

# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V, No. 10

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2004

As we approach the end of the school year there are many events and activities that fill our days. First of all, in academics we are busy with various reports and a history term paper. In biology we have performed some interesting dissections. In theology and math we are finishing our textbooks and preparing for our final tests. In English literature we have been studying mythology. Now, you might wonder why a seminarian would study mythology. The fact of the matter is that numerous literary terms derive from the ancient classics. For example, did you know that in the city of Trent (in Latin *Tridentum*) in northern Italy, which was the site of the Council of Trent, there is a fountain in the town square with a statue of Neptune, the ocean god? Neptune always carries a three-pronged fork called a trident, for which the ancient city was named. Think of that next time you attend the Tridentine Mass!

The weather here has been interesting. After a dry and warm April, May began with quite warm temperatures. Lately, however, it has rained and rained. Nevertheless, we spend a lot of time outdoors, baseball being a favorite recreation. Then there is paintball. We hope you will not be too surprised by our enjoyment of the martial arts. (The word *martial* comes from Mars, the god of war.) Actually, paintball is a good recreation, as it includes a lot of hiking. It is not so painful as it might sound.

The month of May has also been filled with devotions and liturgical events. We daily attend the public Rosary in honor of our heavenly Queen. We take turns in providing flowers for

our seminary May shrine. Also, we are privileged to take turns in crowning Our Lady's statue, as we have a daily May crowning in the parish here. May we all grow daily in our love for Our Blessed Mother!

## The study of Theology

by Peter Linder, gr. 11

Without a doubt the most important class here at St. Joseph Minor Seminary is Theology. Having a priest teach us this important class is a great blessing, for which we are all thankful. In Theology class this year we have covered two books, and I don't think I have ever had to memorize so much before in my life. We have learned a whole bunch of different things about our Faith. Recently, we have been going over the sacraments for the second time this year, much more in-depth than the first time. We learned plenty about each sacrament, but we learned especially about Confirmation.

Soon after we studied this sacrament in class, the Bishop came to administer

## June calendar

- 1-3 — Final Exams
- 4 — Last day of school
- 6 — Awards Ceremony
- 8-10 — Priests' Retreat at Mater Dei Seminary
- 13 — Corpus Christi Procession and parish picnic

Confirmation to some of the younger parishioners at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish. The ceremony meant much more to me now that I understand all of the wonderful gifts the Holy Ghost bestows upon those being confirmed. After the Confirmation ceremonies were over, there was a nice celebration for the new soldiers of Christ.

Just two days previously at Mt. St. Michael the Bishop administered another great sacrament — that of Holy Orders. We were privileged to serve for the ordinations, and it was the first time for most of us to serve at a bishop's Mass. Chris was the book bearer, and

*continued on page 2*



*The Litany of the Saints is chanted during our annual Rogation Procession.*



## 25 YEARS IN GOD'S SERVICE

St. Joseph Seminary invites our friends and benefactors  
to attend the

### Silver Jubilee Celebration

for Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI,  
on Saturday, October 2, 2004.

Please write the seminary for details or call 208-687-0290.

## Theology

*continued from page 1*

his job was to hold the book steady while the Bishop read out of it. I was the bugia bearer — the bugia is a small candlestick with a handle — and my job was to accompany the book bearer in order to illuminate the text. Brandon, who was the miter bearer, and Cavan, who held the crosier (the Bishop's pastoral staff), both wore special humeral veils so that they could avoid touching these sacred items with their bare hands. Although the Mass with the ordinations was a long ceremony, it profoundly affected me and was the most impressive Mass I have ever been a part of.

During these recent days we have enjoyed many beautiful liturgical functions. We also met the seminarians from Omaha and enjoyed spending time in their company. I am certain they will make excellent priests in the future.

## A time for asking

*by Gerard Odom, gr. 8*

As many of you know, the Church has a period during Eastertide known as the Rogation Days. If you've attended these services in the past, then you know that they are held annually. This year we had a procession on Rogation Wednesday, the day before Ascension Thursday. Thankfully, we had fair weather this year, or we would have baked to death in our cassocks!

For those who have never attended a Rogation Procession, I would like to explain the ceremonies. Father, the seminarians, a cross bearer, two torch bearers, and a thurifer come out into the sanctuary. After the opening antiphon, Father intones the Litany of the Saints. The seminarians then assist Father in singing the Litany, as each invocation is chanted twice. At a certain point, we process out of the church with the schoolchildren and the rest of the faithful. The procession winds around the seminary and back to the church by way of

Our Lady's outdoor shrine. Once inside, Father finishes the litany and begins the High Mass.

Rogation Days are an excellent way to praise Our Lord. If you have anything to ask for, then you should make that request during this period. That's the whole point of the Rogation Days: to ask for things! During the litanies, the Church asks for deliverance from such things as famine, flooding, and war. Besides asking for things, the Rogation Days are an excellent way to give greater honor and glory to God.

## Foolish but interesting stories

*by Chris Strain, gr. 10*

During the past month we have been reading in literature class about the myths of ancient Greece and Rome. It is very interesting to note how dull-witted the people who invented these gods were. They are either having babies or they are killing each other. The people that made these stories up must have fallen off their rockers. They do show, however, how the Greeks and Romans lived. They not only practiced polytheism, but they also killed each other for little or no reason and were in turn killed.

One very interesting story that intrigued me was the story of Orion. I say this mainly because it's the only constellation I can find besides the Big Dipper. Orion was a hunter who fell in love with the goddess of the moon, and, as usual, he was killed. Some of these stories actually have happy endings, but for the most part everyone dies.

One peculiar custom of the Greeks was that they put coins on the eyes of the deceased. They believed that a fee was charged by the boatman in Hades (the mythological underworld) who ferried souls across a river. After landing safely on the other shore, they either went to the beautiful fields of Elysium or to the dungeons of Tartarus. The best part about this class, however, is that I get to find out the names of so many different constellations — provided I can remember the characters from the stories.

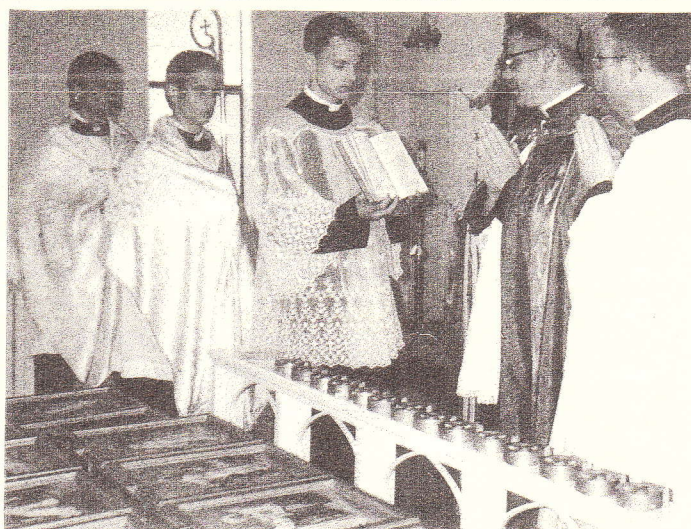
The latest story we read was on the mighty Hercules. He was put into the service of a certain king who made him perform 12 great tasks. These tasks included such feats as slaying giant lions and snakes, stealing cows, and killing monstrous vultures. What ended his life though was a pelt from an animal, which he had killed with a poisoned arrow. He became infected from some of the poisoned blood that was still on the pelt, and thus ended his existence.

You can tell by the stories that the people who wrote these had very vivid imaginations, and were very good at convincing others. As a matter of fact some of these stories sound believable, as they represent the characteristics of human nature. We are all enjoying this class immensely, especially since we are learning the origin of so many names and literary terms.





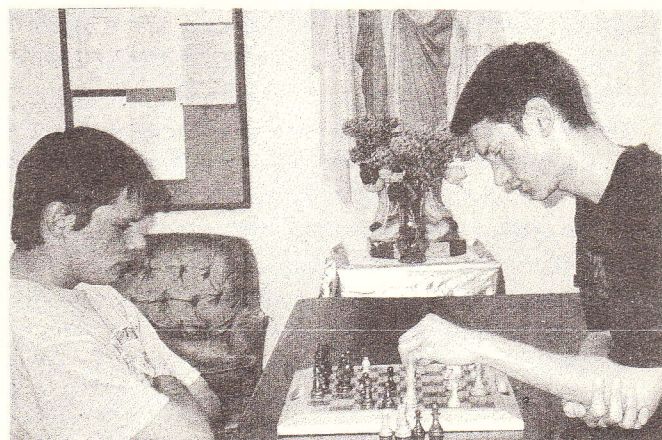
*The schoolchildren joined the seminarians for a Rosary walk to Our Lady's shrine in May.*



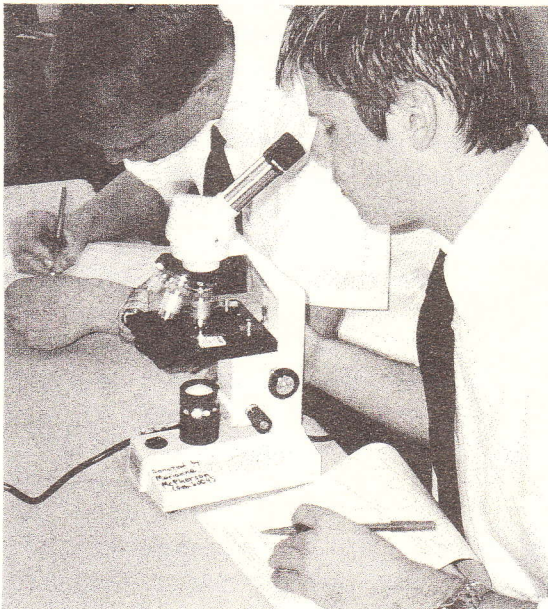
*During his visit, Bishop Pivarunas blessed and erected the Stations of the Cross in the seminary chapel.*



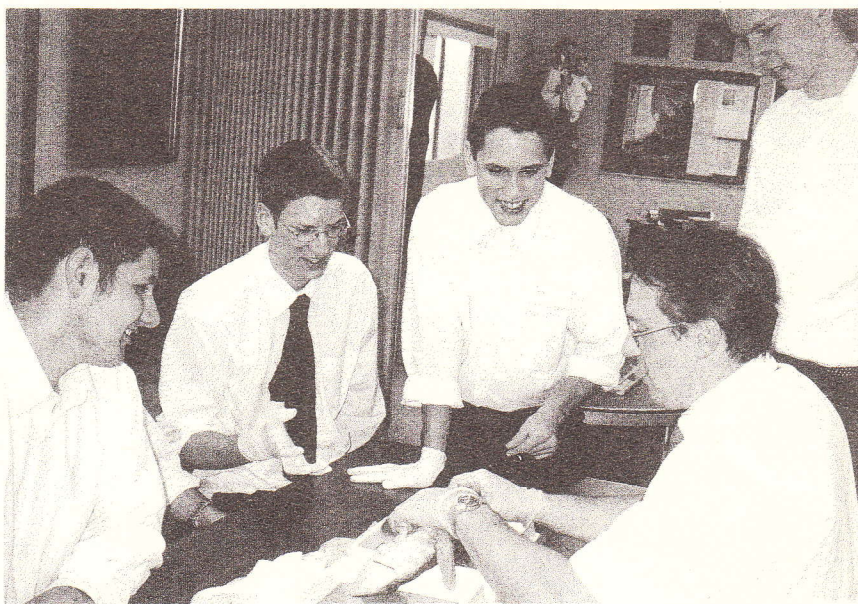
*"Splatterball" is a lot of fun and easy to play. Baseball gloves are not needed to catch the large rubber splatterball.*



*Peter is the winner of the 2004 Chess Tournament.*



*The seminarians use the microscopes to complete a biology assignment.*



*Our science teacher, Mr. Duff, guides us through the dissection of a shark, explaining the various internal organs.*



## May sports

by Brandon Odom, gr. 9

**M**ay! The bright sunlight, the awesome foliage, the refreshing rain, the . . . paintball guns? That's right. With all this bright sunny weather we just had to get some outdoor recreation. And what better way to do it than by shooting each other with small balls of paint traveling at lightning speeds!

For over a month now we have been saving money to purchase paintball guns. Our dreams finally came true when we recently obtained the equipment needed. We enjoyed our first game a couple of weeks ago. Since the seminarians from Omaha had come up here with His Excellency for confirmation, we invited them to join us.

When we arrived at the designated "battlefield" we divided into two groups and went to opposite ends of the field. The "field" was a large open area, surrounded on all sides by a dirt road and thick forest. When the game starts, you become the enemy of your opponents, but as soon as the game is over you're best friends again. Most of us had never really played the game before, but we caught on quickly. The object is pretty simple: Eliminate your opponent before he eliminates you!

By the way, when I said we shoot each other with chunks of paint traveling at lightning speeds, I wasn't kidding. Those things hurt, so we wear protective head gear and heavier clothing. Actually, the possibility of being hit with a paint ball makes the game even more fun. Anyway, the game went on for two hours and everybody had a great time. We were all exhausted and it was raining when we got back, but we were grateful for the company of the major seminarians. We look forward to the next paintball contest!

## A memorable close to a memorable year

**O**f all the events over the past month, the ordination ceremony at Mt. St. Michael was undoubtedly the most memorable for the seminarians. They were privileged to serve the pontifical Mass and witness the ordination at close range. The impression they received of the greatness of the sacrament of Holy Orders is one they will never forget. Many of them expressed their awe and appreciation of the opportunity to attend and serve this Mass.

### 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.

Another benefit they received from the ordination was the opportunity to meet and become acquainted with the major seminarians. It is certainly beneficial for our students to become acquainted with men who are so close to the priesthood. A special bond of charity and respect develops among seminarians. Minor seminarians, in particular, are idealistic. They need heroes they can look up to and strive to emulate. It is for these various reasons that I am grateful they have had this opportunity.

We just received great news today! We have finally received government approval to accept foreign students at our seminary. This application process has taken several years, but that is a story for another issue. Please join us in praying for more devout and earnest young men to apply for acceptance into our seminary.

As we wind down another year at the seminary I can only be grateful for the many blessings of this past year. I am proud of our boys — the efforts they have put forth and the progress they have made. Please continue to pray for them. You are all remembered in our daily prayers. May God bless you and your loved ones.

*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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