

THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2004

What are the chances that two students in a very small school like ours, were born on the same day of the same month in the same year? Not only that, but it seems that Chris and Seth were both born about the same time of the day on January 20, 1988. So we are not quite sure who is older, but you can bet that there is an ongoing dispute between them on that subject.

December has been a busy month with school, basketball, and various outdoor activities in the snow. Recently, we were deluged with a damp snow, which was perfect for building snowmen. A couple of the seminarians from warmer climes had never even built a snowman before, but there is a first time for everything. And, of course, sledding, snowball fights, and riding on the snowmobile have been part of the activities as well — not to mention the never-ending job of shoveling!

Soon, we will all journey home for an eagerly anticipated Christmas vacation with our families. May you all experience the joys of this season and the blessings of God in the New Year.

Joy

by Mr. Tim Duff

Perhaps at no other time of the year is joy so emphasized than at Christmas. But what is joy? Is it a feeling? We might think joy involves the type of feeling experienced by our lower senses, like the thrill of a carnival ride. In reality however, true and abiding joy seems to be found more within the depths of the soul. We experience true joy in our deep happiness knowing how much our Saviour loves us and how

much our heavenly Mother and the angels and saints of heaven care for us and desire our eternal happiness.

St. Paul informs us that joy is a fruit of the Holy Ghost (Gal. 5:22), and lists it second in order after charity. Notice it is a fruit, not a gift. This seems to indicate it is not just given to anyone, but rather must be earned. How? By the desire to accomplish God's Will every day of our life, by patiently accepting trials, and by giving of ourselves cheerfully not only at Christmastime but throughout the year, and by remembering that the joys and trials of this life only prepare us for eternal joy.

True joy should have a sense of permanence within us. It will be present even in the midst of suffering and trial, and will remain with us as long as we do not grieve the Divine Guest of our souls from Whom it comes. Hence joy will be just as much present during Lent as Christmas, maybe more so.

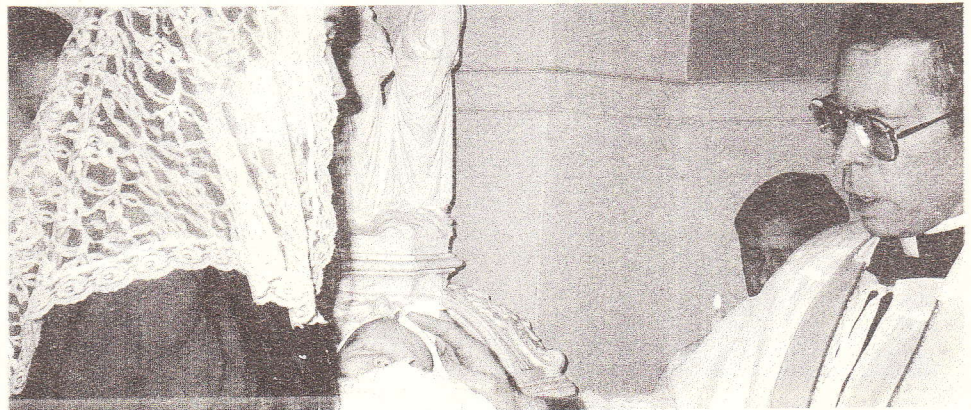
If we have this joy this Christmas, let us be grateful and careful to preserve and cultivate it. If not, let us spend some quiet time with Our Lord and Our

January calendar

- 5 — School resumes
- 6 — Feast of the Epiphany; High Mass; no homework
- 8 — Annual seminary Christmas-Epiphany celebration
- 13 — Basketball game
- 20 — 16th birthday of Chris and Seth; Basketball game
- 20-22 — Semester exams
- 22 — End of First Semester
- 23 — Semester break; Professional workday (no school)
- 23-24 — Basketball Tournament
- 29 — Basketball game

Lady, and follow the holy impulses given to us by the Holy Ghost and our

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One of the joys for a priest is conferring the Sacrament of Baptism on a new member of the Mystical Body of Christ.

No complaints about the food

by *Brandon Odom, gr. 9*

Here at the seminary breakfast is an important part of the day. We have breakfast right after Mass and before morning classes. On Monday we usually eat oatmeal or other hot cereal. On Tuesday we have pancakes. On Wednesday we have fried eggs and for Thursday we have pancakes. Friday is always cold cereal.

Occasionally, on Wednesday or Thursday we will have French toast, which is considered a rare delicacy. To be truly honest breakfast isn't always great. Every once in a while the kitchen assistant will burn the toast or the oatmeal will be dry, but the seminarians are always eager for food, so we eat it without complaint.

Most of the time breakfast, however, is quite satisfactory. The 'garbage' eggs for example are always delicious. They are usually loaded with cheese, tomatoes, onions, bell peppers, bacon, ham, and anything else we decide to throw in. All in all, breakfast at the seminary never gets old or boring. In fact, Brother Michael, our breakfast cook, prepares excellent meals.

Lunch and dinner at the seminary are quite a different story. Mrs. Salgado, our secretary and computer teacher, is the lunch cook. Lunch is often soup, sandwiches, or French fries and burgers. Dinner, which is prepared by Sr. Amada, is never the same, and it's always really good. The meals at the seminary aren't always perfect, but so far I don't have any complaints.

Having a great time playing B-ball

by *Peter Linder, gr. 11*

The basketball season officially started in early December. Our coach is Mr. Lee Fisher, and all of the seminarians are playing on the team along with several parishioners, including last year's starting point guard Jared Fisher. Our first game of the season, not counting a practice scrimmage, was against NICS (North Idaho Christian School). Although we lost by a score of 66-47, it was a big step forward, because some of the guys on the team got the feel for what it is like to play in a competitive game. The reason I say 'competitive' is because we were only losing by five points at the start of the fourth quarter.

After the loss to NICS, we have practiced a lot harder and learned a few plays. The practices paid off because our last two games at the time of this writing have been victories. On December 11 we played a team called the Oaks in their gym in Spokane. We beat them 78-65 and Jared Fisher set a new team record with 43 points and also set the record for the most free throws made in a game by making 17 out of 23. As a team we shot over 50 percent.

Our third game was on December 12 against Boulder Creek Academy. This game was our first "home game," played at a public school gym in nearby Post Falls. We started off the game kind of tense, and we weren't able to do much of

anything on offense. As a result, we were down 25-14 at halftime. In the second half, however, we relaxed and started to play, slowly creeping back into the game. Finally, in the fourth quarter, we got the lead and then pulled ahead to a six-point lead at 41-36 with about two-and-a-half minutes left. The lead didn't last long, as they scored a two-pointer that we were unable to answer, followed by a three-point shot with about 50 seconds left, to tie the game. With about 30 seconds left, we scored again and also hit one free throw to take a three-point lead. They couldn't answer with anything, so we won by the score of 44-41. It was one of our lowest scoring games, as it was primarily a defensive match-up. But it was a victory, and so we now have a 2-1 record and are having lots of fun!

Sickness strikes the seminary

by *Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 10*

Welcome to the season of the flu bug. It is a fast-spreading sickness that loves to get you. You can also easily catch a cold from someone else at this time of year.

The flu season has definitely arrived. Lots of people have already caught it, like Seth, who was sick for almost a week. A few of the other seminarians haven't felt well either. The flu has been spreading very fast. I am sure no one likes being sick, because you obviously don't feel very well. You have stomach aches and a stuffy nose, and you feel hot and then you get the shivers, and all that stuff drives you nuts.

Also, when you are sick you are missing school and you are supposed to do homework. Of course, we can't miss homework! So we have to make up the homework for as many days as we were sick. If you don't turn your homework in you are dead meat, because it counts as a grade. But being sick is a good sacrifice to offer up, especially during Advent.

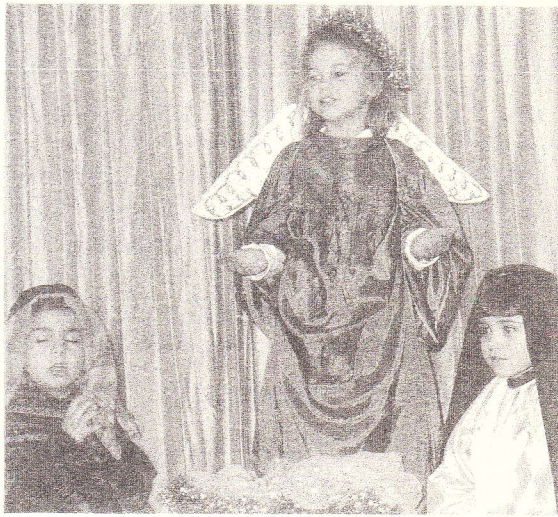
Before you know it, the flu season will be over, so bear it with patience while it lasts.

Good times in the snow

by *Seth Reed, gr. 10*

Here at the seminary we get a lot of snow — more than most places because of our altitude. Last year was a bad winter and there was practically no snow, but this year is a good year and will only get better 'snow-wise.' The weird thing is that lately it has only been snowing on feasts of Our Lady, and big snowfalls too, six or so inches each time, and that builds up.

We have a lot of fun when it snows. We build snowmen and sled practically all day and all night. Sometimes we just get all our snow gear on and sit out in the snow and talk. But the main attractions are the snowball fights, especially when we whitewash someone, and sledding down the hill. Basically when we're not sledding, you can bet we're having a snowball fight. Here at the seminary we have a lot of fun and make the best of our time.



The kindergartners of Mary Immaculate Queen Grade School reenact the First Christmas.



This year's Sentinels are enjoying their season.



Brother Michael got an old snowmobile working which has provided plenty of opportunity for winter sport.



One recent snowfall gave us the perfect conditions for building this snowman.



Our Lady's shrine stands out against the backdrop of snow-laden evergreens.



Sunsets at the seminary can be very beautiful.

Joy

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guardian angel. Perhaps we need to think of heaven, our eternal home, more often; perhaps we need to realize that we have been a bit too attached to the joys of earth. A wonderful, even indispensable, way of meditating is through spiritual reading. One book which cannot be too highly recommended is Bethlehem by Fr. Faber. Chapter 8, entitled "Heaven Already," delves most beautifully into this wonderful subject of joy.

May that joy which the world cannot give be yours this Christmas and always!

The opulent typist

by Chris Strain, gr. 10

In the course of just a few months, I have made more than \$25 from the rest of the guys here. Do you want to know how? Well, over the period of about a month's time we have three compositions to write: an English composition, a book report, and an article for *The Guardian*. If you haven't guessed it by now, my wealth comes from typing these lovely compositions.

At the beginning of the year, we started to learn keyboarding. Two-thirds of the seminarians have become quite proficient at it, but the others just haven't gotten it yet. I think Mrs. Salgado, our computer teacher, is getting a little frustrated, because after several months, these guys are still looking at their hands. They'll eventually get it though.

Sometimes I type for various seminarians because an assignment is due and one or two of the guys don't have time to get it done. At other times it's because the guys are lazy, but, seriously, I think they have me do it because I'm one of the faster typists. To quote a phrase from one of them, "money, money, money."

Every type of composition I've mentioned has to be typed, so I charge \$2 for an article such as this, and it might be about 350 words or more in length. Sometimes I'll charge more, and the most I've gotten is \$5. It's a very profitable job, but Father said he's going to put an end to it in the near future (bummer). That's probably a good idea so the other guys will learn, but I'll lose out. Anyway, it will still be fun while it lasts.

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.

The value of time

Every year in late December I reflect on the value of time. St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori says that time is worth God because in a moment of time a sinner may gain God by an act of perfect contrition, while, sadly, one in the state of grace can lose Him by sin. So time is most valuable, but how do so many people spend it? They squander it, they are bored, or worse, they use it to offend the Good God.

We, my dear friends, know the importance of salvation and, thus, the importance of using our time well on this earth. Let us use the time that God gives us to serve Him well, to serve Him joyfully, and to prepare for eternity with Him. May the beginning of a New Year serve to remind us of this important truth, and may God grant each of you an abundance of His choicest blessings throughout the Year of 2004. Please also remember our seminary. This time of year is usually difficult financially, and of course there is always the intention of vocations to pray for. We are most grateful for your prayers and your support.

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**