



# THE GUARDIAN

Since the publication of our last newsletter we have participated in the Holy Week liturgy, have enjoyed our Easter vacation, and now have plunged into the final quarter of the school year. With the warmer weather, we have also been able to get outside once again for baseball and football.

The fourth quarter also means outings and other activities proper to the ending of the school year. We will be sure to tell you about these in our next issue. May is also a time for various liturgical and devotional observances, such as outdoor processions. Of course, it is the last full month of school, and by past experience we know that it goes by very quickly.

Please pray for us that we make the most of these final few weeks of school. May you, our readers, enjoy a beautiful month of May — one in which your devotion to our heavenly Mother grows and becomes stronger.

## Holy Week

by Charles Rodriguez, gr. 11

Holy Week is a special, yet solemn time of the liturgical year. It is the week of Our Lord's Passion and ignominious death on the cross. During Holy Week we reflect on how Our Divine Savior took upon Himself the sins of the world. He desired to die for us so that we could enter Heaven and be happy with Him forever. During this most solemn week of Lent, the seminarians had an opportunity to serve and attend some of the beautiful ceremonies of the "Great Week."

On Tuesday the seminarians helped chant the Gospel of the Passion of Our

Lord according to St. Mark, at Mt. St. Michael. The seminarians chanted the parts with plural voices of the Jews. Fr. Casimir chanted the part of Christ, Fr. Benedict chanted the narration of the Gospel, and Fr. Masias chanted the parts of single voices, such as Judas, Pontius Pilate, St. Peter, etc. The chanting of the Gospel took about 45 minutes, but we were glad that we were privileged to assist at this wonderful ceremony.

The seminarians went back to Mt. St. Michael on "Spy Wednesday" to hear the chanting of the night office of *Tenebrae*, which is Latin for darkness. This was very interesting as the chant was complemented with uplifting polyphonic music. Towards the end of *Tenebrae*, all the lights were turned off and one solitary candle, representing Christ, was ceremoniously taken out of the sanctuary. Then the choir began to knock on their books or pews to make a noise — reminiscent of the earthquake at Christ's resurrection. This accomplished, the priest and cantors in the sanctuary left in silence.

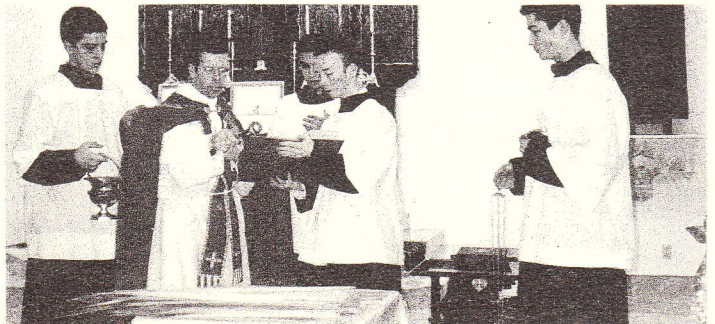
On Holy Thursday the seminarians served a High Mass with incense. After the sermon the servers helped Father with the Washing of the Feet. This simple ceremony represents Christ's washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper. When communion came, the servers did not recite the *Confiteor*, a reminder of Judas'

## May calendar

- 1 — Feast of St. Joseph the Worker; High Mass
- 2 — End Pool Tournament (championship game)
- 8 — Mid-quarter
- 9 — Ascension Thursday, Holyday of Obligation; no school
- 10 — School outing
- 23 — Field trip for junior/senior students
- 27 — Memorial Day; no classes
- 30 — Corpus Christi procession; Charlie's 17th birthday
- 31 — Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (special schedule)

lack of repentance for his crime. Immediately following Mass the Blessed Sacrament was taken in solemn procession to the Altar of Repose. Then we assisted Father in stripping the altar, which reminds us of how Our Lord was abandoned by the Apostles in the Garden

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The seminarians assist with the blessing of palms and other Holy Week ceremonies.



## Holy Week

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of Gethsemane. This concluded the ceremonies. Later we returned to the church for a Holy Hour.

On Good Friday, the seminarians once again served in the ceremonies. Good Friday has four parts: the Readings, the Solemn Orations, the Adoration of the Cross, and the Communion. For the Adoration of the Cross, the celebrant and the servers take off their shoes and genuflect three times before the Cross. Then they kneel down and kiss the feet of Our Crucified Lord. After the servers are finished, the large cross is carried to the communion rail for veneration by the people.

The seminarians enjoyed serving and attending the various ceremonies of Holy Week and hope that we will be privileged to do so again next year.

## Regina Coeli

*by Kevin Cox, gr. 12*

**W**ow! it's May again. This is the month of Our Lady, which means that a number of changes take place in the seminary. First, the time of our daily Rosary is changed to later in the evening so that parishioners have the opportunity to pray a public Rosary after a hard day's work. During May we also have various devotional practices: we chant Vespers of Our Lady on her feastdays, we decorate a shrine to Our Blessed Mother in the seminary where we sing to her and present flowers, and we recite extra prayers to her throughout the month. Of course, May is also a time when all of us think of the closing of the school year. Let me explain these advantages.

The daily Rosary, usually recited here in the seminary chapel before supper, is moved to the convenient time of 7:00 at the main church. This is a great change for the seminarians, because we are able to complete our homework before supper, leaving the entire evening free after the Rosary for recreation. What better time to get this extra free time than at the end of the school year.

Not only will we pray the Rosary devoutly every day, which we try to do every day of the year as well, but we also chant Vespers of Our Lady on her feastdays during this month. This is a practice that was started in the first year at the seminary, and we hope that future classes of seminarians will continue that tradition and will foster a great devotion to our Mother Mary.

But what other devotions to Our Blessed Mother are we going to practice in the seminary during this month? Every year in May we make a shrine to Mary, and each seminarian is assigned a day to provide a bouquet of flowers and put them in a vase in front of Our Lady. With this being done, all of us kneel around the statue, before the school day begins, and sing hymns of praise to Mary. This also is a tradition that we carefully observe in the seminary, and we hope that it is preserved after we are gone.

## Do we have your current address?

Please inform us if you have moved or plan to move to a new address so that we can get each issue of *The Guardian* to your mailbox without delay.

And lastly, we are all eager for the end of school to arrive. This month reminds us that only one full month of the school year remains. We must try our best to maintain the spirit which we have had throughout the year and not let the school year end poorly.

Every day of this month we pray for all those who have helped us throughout the year, and we hope and pray that the seminary flourishes in the years to come.

## Common themes

*by Mr. Tim Duff*

**A**n excellent way for teachers to reinforce important concepts is to cover them in different classes from different angles. This is one advantage of a small school. Recently, Fr. Benedict has been covering in English Literature what I am reinforcing in government — that the role of those who govern us is to serve the common good, not their own individual selfish goals.

In government class we have been studying the roles of the three branches of government — executive, legislative, and judicial. Our textbook continues to emphasize the power struggle among these three branches, as if this is a main goal of government. We have studied in depth what the Founding Fathers laid down in the Constitution versus what has developed over the past century or so.

The Constitution clearly grants the power to make laws to the legislative branch. In reality, however, the Supreme Court has become a major legislator (“legalized” abortion is a good example) and many presidents have played lawmaker via “executive order.” Congress is more and more losing its power and is in danger of being relegated to the role of puppets expected to back up whatever the president or Supreme Court dictates.

In English class, Fr. Benedict is having the students study Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*. The whole point of the play is that Rome, by law, was to be ruled primarily by the Senate for the common good of the people. But Julius Caesar began to usurp absolute control and wished the Senate merely to back him up. He is assassinated, and the peace of Rome is disturbed.

The common theme is that when government leaders begin to shun their public duty and instead seek their own selfish interests, the people will suffer.

Let us all pray for our government leaders, that they will do their God-given duty to provide for the common good and not fall prey to the grave temptation of using their power to enslave the people, a terrible prospect so well depicted by the pyramid symbol on the back of every dollar bill.





*Mrs. Salgado makes another great dessert.*



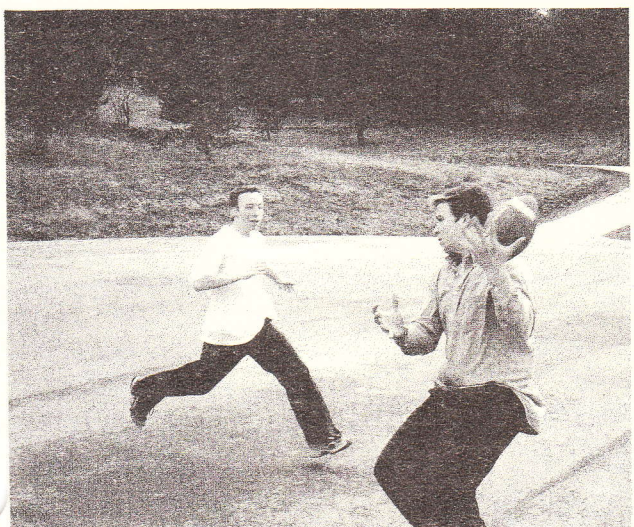
*Michael celebrates his 15th birthday.*



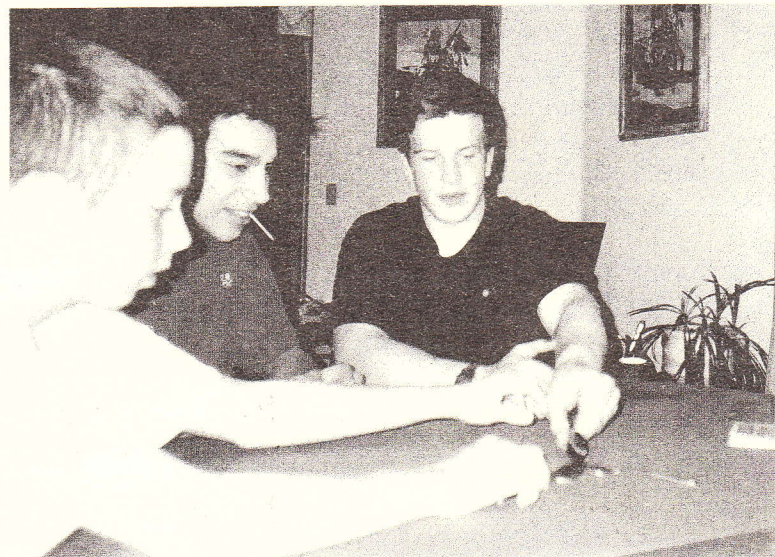
*Kevin swings and sends the ball into right field.*



*Mighty Mike at the plate.*



*Nothing like a game of spring football after the long, cold winter!*



*The seminarians enjoy a lively game of "spoons."*



## No, not just basketball

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 11

Yes, it is true — the favorite sport here is basketball, but it is not the only game we play. We also play football and baseball, and occasionally we play volleyball and even golf, but none of this is done until we have completed our calisthenics or run a set of stairs.

At the seminary physical education is one of our favorite classes of the day. During basketball season it serves as a time for practice, but now that basketball is over we play other sports. Football, as you may remember, is a favorite here also, and we may soon be playing some spring flag football games. We play baseball about twice a week at a local field, and this year Mr. Duff is introducing us to golf. He is showing us the technique and form for driving.

Before we play anything for P.E., we always start with our stretches, push-ups, sit-ups and all that fun stuff. Also, twice a week we lift weights for about 15 minutes. P.E. is a perfect outlet for all the energy we build up in the classroom, and it also keeps us fit.

## Labors of love

With this issue of *The Guardian* we have included a flyer advertising sermon tapes. I have received several requests over the past few years to tape sermons and make copies available for those interested. At last this project has become a reality.

May is a beautiful month, in every way. But it also is a time of year that can be quite hectic, especially for a priest. Holy Mother Church presents us with a smorgasbord of liturgical functions and feasts, which succeed one another with a rapidity unlike any other time of year. There are the Litanies and daily May devotions; feasts of Pentecost, the Queenship, Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart; and the beautiful outdoor processions. These various observances are dear to the hearts of Catholics — priests and faithful alike.

On the other hand, there are various school activities and academic requirements associated with the closing of a school year: tests, grading papers, report cards, outings, awards ceremony, graduation. In other words, this is a beautiful but

## 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.

busy time of year. Teachers seem caught in a whirlwind of activities and work as we draw near the conclusion of the school year.

Of course, our labors are labors of love. St. Benedict directed his monks to “work and pray.” Our labor, our daily duty, is our means of sanctification and is, as Our Lady said at Fatima, our first penance. At the same time, we ask your prayers for our staff here at St. Joseph Seminary and for teachers in all our Catholic schools, that they may be given the strength, grace, courage and wisdom to fulfill their important task of education. Today’s youth are tomorrow’s Catholic leaders.

Please also continue to pray for our young men here and for many more vocations for the upcoming school year. As always, you are remembered in our daily prayers. We are most grateful for your encouragement and support. May God bless you and yours.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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