



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V, No. 11

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2004

Our year has now come to a successful conclusion. Recently, we participated in beautiful processions in honor of Our Lady's Queenship and Corpus Christi. We also celebrated the ending of the year with school outings. The first outing was to Farragut State Park and included the children of our grade school. The second was a seminary outing to Wallace, Idaho, to tour a silver mine. The weather cooperated perfectly for each of these outings.

We realize you will receive this newsletter well after the school year ends and we have all left for the summer vacation. We hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer vacation with your families, and we look forward to writing to you again soon.

Looking back, looking ahead

by Mr. Tim Duff

As the school year winds down and we head into summer, it is natural to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year. Other than the fine progress I have seen in the subjects I teach (math, science, and U. S. History), what stands out most for me is the enthusiasm in choir and the development of leadership in singing High Mass and Vespers. It really touches my heart to see young men who really enjoy and look forward to singing. There is perhaps nothing else as important for seminarians than enthusiasm in the service of God. Although they enjoy their sports and recreation, I truly believe that they understand that the worship of God is the

first priority, not only here at the seminary, but in life in general.

As well as looking back over the year, perhaps more importantly we should plan out a reasonable regimen of spiritual activity for the summer. It is true that summer vacation is a time for much-deserved relaxation, but we must also be careful to develop and follow a modest yet solid daily schedule of prayer, including the Rosary and daily spiritual reading, if we are to maintain our all-important spiritual life.

I highly recommend prayer and spiritual reading first thing in the morning when we are fresh and things are quiet. We thus come "into contact" with God, and should try to regain this contact often throughout the day. The Rosary should be said daily, and generally not put off until bedtime, unless that's when the family says it.

If we follow a prudent schedule of spiritual activity every day, along with an extra Mass and Communion when possible, as well as frequent confession, we will enter next year "fully charged"

and ready to tackle the challenges of a new school year.

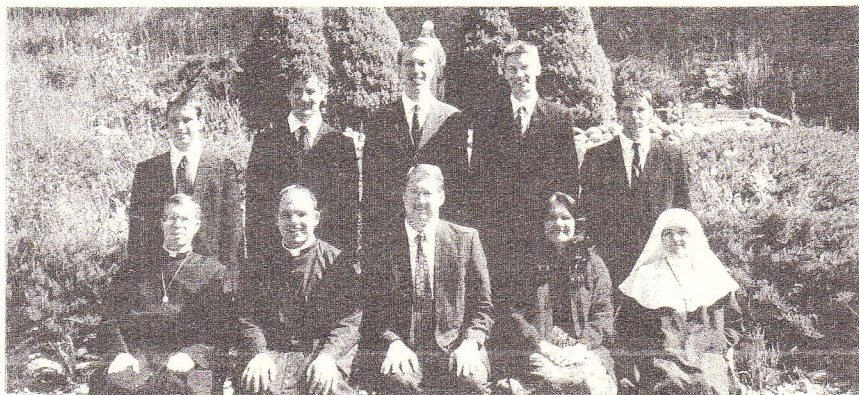
As for the fun time of summer, I'm always reminded of what St. Philip Neri said to a group of boys playing a game: "Have fun, enjoy yourselves — just don't sin."

The greatest privilege

by Peter Linder, gr. 11

When the year began at the seminary we all had some experience as altar servers, but none of us had precisely learned how to serve. During the school year we have each consistently served once a week and sometimes twice a week. I think that I could safely say that we are all experienced altar servers now. There are several different types of Masses, and during the school year we have learned to serve each one. Some of the different Masses that can be offered are: a simple Low Mass with two servers, a Low Mass with only one server, a simple High Mass, and a High Mass with incense.

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Our year at St. Joseph's Seminary has been a great success.

Greatest privilege

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The different parts of the Mass that servers must learn are the rubrics and the responses. The rubrics of a Mass are all the actions of the Priest and servers on the altar. Most servers would probably agree that in the case of a Low Mass the responses are harder to perfect than the rubrics. In a High Mass with incense it is much more difficult to become an expert at the rubrics than the responses, since the rubrics are much more numerous.

Back in the first semester Father wanted us all to learn our responses very well, for at that time most of us were pretty clumsy in saying them. Learning how to correctly pronounce the various letters and diphthongs in Latin class gave us some much needed help. Eventually we had to take a test on our responses as a part of our Theology grade. I think we all did fairly well, and we also learned our weak spots from it.

One of the greatest benefits of going to school here at the seminary is that we get to serve so often. We are aware that, other than the priest, God gives the most graces from the Mass to the altar servers. We are very thankful for the opportunity we have at the seminary to serve Mass often.

Idaho's mining history

by Brandon Odom, gr. 9

For our end-of-the-year trip, since we had spent all our money on paintballs, Father took us on an inexpensive, educational trip to the small mining town of Wallace, Idaho. We first had a short drive through the town and then took a bus ride to the silver mine that is used for tours. It is very impressive how far mining technology has come and how quickly and efficiently they can blast and move the rock. A hundred years ago it took two years to dig 200 feet, because it all had to be done by hand. Today, with blasting equipment, miners can move three tons of rock in 80 seconds. That was just one of the many things we learned.

After the mine tour, we went to the museum of mining. We all enjoyed going through the museum and learning more about mining. Wallace is in an area known as the Silver Valley, which is one of the top mining areas in the world for silver. Today, however, there are only two mines still open in the area.

From Wallace we traveled down the road to visit the monument erected to the memory of the 91 miners who lost their lives in the Sunshine Mine disaster of May 2, 1972. This tragedy, the second worst in U.S. mining history, resulted from a fire in the mine. Only two miners made it out alive.

After the educational part of our trip, we traveled a few miles down the road to Mullan, Idaho, and stopped at Shoshone Park for lunch and recreation. We first played an exciting game of frisbee, and after we got tired of that

we tried to play volleyball with a 15-foot high baseball backstop. When that didn't work we entertained ourselves by having dandelion races in the creek. That got old real quick, we went back to frisbee, only this time it was the much more exciting game of "Ultimate Frisbee." Finally, after a few games, exhausted from running we returned to Wallace for ice cream and then drove home.

The summer is coming fast and we will all be going our own separate ways for a while, but we look forward to writing for *The Guardian* again. We hope you have enjoyed reading about our experiences and the daily life at the seminary.

A dangerous but fun class

by Gerard Odom, gr. 8

The batter steps up to the plate; the pitcher winds his arm back and lets the ball fly. The batter swings, hits the ball, and furiously runs to first base. Much to the surprise of the audience, the outfielders do absolutely nothing! The only thing they do is sit and wait for the ball to roll into foul territory. You see, that's the point of *splatterball*: put forth as little effort as possible to play an "organized sport."

This excellent sport is the latest invention of the seminarians. It's played like baseball, except you use a rubber ball that resembles an undersized kickball. One of three things happens when you hit a splatterball: it will either land in foul territory, get caught, or fly clear into the stratosphere, leaving a twenty foot crater on impact! In splatterball, you only get three strikes, but you are allowed an unlimited number of balls. However, you only have three minutes to bat, or else it's an automatic out. This has provided us with several weeks of fun and entertainment.

We haven't spent our time on splatterball alone, however. We recently began playing volleyball as well. Only two words could describe our playing abilities in the beginning: we stunk! But practice makes perfect, and in our case, it really paid off! We went from playing half-court baby-bounce to playing full-court spike. By the way, that can get really painful!

Perhaps that is why one of the seminarians suggested changing the name of Physical Education to Physical Execution! At any rate, we all enjoy our P. E. class.



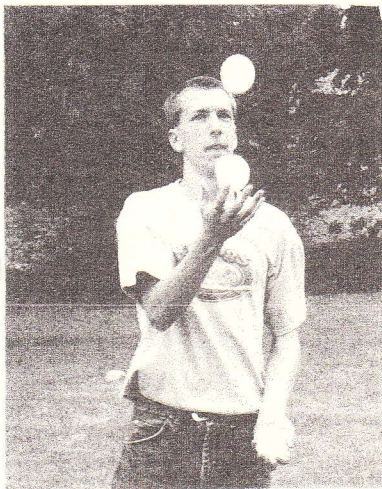
We wore hard hats for our mining tour.



There is nothing like a picnic at the park to finish off the school year.



Volleyball action!



Chris tries his juggling skills with water balloons.



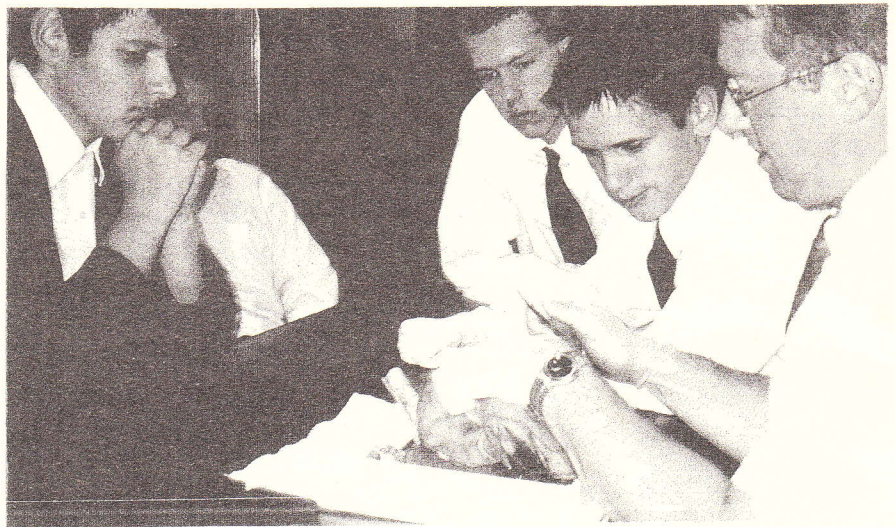
The seminarians had a great time joining the younger children for a game of kickball.



Gerard is caught goofing off again!



We were exhausted after our game of "Ultimate Frisbee."



Mr. Duff shows the students the various parts of a sheep's heart and lungs.

A packed and fun summer

by Chris Strain, gr. 10

Over the summer months I am really going to enjoy my vacation. I plan to keep up with some studies over the summer. From what I have heard from the others, most of them intend to work. Of course, I will still want to keep up with my prayers and any extra devotions I will do. My parents also think I should join the church choir. They say I have a good voice, and, of course, who am I to argue?

It has been an interesting experience living at the seminary over the past year. Due to our academic workload, we don't have a lot of leisure time. Along with being busy with homework, we have chores and recreation (basketball, piano, sledding, etc.). At home, however, I can relax and help my parents. Along with regular lawn care, I am also helping my brother-in-law build his house. My dad and he are contractors, and much help will be needed. I am also keeping in touch with my sister Bernadette, who is entering the C.M.D. religious order in Omaha, Nebraska.

The most wonderful thing of all is that my sister Jacinta will be getting married in July. The best part is that I get to serve the wedding. It's a great joy for me, and a very beautiful ceremony to watch, but I particularly like to serve because I am right there by the priest. I've already served at my oldest sister's wedding, and last year I served at my brother's wedding. For me, this is the highlight of the year.

Besides these many things I will try with God's grace to continue praying for the triumph of His Sacred Heart. I thank all of you for your prayers and want to tell you that they have helped a great deal in bringing each of us closer to God.

O Precious Blood!

Our school year ends during the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. From June we proceed into the month of July — the month of the Precious Blood. Seminarians especially must have an appreciation for the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, which is the price of our salvation. Although one drop of that infinitely valuable Blood would have been sufficient to redeem the human race, nevertheless, Jesus willed to shed every last drop to prove His love for us.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we daily offer to the Father the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, present on

Offering of the Precious Blood in Holy Mass

O my God, in union with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee the Precious Blood of Jesus from all true altars throughout the world, joining with It the offering of my every thought, word, and action of this day. I desire to gain every indulgence and merit possible, offering them, together with myself, through Mary Immaculate, whom Thou hast appointed the dispenser of the merits of Thy Precious Blood, that she may best apply them to the interests of Thy Most Sacred Heart.

Precious Blood of Jesus, save us!

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.

our altars through transubstantiation. True, Jesus does not die or shed His Blood again. The Mass is an unbloody renewal of the sacrifice of the Cross. Still, each Mass should remind us of the price of our salvation and of the infinite love of Jesus for us.

I encourage you, especially during this month, to recite daily the prayer found on this page: the *Offering of the Precious Blood in Holy Mass*. May our dear Savior allow some drops of that Precious Blood to fall upon our souls and cleanse us of our stains! May He, together with our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph bless and protect you and your families. We are most grateful for your continuing support of our seminary.

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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