

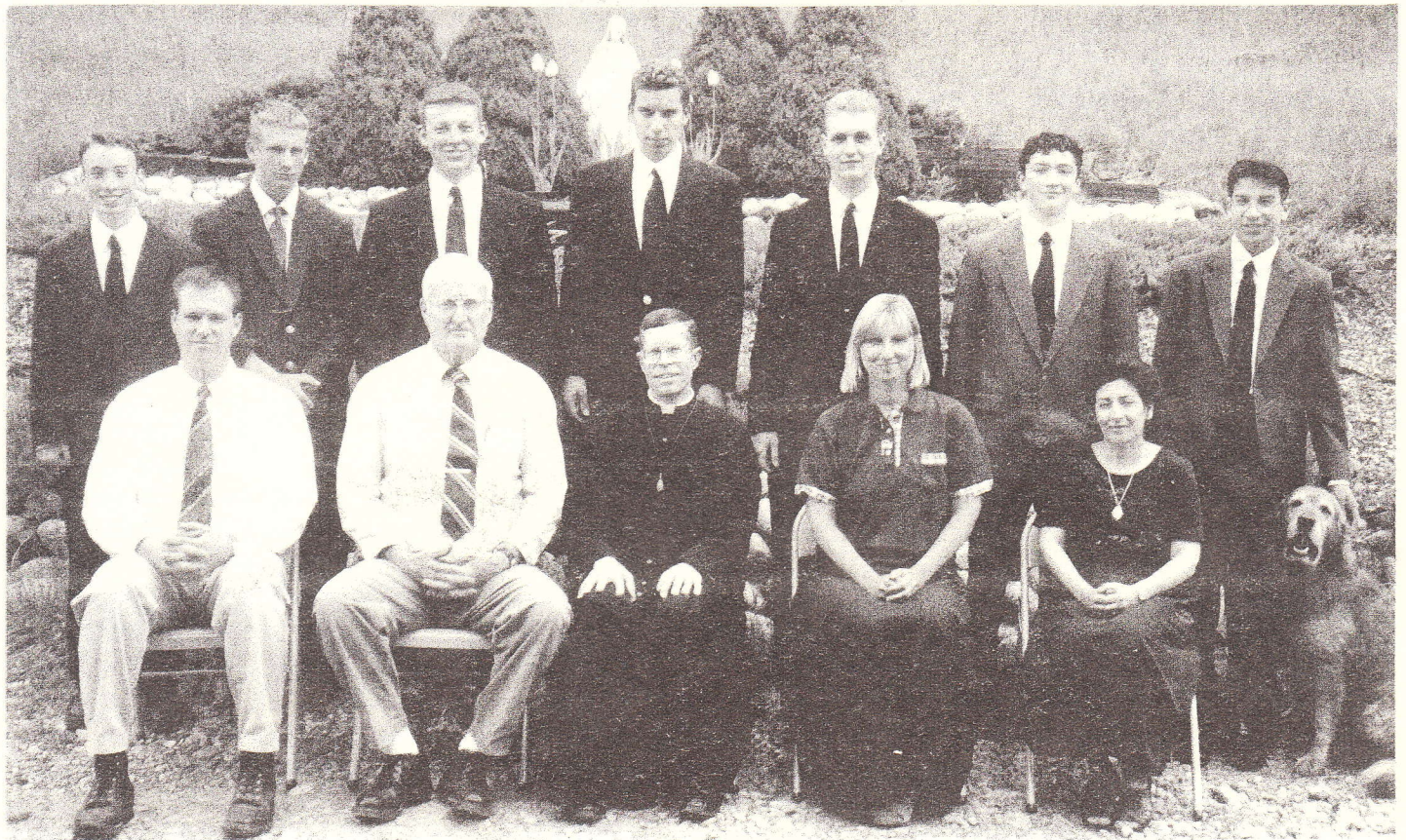


THE GUARDIAN

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Students and staff pose for a final group portrait. Front row (left to right): Mr. Joseph Strain, Mr. Richard Gilfoil, Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI, Mrs. Athena Abernathey, Mrs. Donna Carpenter. Back row (left to right): Kevin Cox, Fulton Abernathey, Francis Abernathey, Isaac Martin, Wade White, Philip Dunphy, Charles Rodriguez and Caesar. (Missing from this photo is Mr. Mark Mazurik.)

At the end of May we took a two-day road trip to Seattle. The seminarians had raised funds for this outing, which was a good way to end the school year. In the first article, Fulton shares with you some of the experiences on that outing.

Following this trip we had our final exams and then said our good-byes. As the seminarians packed, I could only ask myself, "Where did all this stuff come from?" Somehow, they managed to pack

it all into their suitcases, and then they were off.

Since then, the atmosphere of the seminary has changed considerably. Now, with school out, only Wade and I remain — for the time being. In a few more weeks, Wade will go to Omaha to the major seminary to begin his novitiate. Our second article of *The Guardian* was written by Wade, as he reflects on this change in the seminary

and his final few weeks here at St. Joseph's.

While the summer is a welcome break for both staff and students, it will certainly not be a time for idleness. I have already compiled a list as long as can be imagined of important tasks to be accomplished. In these I hope to be assisted by our seminary auxiliary guild and by the few seminarians who live in the area. There is much to be done before September!

Road trip to Seattle

Fulton Abernathy, gr. 9

“Are we there yet?” This was not a serious question during our long road trip to Seattle, but it was meant to create a comical atmosphere in the Suburban. This is just one microscopic portion of our trip.

Our little excursion started on a Sunday afternoon after Mass and breakfast. The road trip, as is always the case, was probably the craziest time of the whole trip. About halfway there Phil and I bought some of those crazy power drinks for extra energy. Well, we spent the other half of the trip bouncing around in the back of the Suburban and trying to eat some leather that Charlie had assured us was real beef jerky. We finally arrived in Tacoma at about 7:00 p.m. After getting acquainted with the Rodriguez family and having supper, we finally got to release our energy in a game of basketball that everyone enjoyed. After this, everyone was pretty tired and the rest of the night was uneventful.

Monday morning consisted of Mass at St. Mary's Church, followed by breakfast back at the Rodriguez home, after which we journeyed to the Museum of Flight. We spent about an hour looking at all the planes and flying machines that are exhibited. From there we went to the waterfront in Seattle for lunch and a look around the public market and other sights of Seattle. At 4:00 p.m. we were eagerly waiting for the Mariners game to start. Since the game started at 5:00, we spent 45 minutes walking around the new “Safeco Field” ballpark.

Before the game a lady had given each of us a small megaphone. Now, megaphones are to be used for yelling, right? (After all, from time to time, a message would appear on the big screen calling for more noise.) When the game finally started our small group of seminarians held a constant noise level of about a million decibels. This was a little bit too much for anybody that was within 20 feet of us and, suddenly, we found ourselves with more space than we had before. After the game, which the Mariners won, we again went to the Rodriguez home for the night. The next morning we all said our good-byes and left at about 10:00 a.m.

The trip home was pretty insane. We played every game that has ever been invented for car journeying and even made up a few of our own. Phil and I again bought some power drinks, and, after consuming them, we again bounced around in the back of the Suburban until we reached our destination.

When we finally got home we had only a short time to prepare for the evening Mass, which included eighth grade graduation. This was just one of several trips that we took this year. While all these trips have been memorable, this one will always rank up near the top.



Between innings at Safeco Field, the seminarians discuss the game.

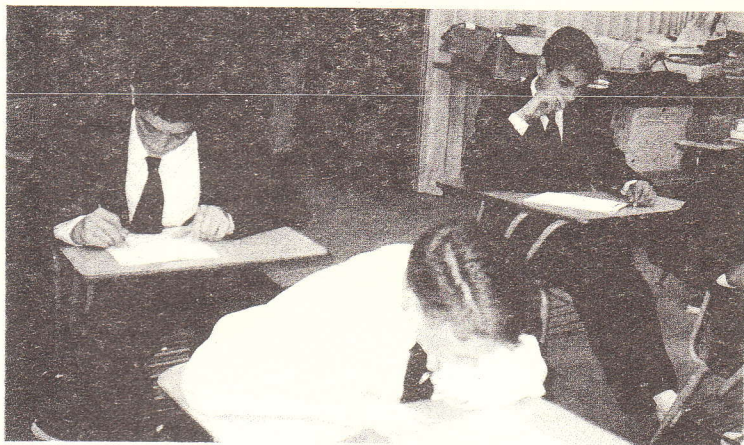
Summer at the Seminary

by Wade White

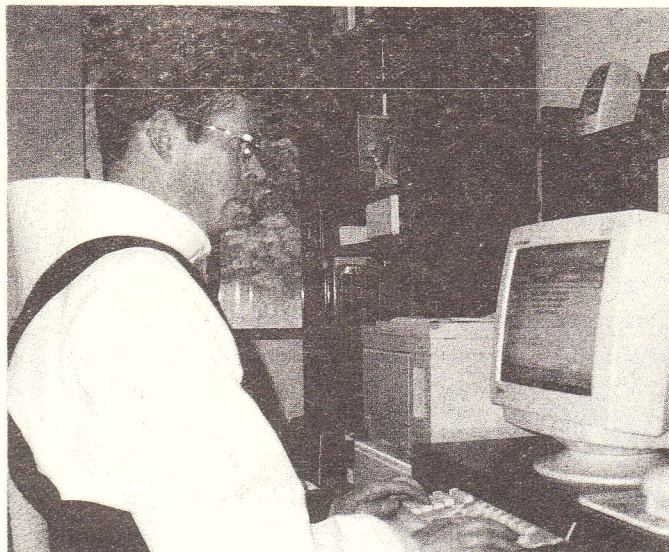
The seminarians have packed their bags and have gone home — Kevin Cox by airplane, Isaac Martin by bus, and Charles Rodriguez by automobile. With them gone, there is certainly much more silence around the locale. Our faithful dog Caesar has noticed this tremendous change and has recently been in a rueful state. He was responding to commands slower and was not eating as much, and his most perceptible attribute, his playfulness, had turned into laziness. After the blessing for animals on St. Anthony's feastday, however, his normal habits returned.

The silence around here incites to virtue in that it aids my interior life and succors my soul. For the whole school year, one gets used to hearing stomping and yelling. One also gets used to hearing the piano being played and cards being shuffled. These noises are now replaced with the voice of God in the soul. Some people cannot live without noise or stimulation, but these are the people who love the world. St. John the Beloved says, “Do not love the world, or the things that are in the world . . .” That is why I now enjoy this domicile all the more. Way out here one hears silence and, with our friend “Silence,” one hears God.

Please do not think that I was going out of my mind while the seminarians were here. In fact, some of my fondest memories are of them wrestling around and horse-playing. But the truth of the matter is, that to hear God, there must be silence, which I'm experiencing much of these days.



The seminarians take their final exams.



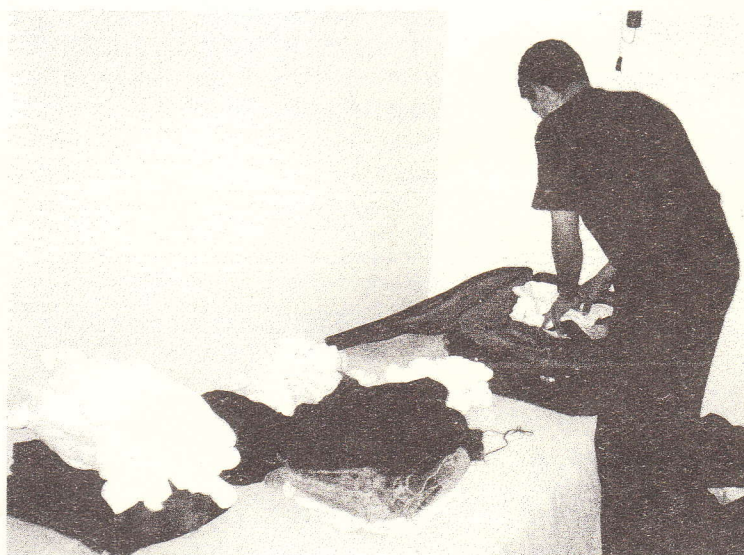
Fr. Benedict prepares the final grade reports for the seminarians.



The seminarians pose for a snapshot outside the Museum of Flight in Seattle.



The seminarians enjoy a Mariners game. Thankfully, it does not rain.



Will Isaac be able to pack all those clothes into his suitcase before heading home for the summer?



From the smile on Charlie's face, one can tell that it has been a great first year at St. Joseph Seminary.

Support a seminarian

by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

As I plan for the new academic year, part of the preparations includes budgeting. While we have been able to make ends meet this year, thanks to your generosity, we do have some concerns for the new year.

During the past year we had only freshman and sophomore classes with which to contend. I was able to handle the teaching load, with the help of some generous volunteers, who gave of their time freely, or for a very modest stipend. This coming year, however, we will add classes for juniors. So for the first time I will be hiring a full-time teacher to share the teaching responsibilities. I am anxiously looking forward to the capable help of Mr. Mark Glenn, whom I will tell you more about in our next issue. As a married man, Mr. Glenn has a family to take care of and thus will require a decent salary.

At the same time, we have a difficulty with income. All of our seminarians come from large Catholic families, many of whom cannot afford the entire tuition amount, modest as it is. It would certainly be a shame if we had to turn away any young man who has a call from God to the priesthood.

To help resolve these difficulties, I have decided to institute a scholarship program. The way this works is that donors who are financially able and willing to do so would contribute the cost of maintaining a seminarian each month. Those who would like to participate but are unable to afford the entire amount would contribute a part of the monthly tuition fee. This scholarship would then be matched with a deserving seminarian, who would thus become that donor's "adopted" seminarian.

Similar programs were in place in the Catholic Church before the changes of Vatican II. Imagine the blessing of being able to bring a young man to the altar of God as a priest, particularly a young man who would otherwise not be able to become a priest! If you are interested in this program, please contact me.

God's work goes on

Summer at the seminary is a pleasant time for me. As I mentioned above, there are numerous summer projects to accomplish — arranging the class schedule, ordering books,

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.

finalizing records for next year's class, painting, etc. Nevertheless, the summer still remains a relaxing time for mind and body. In a few days I will join our other priests of the western states for an eagerly anticipated retreat. After that, our preparations for next year will commence.

As I stated in the last issue, our first group of seminarians will always hold a cherished place in my memory. They came when St. Joseph Seminary was only a name or an idea in my mind. In some ways, it is hard to see the year come to an end. But life moves on. Next year we will have more boys, new classes taught, at least one new teacher. Each year has its own character, its personality, if you will. Indeed, there will never be another year like the past one.

Again, I wish to thank you for your prayers and support. I also appreciate the notes that many of you send, even though I have not the time to respond to them all. Please be assured that I remember you all daily in my Mass and prayers. May God reward you abundantly.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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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