



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. III, No. 5

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2002

It started shortly after Thanksgiving. Snow. Lots of it. With the snow has come the fun of sledding, snowball fights, and, eventually, skiing. But with it also comes the work of shoveling and pushing cars that have gotten stuck. All in all, however, we gladly accept the work for the beauty and fun that the snow brings.

Of course, winter also means basketball. We have so far enjoyed our season and especially look forward to joining in several tournaments. We will tell you about them in future editions.

This past month also brought a first for all of us. We served our first Solemn High Mass. (The bishop had a Pontifical High Mass here last May, but this was our first opportunity to serve a Solemn High Mass for a priest.) We seldom have priests visit and so we do not expect to have this privilege often, but Father promised that, at least occasionally, we will have a Solemn Mass here at the seminary.

We wish you all a most joyous Christmas Season, and an abundance of God's blessings in the New Year of 2002.

Solemn High Mass

by Matthew Dunphy, gr. 10

On December 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we had a Solemn High Mass with three priests. Although the seminary is now in its third year, this was the first Solemn High Mass we have had. The reason it has taken so long is that all the priests are busy with their parishes. Fr. Casimir and Fr. Gerard found time to join in this beautiful ceremony.

Fr. Benedict was the main priest, while Fr. Casimir was the deacon and Fr. Gerard was the subdeacon. Michael LeStage and I were the two acolytes. Phil was the thurifer and Charlie was Master of Ceremonies. None of us had ever served a Solemn High Mass before, so this was a new experience. Since we were all familiar with the rubrics, however, there were very few mistakes and everything came off smoothly. The sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students of Sr. Shannon Marie's class sang the Mass.

It was a perfect time to have a Solemn High Mass because the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is an important feast in the western part of the United States, not to mention its particular importance in Mexico. We hope that there can be at least one Solemn High Mass a year because it is a very beautiful ceremony that should be done every once in awhile. We're sure it gave Our Lady a little more honor on her feastday.

Sacristy duties

by Kevin Cox, gr. 12

We do not often write about the work we do for God here at the Seminary. So I would like to write about one of the privileged tasks of the seminarians — the duty of sacristan. We alternate by quarters during the school year, which allows all of the

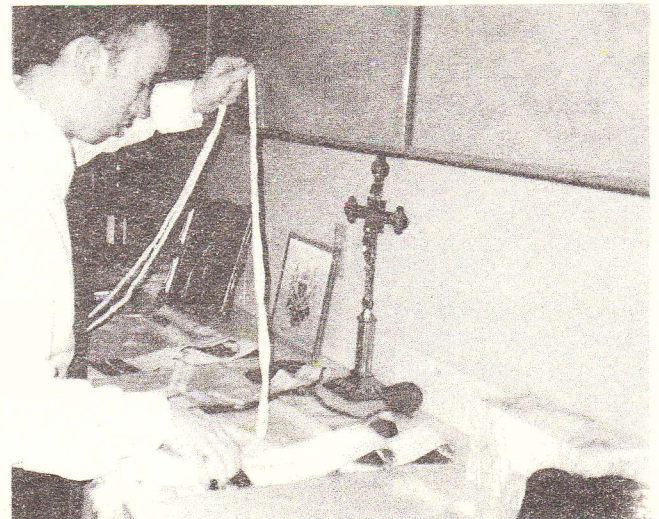
January calendar

- 7 — Classes resume; Basketball
- 10 — Annual Christmas/Epiphany celebration
- 12 — Basketball
- 14 — Basketball
- 23 — Basketball
- 25 — End of second quarter; no homework
- 28 — Basketball
- 31 — Skiing trip

seminarians to learn how to set up for Mass and other ceremonies and to take care of Our Lord's house.

There are two sacristans for each quarter — one is the assistant and the other is the main sacristan. Every night the main sacristan sets up for the Mass of the following day. He first reads the

continued on page 2



The sacristan sets up vestments for Mass.

Sacristy duties

continued from page 1

Ordo, which indicates which color to use for the vestments and to what Mass and preface the missal is to be set. He then proceeds to set up the vestments and change the tabernacle veil.

The next morning both sacristans finish the work of setting up by preparing the cruets, uncovering the altar, placing the missal on the altar, setting up the chalice and helping the priest vest. (Only the main sacristan is permitted to touch the priest's chalice.) After Mass, they return to the sacristy to put everything away. The sacristans also change the sanctuary lamp, fill the holy water founts and clean the sanctuary.

This may seem like a lot to do, and it may be, but we try to do it for the greater honor and glory of God. We know that this assignment is a blessing bestowed upon us and we are privileged to do this for Almighty God. I know that God will reward us for setting up worthily each day for His Sacrifice.

Go Sentinels!

by Charles Rodriguez, gr. 11

As some of you may remember, last season was the first year St. Joseph's Sentinels had a varsity team. Some of you may also remember that last season was a losing season, with our record at 3 wins and 10 losses. This year we are determined to not allow this to happen again.

Mr. Duff and Fr. Benedict had hoped that our football season this year would get us into shape for basketball, and it did just that. Another positive change from last year is that we now have a full-time coach — Mr. Duff. Also, Kevin Vogel (who graduated from high school last year) is our assistant coach. Both have been a tremendous help to the team.

In our early practice sessions in November, Mr. Duff pointed out a few things he hoped to improve upon. We began with drills. Kevin Vogel showed us a few which have helped immensely. These exercises, along with hard work and discipline, helped prepare us for our first game on November 21. That game was a tremendous success as we won against an outmatched Rocky Mountain Academy, 65-45.

Pullman Christian School was our next opponent on November 30. We played well in the first half, but — as has been our downfall — we played poorly in the third quarter and lost the game. We were disappointed at this loss but were even more determined to win our next game against last year's rival.

Southside has always been a pretty tough team for us to beat. At least we know where we have to stop them — No. 31. He has been known to victimize our defense, but this time would be different. Our coach had us play man-on-man defense. He also had us pound the ball underneath. This strategy and good execution helped us pull well ahead in the first half. But alas, "Third Quarter Syndrome" began to show its effects as Southside began to nibble away at our lead.

Finally, towards the end of third quarter, we began to gain our second wind. Our defense began to pick up and we gained our second victory scoring 50-40. We were excited and made our minds to continue in the 'win' column for our next game.

The fourth game was against arch-rival House of the Lord Christian Academy (HLCA). They had beaten us last year every time we came up against them. Kevin Vogel coached this game. We went in with a lot of confidence but had no idea we were about to break four records and play our best game ever.

We arrived at the gym in Newport a full hour before game time. We decided to warm up and shoot around. As usual, just before the game Father led us in prayer and our assistant coach gave a pep talk. He didn't want anyone getting down on himself. He wanted us to pass the ball around and only take good shots and, if we were able, getting a few fast breaks would be helpful. We were not to allow any players of HLCA's to drive the middle. We yelled out a cheer and were prepared to face HLCA.

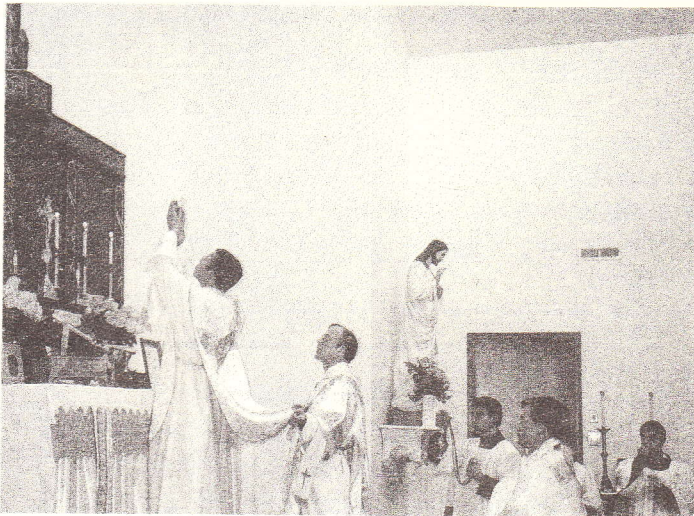
We started off perfectly by getting the tip and converting it into two quick points. HLCA came driving from the backcourt and pulled back to set something up. They scored their first two points on a foul. The game went back and forth for a couple more minutes and then everything started to click for our team. We pulled ahead in the first quarter and stayed that way throughout the game. HLCA scored a few more points, but we stretched our lead to 21-7 by the first quarter buzzer. Kevin Vogel was happy for us but told us not to get too worked up, as it was only the end of the first quarter. Second quarter went well defensively and offensively. At the half we were ahead 40-24.

During half-time, Kevin, knowing about our history of "Third Quarter Syndrome," gave us a few more pointers and reminded us that HLCA was still in the game. Third quarter began and we played well with a few mistakes here and there. At the end of third quarter the score was 51-39. We had overcome, at least for now, our troubles with third quarter meltdown.

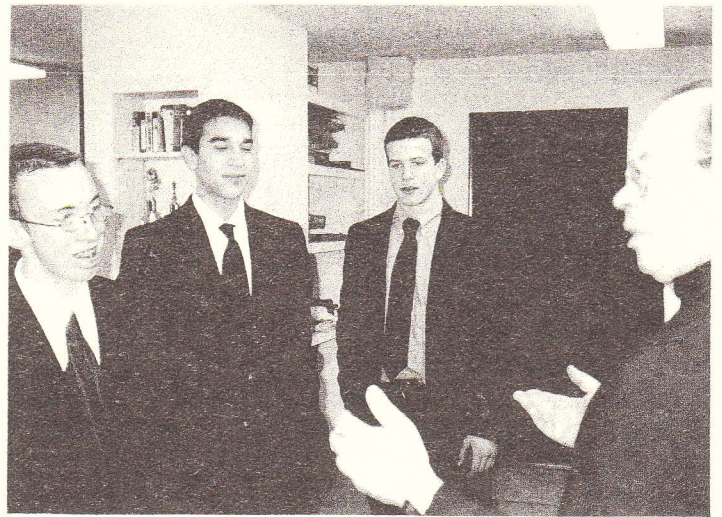
The fourth quarter was also played exceptionally well and we were on fire. This game was ours and we weren't about to let HLCA take it away from us. The final buzzer sounded and HLCA was beaten 72-53. We had won by more points than they had beaten us by in three games last year combined.

As I said before, records were broken that night. For the first time in our history, a player (Francis Abernathey) had obtained a triple double. He scored 15 points, to go along with 11 assists and 15 rebounds! The all-time record for most points earned in a game was awarded to Phil who had 33 points — a monster game! The team also had a record. We beat a team by more points than the previous record for margin of victory.

Our record stands at three wins to one loss. Our next opponent is Columbia River Christian Academy (CRCA). This team also beat us last year but we hope to even the score. So stay tuned. GO SENTINELS!!!



The seminarians serve a Solemn High Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12.



The seminarians enjoy a recent visit with Fr. Brendan Hughes, Fr. Benedict's brother.



Charlie brushes snow off the Sisters' car.



Matt and Michael sweep snow from the steps that lead to the church.



Pushing cars through the snow seems to have become a common daily chore here at St. Joseph Seminary.



This year's basketball team — the St. Joseph Sentinels.



The trees at the seminary are beautiful after a fresh snowfall.

Winter's ups and downs

by Michael LeStage, gr. 9

The mountains of northern Idaho can be a haven for lots of winter fun — things such as sledding, skiing, snowmobiling and, yes, also things like shoveling roofs and getting your car stuck.

The church property here has become a place for such things. We have some great sledding hills, which are kept busy by the younger children during their recess. Families also use the sledding runs on Sunday afternoons.

Snow is an essential ingredient for both fun and work. Getting stuck has become quite the epidemic for some. And then there are the roofs. When we have lots of snow, certain roofs must be shoveled, which keeps the seminarians busy. Then there are the steps which lead from the main parking lot to the church, as well as the sidewalks.

Although it would be nice to not have all these winter chores, the seminarians agree that the work is worth it because we have fun in the end. After all, without sledding, snowball fights, skiing, and other fun winter sports, things would be pretty dull during the winter season.

“Making melody in your hearts . . .”

St. Paul exhorted the early Christians to “be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord” (Eph: 5: 18–19). The seminarians seem to be taking this advice of the Apostle to heart. I often hear them singing, as they walk up the stairs, in between classes, as they do the dishes, etc.

Here at the seminary we strive to teach these young men an appreciation for good music. One cannot simply point out what is bad in so much of today’s music — one must also replace it with that which is good. Music cheers and lightens the heart and gives us an added means of praising God. Life would indeed be dull without music.

One occasion when the seminarians particularly like to sing is during the long van rides to basketball games. We always begin these trips with the recitation of the Rosary. After prayers there is laughing and talking, but it doesn’t take long

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.

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.

before someone starts a song. They sing all kinds of songs — hymns, Gregorian chant, patriotic songs, etc. On one occasion in early December, the seminarians sang most of the Requiem Mass since they had recently sung several High Masses for the faithful departed. Favorites before ball games seem to be *The Star Spangled Banner* and the solemn *Salve Regina*. Sometimes they will sing the entire way home after the game.

So you see, basketball season means a lot of things. While the games are fun, sometimes the van trips can be just as enjoyable. Let us all “make melody in our hearts to the Lord” and come to appreciate the beauty that music can bring to our lives.

You, our benefactors, will be especially remembered in my Masses during the Christmas Season. Thank you for your cards, prayers and support. May you and your loved ones have a joyful, safe and blessed Christmas Season and a truly Happy New Year.

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.

St. Joseph Seminary
15384 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650