



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V No. 12

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2004

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

One of the great saints we honor during August is the holy Curé of Ars, St. John Marie Vianney. All who have read the life of this holy priest are amazed at his incredible dedication to duty, his spirit of self-sacrifice, and his deep love of God and souls. Through the mouth of a possessed person, the devil confessed that if there were several more priests like him, the work of the devil in this world against souls would be destroyed. Such is the worth of a good and holy priest. In 1929 Pope Pius XI proclaimed the Curé of Ars the patron saint of all parish priests.

The life of this holy priest reminds me of the importance of the work of Catholic seminaries. At times the sacrifices may seem too great to surmount. The difficulties can be discouraging. But when we think of the good that a priest can do, all is worthwhile. Our goal here at St. Joseph Seminary is to recruit and train young men of exceptional character who will follow in the footsteps of St. John Marie Vianney. Our numbers may be small, but it is quality that matters most. Far better to have few priests who are holy, than many who are lukewarm. Please continue to pray for more vocations — that devout young men will answer the call of Our Lord to follow Him. Pray for those who are now on the path to the priesthood, that they will become holy priests. Pray for those who are priests, that they will sanctify themselves in their holy calling and become truly deserving of the appellation “other Christs.”

We can all benefit from occasionally reviewing what the saints have said and

What saints, popes and spiritual writers say about the Priesthood

St. Ignatius Martyr says that the Priesthood is the most sublime of all created dignities. **St. Ephrem** calls it an infinite dignity. **Cassian** says that the priest of God is exalted above all earthly sovereignties, and above all celestial heights — he is inferior to God alone. **Pope Innocent III** says that the priest is placed between God and man; inferior to God, but superior to man. **St. Denis** calls the priest a divine man and the Priesthood a divine dignity. **St. Ephrem** says that the gift of the sacerdotal dignity surpasses all understanding. **St. John Chrysostom** says that he who honors a priest honors Christ and he who insults a priest insults Christ. **St. Ambrose** has called the priestly office a divine profession and states that the dignity of priests as far exceeds that of kings as the value of gold surpasses that of lead. **St. Francis of Assisi** used to say: “If I saw an angel and a priest, I would bend my knee first to the priest and then to the angel.” **St. Augustine** says that to pardon a sinner is a greater work than to create heaven and earth. **St. Alphonsus** said that the entire Church cannot give God as much honor or obtain so many graces as a single priest by celebrating a single Mass. Thus, by the celebration of a single Mass, in which he offers Jesus Christ in sacrifice, a priest gives greater honor to the Lord than if all men, by dying for God, offered Him the sacrifice of their lives.

(from the writings of St. Alphonsus and How to be Happy, How to be Holy, by EDM)

what the Church has taught about the Priesthood. On this page you will find some quotes of the saints on the Priesthood. (This is all the more important today, when so many have defiled the priesthood, as journalists are only too happy to report.) May we never take the Priesthood for granted!

We continue in this issue our tradition, in the last issue of the year, of presenting a picture collage of memories from the school year that has recently concluded — and a memorable year it

has been. I have been pleased with our young men and pray that God will send us more vocations. You and your families, are remembered in my daily prayers. May God bless you all.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



St. Joseph Seminary students and faculty, 2003-4.



This past school year has been memorable and we now look forward to the 2004-2005 school year at St. Joseph Seminary.

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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