



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2005

**W**e are now in the midst of Holy Week, the most beautiful week of the year. All of us seminarians are involved in the special liturgical functions of these days, which require extra rehearsal. But the hours of practice are well worth it when we assist the priest in the intricate functions of Holy Week. We have often been told that, after the priest, the servers at Mass receive the most graces. What a wonderful blessing for us to have such a rich share in the graces of the liturgy, especially during the most important week of the year!

For some strange reason, the pool table has sat idle much of the year, but during the last month it has seen plenty of use, as we have held our annual pool tournament. The winner is decided by a double-elimination format. We have had some exciting pool games, but in the end, Peter came out on top. For the rest of us, there is always next year.

Our winter here has been unusually mild and dry, as we have told you before. Finally, however, we are beginning to get some rain. It is always wonderful at this time of year to see the flowers begin to bloom, to see nature come alive once again. This return of life reminds us of our own future resurrection on the last day — a fitting topic for reflection at Easter time. May you all experience the joys of Easter, which give us a foretaste of our heavenly home. We thank you for your prayers for our seminary and ask that you continue to pray to St. Joseph for an increase in vocations to our seminary and to the priesthood.

## Seek and you shall find

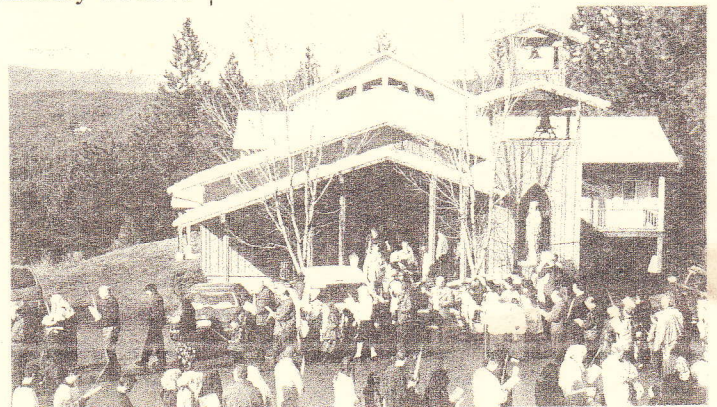
by Peter Linder, gr. 12

**W**e notice as we read the Gospels that Jesus often speaks about the importance and power of prayer. It is absolutely essential to have a good prayer life, if we wish to have a good spiritual life. In order to live a happy life we must not only be sure that the life of our body is healthy — we must also be sure that the life of our soul is healthy. A good way to think of prayer is like spiritual vegetables; we can all relate to how parents say, “Eat your greens!” The reason parents tell their kids to eat their greens is because they know that without them they will get sick. In the same way we need to have a steady diet of prayer to prevent our souls from losing the state of grace and thus becoming filthy with the most terrible sickness of mortal sin.

It is helpful if we wish to have a good prayer life to say our prayers at the same time every day. This helps us to develop prayer as a habit and makes it much easier to keep it up. Another method of keeping a good prayer life is to pray a variety of different prayers throughout the day. At the minor seminary we have both a consistent prayer life and a good variety of prayers. The two most important prayers that we say every day are our participation in the Mass and the recitation of the Holy Rosary. One of the other prayers we say is the Little

Office of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we say at morning prayers, noon prayers, after Rosary, and at night prayers. At the end of the day we thank God for the many graces he has given us, while in the morning we pray for His protection and graces to help us through the day.

No matter how good your prayer life currently is, it can always be better. It isn't necessary to pray all the time to have a good prayer life; rather, we should try to make the prayers we already say better. If we are confident that God will hear our prayers, they are much more likely to be answered. It is also good to remember when praying that God created us to know, love, and serve Him and that we fulfill all three of these purposes when we make a good prayer. When we pray we can help ourselves, our relatives, our friends, the poor souls, and we can help bring sinners to the true Faith. If you ever begin to doubt that your prayers are working, remember what Our Lord said: “Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you.”



We had clear skies for our Palm Sunday procession.

## Breakfast anyone?

by Brandon Odom, gr. 10

Here in Idaho at St. Joseph Seminary we recently had a breakfast to raise money for our end-of-the-year trip. We aren't sure where we want to go, but the money we made sure opened up some new options. Before, our options were the Shell Gas Station or the local Super-1 grocery store. Now we actually made enough money to leave the state. We were hoping to go to Quebec to see the Notre Dame Church but it is too far a drive. So we are still deciding where to go.

Back to the breakfast: We served two breakfasts, one after the first Mass and one after the second. Because the first Mass was early there weren't as many people for the breakfast, and it was a little easier to serve. We were serving egg soufflé, potato casserole and biscuits with sausage gravy. And in honor of St. Patrick, we were selling Blarney Stones (a dessert) that we had made with the help of Mrs. Salgado. After the first breakfast Peter and I had to clean up because Gerard and Cavan had to serve the second Mass. The worst part was washing the dishes, of which there were plenty. However, once we got going, it went fairly quickly. But remember, this was just the first Mass.

As soon as the second Mass was over people started flooding into the parish hall, and we started serving up the food. As more and more people came we were afraid of running out of biscuits. A few of us even had to serve two dishes at once for a few minutes. But after a while the first wave died down, and it wasn't as hectic. Later, after all the excitement had slowed down a bit, we found out that we had left a batch of biscuits in the oven. Gerard was petrified. (You must know that if Gerard were locked in a room and given nothing but bread for a year, it would be the best year of his life.) The biscuits were useless unless someone wanted to use them as clay pigeons or paperweights. Other than that, the breakfast was a great success. What was even better was that we had two working dishwashers — their names were Cavan and Gerard.

The second cleanup took much longer than the first, because there were three times as many people. Cavan and Gerard spent about two hours doing piles of dishes. All things considered, we made a good profit to the seminary fund, and we look forward to our end-of-the-year trip.

## Sleeping on the job

by Gerard Odom, gr. 9

The weatherman should be fired, the news channels should be taken off the air, the government should fire all top-level meteorologists, weather satellites should be updated, and California should trade weather patterns with Idaho, because lately, the weather here has been extremely out of the ordinary!

Okay, maybe we shouldn't take the weather *that* seriously, but I wouldn't blame anyone for doing so. For starters, we got

robbed of a perfectly good winter. We had two feet of the best packing snow anyone could've hoped for, and then it rained, melting it all in two days! To make matters worse, we had sledding inner tube, which could've come from the Roswell sightings, big enough to hold all four of us and powerful enough to run a Mack truck off the road! Then it sprung a leak, leaving us with plastic sleds, but even they were good enough for quality sledding. We went sledding until the bottoms of the sleds were worn down to nothing. We built jumps that put Olympic-sized jumps to shame. We got bumps and bruises, and we enjoyed doing it too! But then the weatherman said "rain," and it rained! That has to be, without a doubt, the cruelest act of man or nature: to rob innocent children of their winter fun!

To top off her act of cruelty, Mother Nature made it stop raining right after the last good sledding hill melted! We've been in a drought ever since. California has received more rain in one month than it normally gets in one year, and we get nothing! New York had more snow than we did and had it a lot longer as well! But we were left with nothing. We've had a blistering 60-degree heat wave, while Arizona has had cool weather all February long!

Now, we're in the month of March, but that doesn't seem to make matters any better. We're now in a 61-degree heat wave, have received precious little rain, and it's still raining in California. Arizona has become the hot spot for skiing this year, and the State of Idaho is well on it's way to becoming the next Gobi Desert. All of this change in the weather makes me stop and wonder: Is it just me, or has Mother Nature been sleeping on the job?

## The benefits of doing homework

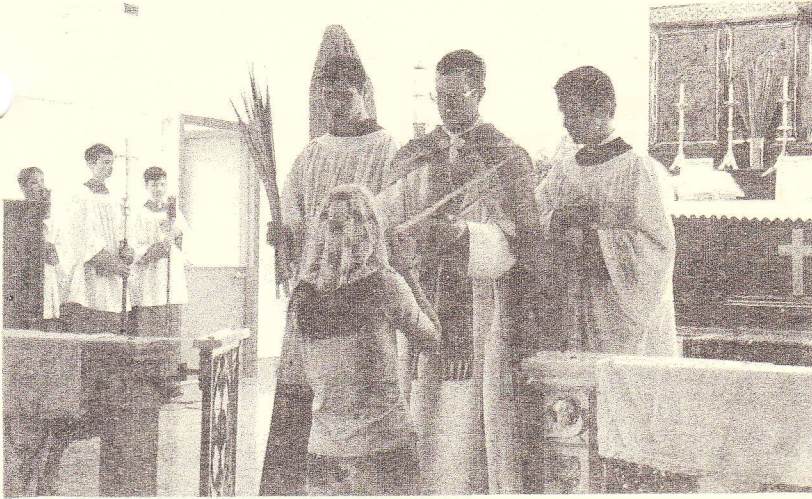
by Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 12

When the school year began I wasn't really into homework. Why is that? Well, I wasn't interested in it because homework took too much time and I never did get anything right. Well, this year I have become better at doing my homework and have been taking more time to study. If you

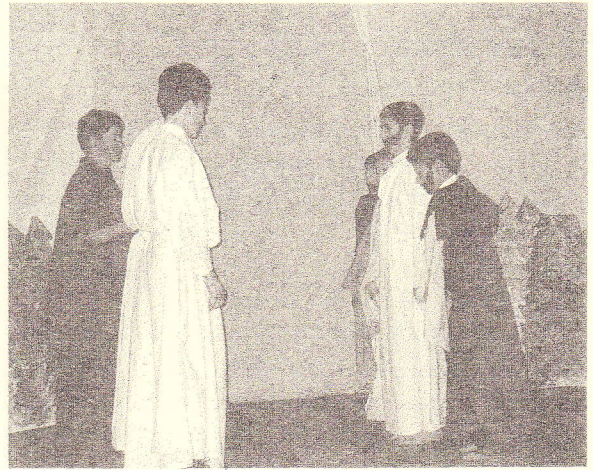
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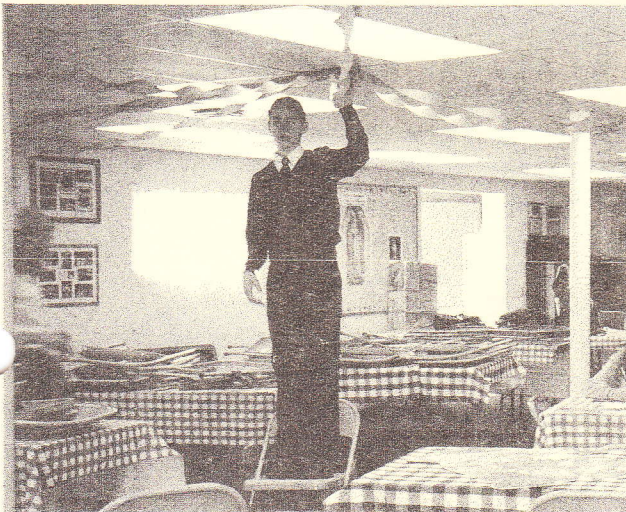
*Spring came early as noted by the daffodils now in full bloom along the side of the church.*



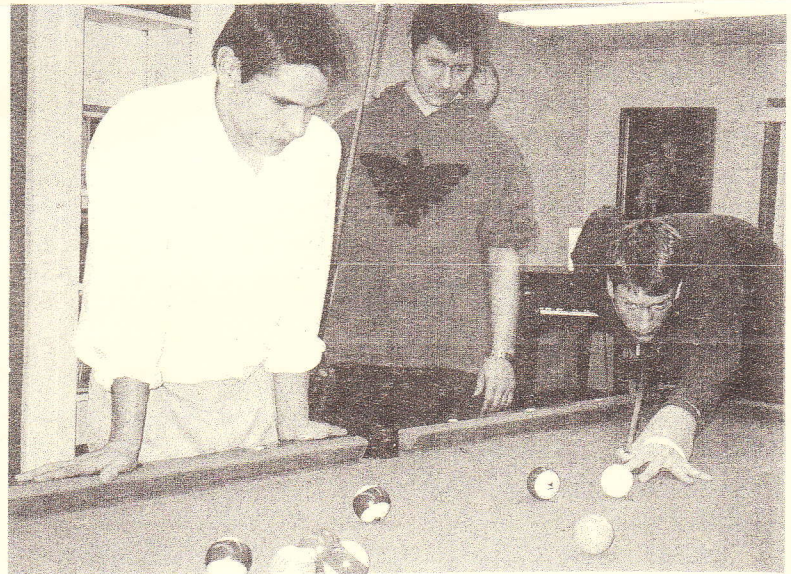
*Blessed palms are distributed to the faithful on Palm Sunday.*



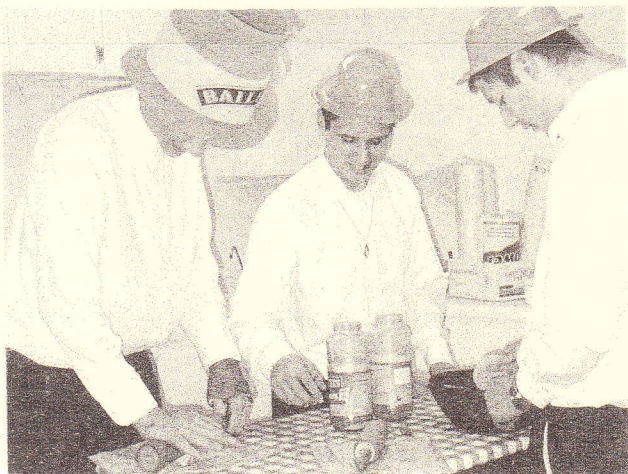
*During Lent the students put on a play taken from Christ's Passion.*



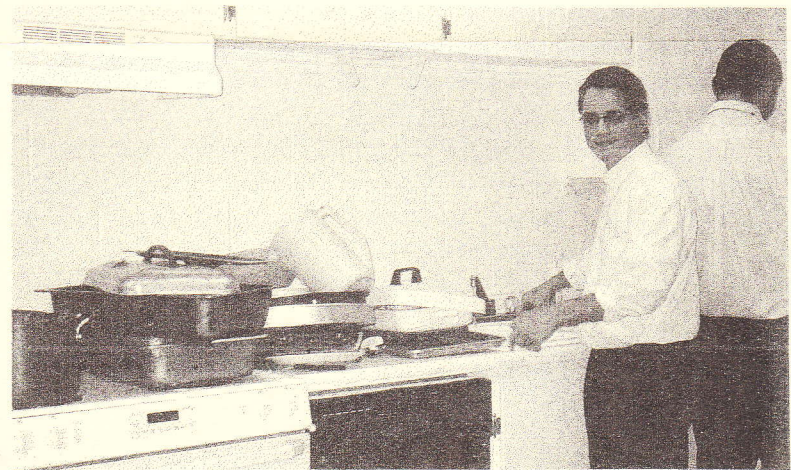
*The seminarians got some help from the grade school students who used green crêpe paper to add a festive spirit to the church hall for the Seminary Breakfast Fundraiser.*



*Peter takes another well placed shot on his way to winning the annual pool tournament.*



*The seminarians frost Blarney Stones, a special St. Patrick's Day treat.*



*Gerard forces a smile as he and Cavan get started on the dishes following the fundraiser.*

## Homework

*continued from page 2*

study you get the grades you want. When report cards come along, you will have the good grades you worked so hard for.

Good report cards lead to some benefits, such as having your parents congratulate you, or getting a reward for your good grades. My grades are usually average, and my parents tell me to just keep trying harder.

When it comes time for study hall after supper dishes, we do our homework until it's completed. Once we are done with our homework, we show Father our assignment notebooks and the completed assignments. When Father has checked our notebooks, to see that our homework has been done, we are dismissed and go to recreation until 9:00 p.m. Then, we have spiritual reading for 15 minutes before praying night prayers.

We know that getting good grades is important. Often we don't feel like doing homework, but that is our daily duty. The effort spent in doing our homework will have rewards in this life and, if we have the right intention, in heaven also. Diligence in doing our homework every night also helps us appreciate all the more those "free homework" nights that come along every once in a while. Well, it's time to get back to my homework.

## Month of the Holy Eucharist

One of the greatest blessings for these young men at the seminary is to live under the same roof that shelters God Himself. For us, a visit to the Blessed Sacrament is a matter of walking a few feet to the chapel, where Our Lord always awaits us. Yet, sadly, how often we can take His presence for granted.

Our seminarians go into the chapel several times a day for common prayer and Mass. The rest of the day is so packed with activities, that we often do not even think of taking a few minutes out of our precious free time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lord is there in the chapel, waiting for our visit. And so, one of our goals at the seminary during the month of April will be for each of us to make at least one extra visit daily, on our own time.

We often should reflect on the great privilege of having Our Lord present in our churches. What a consolation to be able to visit Our Divine Master, to speak to Him, to be in His company. Our Lord deserves our attention, and He asks for it.

## 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.

Recall the words spoken to His chosen apostles in the Garden of Olives: "*Could you not watch one hour with Me?*" Are we also deserving of the same reproach?

The catechism reminds us that Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist for three reasons: to be offered in the sacrifice of the Mass, to be received by the faithful in Holy Communion, and to remain on our altars as a proof of His love for us and to be visited by us. We often forget the third reason for the institution of this great sacrament. The month of April provides all of us with the opportunity for an examination of conscience on this topic — do we appreciate Our Lord's presence in our churches and visit Him when able? May we never take the presence of the Holy Eucharist for granted!

We pray that you all have a most blessed Easter. Our annual Easter vacation will be a welcome opportunity for all of us — teachers and students alike — to enjoy a needed break, so that we might return well rested for the final quarter of the school year. We thank you all for your support and your prayers. Please continue to pray for our seminary, especially for more vocations. May God bless and reward you for your generosity.

*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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