



THE GUARDIAN

As the weather continues to get warmer, it becomes more difficult to sit in a classroom and concentrate on our studies. There are many exciting events at this time of year, however, to help us maintain our focus. Soon, we will enjoy the various outdoor processions that make this month such a wonderful time of year. We also make more trips to the park during May. We enjoy the outdoors more, and we even have occasional classes outside.

But more than anything else, we look forward to our outings. This month we will have two trips — one will be to Omaha for the ordinations, and the other will be our annual school trip to Seattle. We can hardly wait for these trips to begin, and we will tell you all about them in coming issues of our newsletter.

During the month of May we also strive to foster our devotion to our heavenly Mother Mary. We will have our usual May practices at the seminary: decorating our classroom statue of Our Lady for the seminary May shrine, taking turns gathering and arranging flowers and placing them before the shrine, crowning Our Lady's statue, praying the Rosary and singing hymns, etc. But May is also the time we prepare for the Act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

Recently, Father gave us a class on what this consecration means. Every year, those seminarians who want to make the consecration go through the period of preparation, beginning on April 28, the Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort, and concluding on May 31, the Feast of the Queenship, when we make the act of consecration. Those who have already made their consecration

also go through the steps, joining in the daily prayers and readings, in order to prepare for the annual renewal of their consecration. This practice is optional at the seminary. No one is forced to make the consecration. It is important that we serve Our Blessed Mother from our own will, rather than because we feel obligated to do so.

During this month we will also pray daily for you, our relatives and friends. May we all grow in our devotion to our heavenly Mother Mary during this month, and may she help all of us to always be pleasing to her Divine Son!

Mother of all

by Brandon Odom, gr. 10

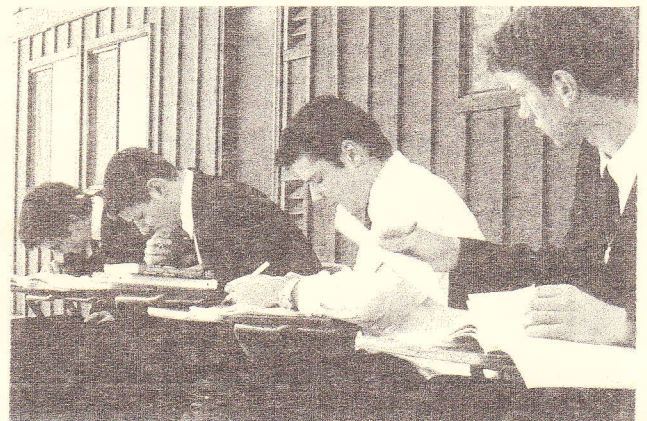
Here in Idaho at St. Joseph Seminary it is the month of May. Spring is finally here and everyone is glad to see the cold weather gone and the flowers in full bloom. All the great sounds of nature are fresh in our ears. But there is something else important in May that people often forget. May is the month of our Blessed Mother. It is the month dedicated to the Queen of Heaven and the Mother of Our Lord.

During May we should take the time to make a special effort to honor our heavenly Mother in any way we can. Even the smallest sacrifices and acts of charity are most pleasing to her and even more pleasing to her Son when done in her honor.

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May calendar

- 1 — Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
- 4 — Mid-quarter, Rogation Day procession, Vocations' Day
- 5 — Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, Holy Day of Obligation, no classes
- 14 — Ordinations ceremony at Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha
- 19-21 — Annual seminary outing
- 26 — Feast of Corpus Christi, outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament
- 30 — Memorial Day, no classes; Queenship Procession
- 31 — Feast of the Queenship of Mary; High Mass; chanted Vespers; Renewal of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary



The warm weather makes it possible to hold a class outdoors.

Mother of all

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Think of all the extra graces we could get just by offering our daily duty up in honor of Mary. Here at the seminary we are praying the Rosary publicly with the parishioners in the church, instead of praying it privately at the seminary. Also, every day someone in the parish makes a crown of flowers and we crown the statue of Our Lady and sing hymns in her honor.

These are two examples of honoring Mary. But it doesn't have to be done in church. You can light a candle and say some prayers in front of a statue of Our Lady at home. You could even do something as easy as offering your daily duty in honor of Mary. It is up to you what to do. Whatever it is, she will gladly accept it, and you'll get graces for it. You can't lose!

We should make an extra effort to honor Mary in any way we can this month. After all, she does so much for us, shouldn't we at least thank her for all her unselfish kindness? It's easy. Right now just bow your head and say a small 'thank you' to the Mother of all! You won't regret it.

Sticks and stones can break my bones

by Peter Linder, gr. 12

Breaking bones is not fun, especially when you break a bone that happens to take three months to heal! Four months ago in January I was living without a cast on my arm. Then I broke my wrist and spent three months waiting to get that cast off. Now, I am once again living without a cast on my arm; the only difference between now and before is that now I realize how great it is to have all my limbs working properly.

The three months that I spent with a cast on my left arm were pretty interesting. I found during that time that a cast is a good conversation starter. I also found out a little bit about what colors mean to people. The first cast I had was blue and no one really paid attention to the color. The second one, however, was fluorescent orange, and everybody had something to say about it. Since St. Patrick's Day occurred shortly after I got my orange cast, I really got a good talking to. I was told so many times about how orange is the Protestants' color that I am surprised I haven't started talking about it in my sleep. After having to wear something orange all day, every day, for a month, the color is now so unappealing to me that the only thing orange that I ever plan on buying is a basketball.

Having a cast on was a great annoyance, but there is a positive side to everything, and my cast was no exception. This may sound strange, but it was the biggest help when it came to sports. It helped me the most in playing pool and probably is the only reason I won the tournament. It also helped me in basketball, as it dissuaded opponents from checking me closely for fear of getting hit with the rock hard cast with the potential to inflict tremendous pain. Besides helping in playing pool and basketball, it also helped my spiritual life by humbling me and especially by forcing me to practice patience.

Pentecost Sunday

by Gerard Odom, gr. 9

The Feast of Pentecost is approaching, so we decided that one of us should write about such an important feastday. Pentecost is not just another Sunday in Eastertide. On Pentecost Sunday, the Holy Ghost came down upon the apostles to strengthen them to fulfill their mission of spreading the Gospel.

For starters, this special feast is celebrated fifty days after Easter. It calls to mind the confirmation of the twelve apostles by the Holy Ghost, as well as the beginnings of the Catholic Church. On Pentecost Sunday alone, five thousand were converted and baptized. A lot more converts followed after that. On Pentecost, the apostles were gathered in the Upper Room, because they feared the Jews. Suddenly, there came a violent wind and upon each apostle, as well as Our Blessed Mother and many disciples, there settled tongues of fire. The Holy Ghost descended on each one of them, making them soldiers of Christ and giving them the knowledge needed to carry out their work.

Why do we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost? In the old Jewish times, Pentecost was celebrated at the harvest, in which they gave their first fruits to God. In the Catholic Church, Pentecost is celebrated to commemorate the Holy Ghost's coming to the apostles. In the early Church, the Feast of Pentecost was called Whitsunday. It was called that because those who were to be baptized at the vigil wore white vestments.

The Feast of Pentecost is a significant feast, because in it we find the Sacrament of Confirmation. Before they were confirmed, the apostles lived in fear of the Jews; when the Holy Ghost descended upon the apostles, they became fearless in spreading the Catholic Faith throughout the world. It is the same in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Before he is confirmed, a child is not fit to defend his faith, but afterwards, he is a soldier of Christ and is required to defend his faith, even in public if necessary.

This year, let us celebrate Pentecost Sunday worthily by praying for the Holy Ghost's guidance and asking for the courage to defend our faith as best as we can.

My favorite class

by Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 12

One of my classes this quarter is botany. This class is the best class of all. Why is that? Well, the reason I like it best is because I am able to be outside in the fresh air, working with plants and garden tools.

One project I have been working on is the seminary garden. The garden hasn't been kept up for several years, so the first project was to clean and prepare the ground. It was in such a disorder that I had to rake all of the dead brush into piles which

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The beautiful statue of Our Lady in our chapel is often visited by the seminarians.



Everyone helps out during a recent work-party at the seminary.

Novena Prayer in honor of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

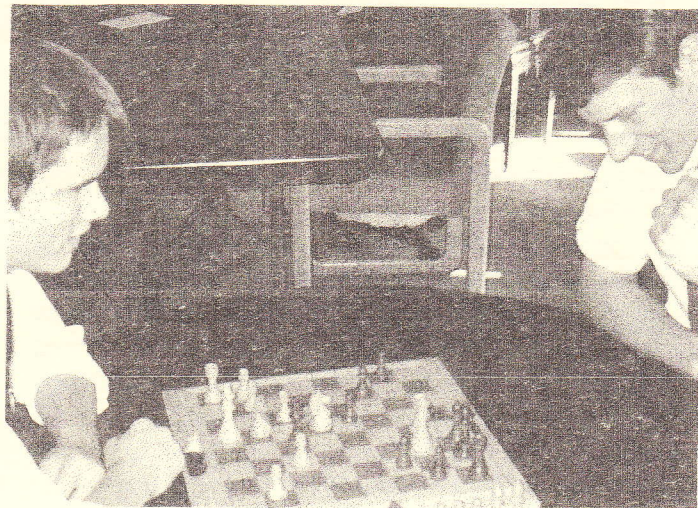
May 22 – May 30

O Mary Immaculate Queen, look down upon this poor, distressed and suffering world. Thou knowest our misery and our weakness. O thou who art our Mother, saving us in the hour of peril, have compassion on us in these days of great and heavy trial.

Jesus has given thee entire power over all humanity; He has confided to thee the treasures of His grace, and through thee He wills to grant us pardon and mercy. In these hours of anguish, therefore, thy children come to thee as their only hope.

We recognize thy universal royalty and ardently desire thy triumph. We need a mother and a mother's heart. Be for us the luminous dawn which dissipates our darkness and points out the way to life. Be thou the everflowing Source from which we draw courage, confidence, and love, the Bond uniting all men and the Sign of peace. Amen.

Mary Immaculate Queen, triumph and reign!



Gerard and Peter play a match during our Annual Chess Tournament.



Gerard's musical talent includes playing piano by ear.

Botany class

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were then burned right there in the garden. When all the brush was gone, I started to pull the weeds. The last thing to do was to plant all of the vegetables.

Another project was to plant roses by Our Lady's shrine and by the church. But these aren't the only things I am doing in this class. I have also been reading gardening books and taking notes from these books.

The school year is almost over, and I don't have very much time left to finish my work. Some additional projects involve mowing and fertilizing the lawn. Right now I am hoping I can plant everything in the garden before the school year is over. But most of all, I hope the garden yields abundant vegetables.

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament

The month of April, dedicated to the Holy Eucharist, gives way to May, dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Young men who are preparing for the holy priesthood must have a great devotion, both to our Eucharistic King and to Our Heavenly Queen. A wonderful title of Our Lady, which beautifully blends the two ideas, is that of "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament."

It was the saintly French priest Blessed Peter Julian Eymard, who popularized this title of Our Lady in the 19th Century. Blessed Eymard had a tremendous devotion to the Holy Eucharist, founding religious orders for the purpose of honoring Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The members of these religious communities would each spend an hour daily in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, so that there was at least one member of each community in the chapel in adoration at every hour of the day.

During May we will read daily from the book Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament by Blessed Eymard. This book contains reflections and stories, arranged for every day of the month, to explain the close connection between Our Blessed Mother and the Holy Eucharist. I heartily recommend it to those who have never read it.

St. Louis Marie de Montfort tells us that the devotions to Jesus and Mary are like gold and silver compared to the other metals. They are the most essential devotions. The devil, knowing this, does all he can to destroy these two devotions.

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.

Sometimes he does this by substituting false devotions — counterfeits, if you will — in the place of the true ones. Thus he seeks to lead astray otherwise pious souls by making them think they are devout, when in fact their devotion is not a true devotion.

May we all develop and daily increase in a true devotion to Jesus and Mary. Our lives ought to be centered in the Holy Eucharist and imbued with a tender love for Our Blessed Mother. If this is the case, we will be preserved from the numerous erroneous ideas by which the devil seeks to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

During this month we also pray the novena in honor of the Holy Ghost, in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost. This is the oldest novena, having been first observed by Our Blessed Mother and the apostles, and the only novena that is prescribed by the Church. As our gift to you we enclose a booklet with a novena to the Holy Ghost. Let us pray for His guidance and graces, so much needed in our times. May Jesus, Mary and Joseph keep you all strong in your faith. As always, we are most grateful for your support and your prayers. May God reward you abundantly.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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