle. The year has been filled with so many things I can name them all. It was truly a great year. I'm very glad I came to the seminary, and I hope to see more new faces next year. I would also like to thank all those who have supported us. You are always in our prayers, and everything you have done for us is greatly appreciated. The seminary is a very good thing for me and all the seminarians. I, for one, will definitely be back next year.

The crack of the bat

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

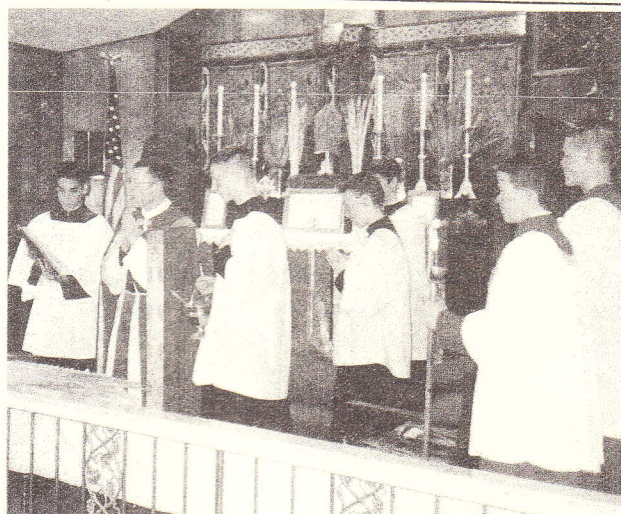
There are ten minutes left until prayers and the score is tied. Francis is up to bat, and he smashes a home run for the win! Even though our baseball games aren't usually that exciting, we seminarians enjoy them just the same. We usually like to play basketball, but when the sun is shining and the day is beautiful, we have no other choice but to play baseball. Lately, that has been the case more often than not.

The teams are usually composed of the same players. But if they are different, the team without Francis knows that they will almost always lose. All in all, however, we have almost as much fun as the winning team. So this makes the saying, "winning isn't everything," a true statement.

Recently, Mr. Bollinger, one of the teachers from Mount St. Michael, has come over here to teach us some of the fundamentals of the game. We are just beginners and we lack much of the equipment needed to play, but we are getting better. Perhaps next year we will even have enough seminarians to form a real team.



Francis takes a swing at the ball.



Father blesses the palms for distribution during Palm Sunday ceremonies.



The seminarians assist as Father washes the feet of 12 men on Holy Thursday.



Chanting Vespers of Our Lady in the seminary chapel.



Two seminarians practice CPR on a mannequin during health class.



A seminarian gathers flowers for the May shrine.



Two seminarians perform a corporal work of mercy by preparing a grave for burial.

Life-saving techniques

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 9, and Fulton Abernathy, gr. 9

On a Tuesday in early May, our health teacher Mr. Gilfoil had a fireman come to the seminary to teach a CPR class. The first thing that he talked about was the type of situations that can occur when someone is hurt and what to do in those cases. There are many different things that can happen to someone who is injured, and the best thing that you can do is to stay calm.

He then showed us charts of the heart, esophagus and lungs. Next he showed us how to perform rescue breathing and CPR. There are many things that you must remember when you are doing any kind of rescue work on an injured person. We used a mannequin to practice doing the CPR process. This mannequin was designed in such a way that its chest will not rise during the rescue breathing process if you aren't performing CPR correctly.

The last thing that he told us was what to do when someone is choking. You should tell the person not to panic and, if he is able to breathe fine, do not try to move the foreign body because you might block the airway. If someone cannot breathe at all, then you should use abdominal thrusts (the Heimlich maneuver) to try to remove the object.

In general, that health class was fun, and we all gained some very important and useful knowledge.

A time to give thanks

Students usually count down the days until the end of school, and seminarians are no different. Warm weather and tired minds combine to cause everyone to look forward to summer vacation, now just a couple of weeks away. For me, that means making a list of all the important tasks that must be accomplished before the next school year commences. Somehow, I fear that the summer will be too short.

As I look back over the past year, it can only be with sentiments of deep gratitude. I am grateful, first to Almighty God, Our Blessed Mother, and our beloved patron St. Joseph, for a wonderful year. I am grateful to all of you for your support, without which this seminary would be impossible. I am grateful to the teachers and staff members who have offered their time and talents to help with this important work. And I am especially grateful to the seminarians for their cooperative

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.

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.

spirit. Without any of these elements, this year would not have been a success, nor would the seminary have even been possible.

This year has indeed been special. We have been able to do things with this small group that would have been impossible with a larger number of young men. This first group of seminarians has been the kernel, the nucleus on which to build. They made the commitment to come when St. Joseph Seminary was nothing but a name. They have persevered through the homesickness and other trials of seminary life and have become like a family. For all of these reasons, they will always be dear to me.

But with God's help we must look to the future and continue to build. I ask your prayers for more vocations and that God will continue to bless this work, so important to the future of Holy Mother Church. Everything, I believe, begins with holy priests. All else will follow. May the Master of the vineyard send many holy laborers into His harvest!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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