



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2000

October was a busy month at the seminary. There were the various activities of the Fatima Conference and the formation of a sodality of Our Lady. There was also a stretch in late September and early October in which three of our seminarians celebrated birthdays within a period of eight days. Now since you are probably wondering what we do on birthdays in the seminary, one of the seminarians wrote an article for this issue on that very subject.

As we begin November we are preparing for First Quarter exams. (It is hard to imagine that a quarter of the year has already passed.) We also are preparing to sing a Requiem High Mass on All Souls' Day. During the Octave of All Souls' Day, we make daily visits to our cemetery, and we pray daily during the entire month for the Poor Souls.

Of course, we are all looking forward to the basketball season. We will begin practices in mid-November. We also look forward to our brief Thanksgiving vacation. We wish all of our benefactors and their loved ones a happy Thanksgiving holiday.

In Our Lady's service

by Mark West, gr. 10

The minor seminary is a wonderful place for those who wish to advance spiritually. Holy Mass, the rosary, and various prayers throughout the day are very helpful in obtaining this goal. But for those who wish to do even more, Fr. Benedict has decided to form a sodality of Our Lady.

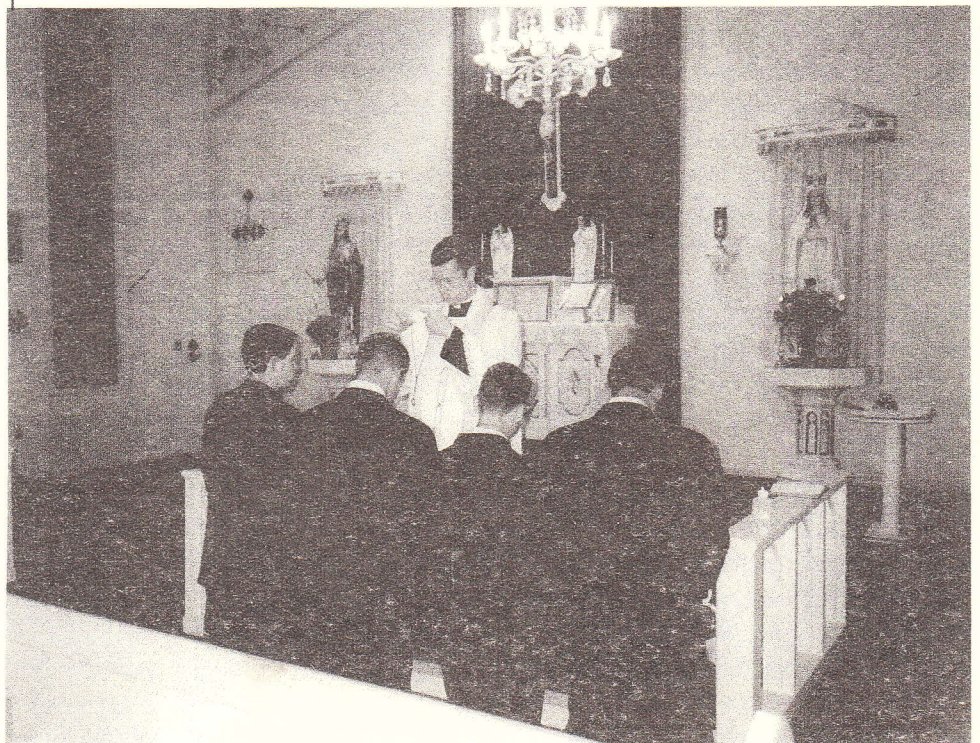
The sodality of Our Lady is an association which aims to foster devotion, reverence and love for Our

Blessed Mother. As sodalists we recite assorted prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, have meetings and perform various acts of charity. We also plan to do things to promote Catholic Action, such as praying the rosary in convalescent homes or teaching the catechism to children.

Our Holy Mother Mary bestows many graces on the faithful members of Her sodality. She wants us to learn to come to Her as little children to their mother. Just as Our Lady is truly our Mother, we should be Her faithful children. So this is our aim in joining the sodality—to develop a more tender love and a greater reverence and devotion to Our Lady.

November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day, holyday of obligation (no school)
- 2 — All Souls' Day (High Mass)
- 9 — End of First Quarter
- 13 — Basketball practice begins
- 21 — Presentation BVM feastday (no home-work)
- 22 — Thanksgiving vacation begins after classes
- 27 — Classes resume



Father receives the first members of The Immaculate Heart of Mary Sodality on October 13.

The Fatima Conference

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 11

October is full of a lot of great things. My birthday is one of them, but there is also the Fatima Conference. This year, Father allowed the seminarians to attend the various events of the Conference on Saturday and Monday, as well as the closing ceremonies on Wednesday. It was great for two reasons. First, we got out of a day of schoolwork, and second, the talks were interesting and full of inspiration.

The first day we attended was Saturday. After Mass at the seminary, we went to Riverfront Park in Spokane to pray the 15 decades of the rosary in a public procession. I think it is a very good thing for us Catholics to demonstrate our Faith in public. It's about time anyway. Wouldn't it be a surprise if your doorbell rang and there was a traditional Catholic giving you literature instead of a Jehovah's Witness?

After the rosary procession we went to Mt. St. Michael and heard a talk on the missionaries of the Church by Fr. Benedict. Some of us then stayed for the evening banquet. The banquet was delicious, and it was followed by an interesting talk by Fr. Joseph Collins.

Monday was a full day of talks, all of which were interesting. In the evening there was another dinner and a lecture on Noah's Ark and the scientific evidence of the Great Deluge. On Tuesday there was open house at the seminary. We sang a couple of songs for the guests and, after lunch, joined them for a boat cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

On Wednesday evening we attended my favorite part of the Conference — the closing ceremonies. These include a solemn High Mass followed by an outdoor candlelight procession and conclude with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. I enjoyed the Fatima Conference very much and can't wait until next year.

Homework? — Not today!

by Louis Picard, gr. 9

In the seminary there are certain days we like best. The first is a no-school day, which doesn't happen very often. Then there are special feastdays. The reason for liking these days is that we have no homework on designated feastdays, which are found on the calendar once a month. As you can imagine, every seminarian has a special love for these days.

In the past two months we have had feastdays that were fairly close together. This is a blessing and a penance at the same time. It is a blessing for the students, because no



The seminarians joined in the public rosary procession through Riverfront Park in Spokane.

homework means more recreation. But on the other hand, the teachers have a difficult time the next school day, because we return to our schoolwork as if we had been on a vacation for two months, not remembering anything we were taught.

All in all, however, feastdays are great days, and we all look forward to them.

Man, we're getting old!

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10

Birthdays — the time when, by God's providence, we came into the world. Our supernatural birthday was at baptism, when we were born into the life of sanctifying grace and God's favor. Our natural birthday, on the other hand, was the day on which we made our entrance into this poor world. Even though the supernatural birth is by far the more important, we have the custom in this country of celebrating our natural birthdays.

So, you ask, what do the seminarians do on their birthdays? Our day is made special with a cake and gifts. Before our birthday arrives, we write down our favorite cake and submit it to Mrs. Carpenter, our second mother, who prepares our request. For example, Phil requested strawberry cheesecake, Francis received a four-layer chocolate cake, while Isaac asked for lemon meringue pie.

Following the dinner of our birthday, gifts from various individuals are presented to the "birthday boy." Fr. Benedict is most appreciated for the gifts he gives to the one celebrating his birthday. He hasn't failed yet to give each seminarian several gifts for his birthday. We are very grateful for his thoughtfulness. So, you see, birthdays in the seminary are much like they would be at home.



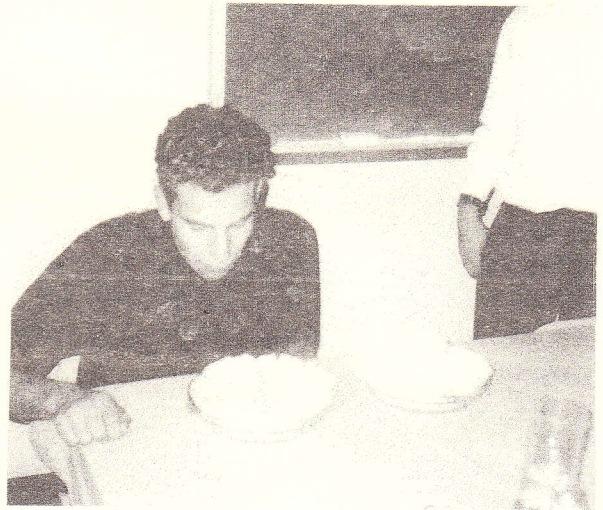
The seminarians enjoy an afternoon cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene.



Kevin shares a story with two of our Conference guests during the boat cruise.



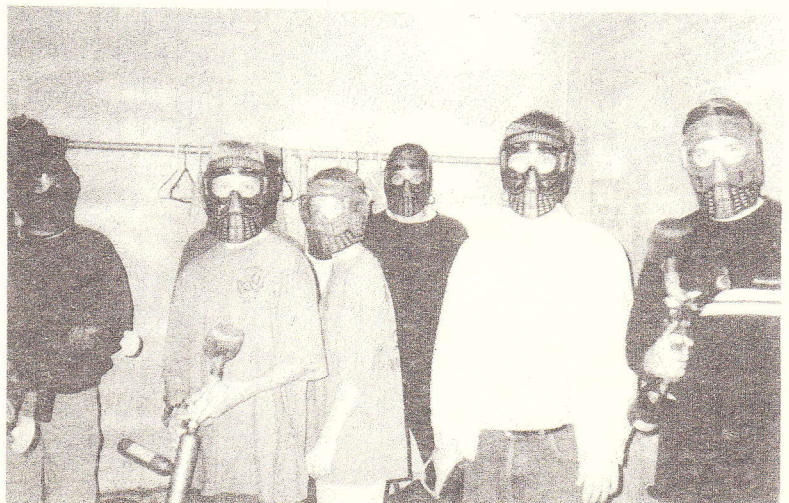
The candlelight procession concluding the Fatima Conference.



Isaac celebrates his 16th birthday by blowing out the candles.



Isaac opens his birthday gifts.



Not to worry. These are not guerillas — just the seminarians getting ready for a game of paintball.

A model for young men

In late August I had the privilege of conducting a group of 25 Catholics on a pilgrimage to various shrines in Italy. Among these were the basilica and school for boys founded by St. John Bosco in the Valdocco section of Turin, Italy. A nun of the Salesian Congregation conducted our tour of the facilities there, providing keen insights into this man of God and his work.

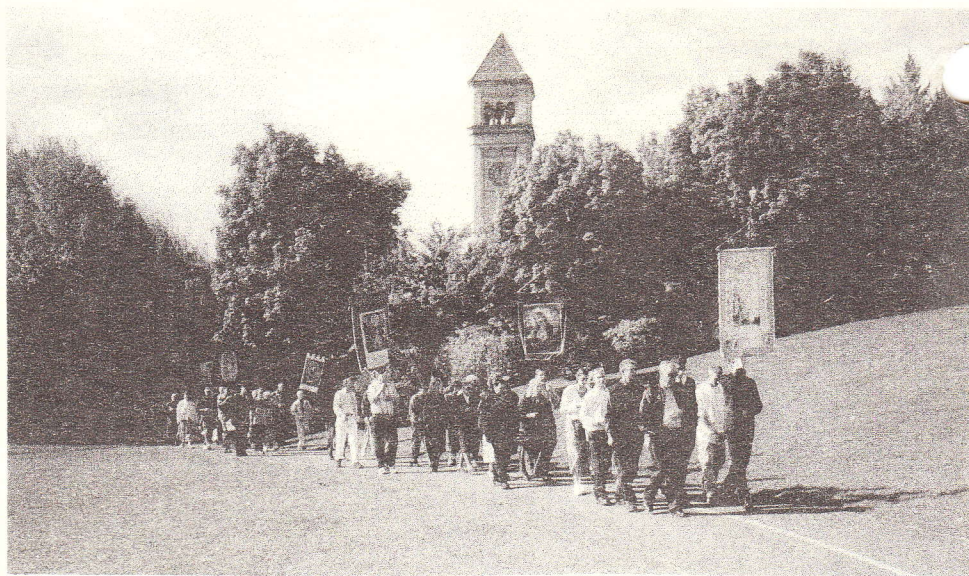
I was particularly impressed by the stories about St. Dominic Savio. This saint was the youngest confessor ever canonized by the Church, having died a few months shy of his 15th birthday. Yet, he was very mature in his sanctity and is a reminder that young men can sanctify themselves at an early age.

Among other interesting stories, we were told how St. Dominic Savio was the driving force behind the formation of a sodality for the boys to promote devotion to Our Lady and frequent communion and confession. This story gave me the idea of starting a sodality in the seminary for those who wish to do something extra. Pious associations of various kinds have been in use in the Church for centuries and are a wonderful way for us to have our Faith strengthened by the example and encouragement of like-minded souls.

Our sodality has been named for the Immaculate Heart of Mary as principal patroness, with St. Dominic Savio as secondary patron. The sodality is not for everyone, but it can be an excellent means of promoting virtue among the seminarians. I ask for your prayers for its success.

Please remember also to give us your new address if you move; otherwise, we pay nearly a dollar for every returned envelope. We do hope you enjoy our newsletter and thank you, once again, for your support, which is essential if this work is to continue. May God bless you and yours.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Devotees of Our Lady pray the rosary publicly in Her honor.

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.

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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