



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2005

The first month of the new school year has been busy, as we all adjust to the schedule and the new seminarians. The biggest change here in the seminary is the presence of our three new seminarians from Mexico. It took some time for all of them to arrive, but our prayers were finally answered.

Jose de Jesus and Giovanni, both from the village of San Pablo Atlazalpan in the State of Chalco, were the first to arrive. They had received their visas on the feast of St. Philomena, and we believe that it was greatly due to her intercession that the process went so smoothly. They arrived on September 7.

Our third Mexican student, who had a much more difficult time obtaining his visa, arrived 10 days later. Omar is from Tijuana, in the State of Baja California, so perhaps it is owing to the fact that he lives in a border city that he had such a difficult time. At any rate, all of them have adapted very well to the seminary routine, and we have welcomed them as part of our family.

Another significant event of the past month was our annual camping trip, held on the second weekend after school begins. We went to a small lake about two hours from here and got in a couple days of camping. The water was cold, but that didn't dampen our spirits as we enjoyed boating, football, the campfire, storytelling, etc. Some of us even braved the cold water for a swim.

We are all busy with our studies, following the schedule and trying to cooperate with God's grace. We ask your prayers for a successful year, and we promise you our prayers in return. May God bless you all.

Give honor where it's due
by Brandon Odom, gr. 11

The month of September is special in that it has several important feasts of

Our Lady, who should play a very special role in our lives as Catholics. We should take care to honor her everyday but especially on these feasts. At St. Joseph Seminary we sing Vespers of Our Lady on her feast days, so I think it's safe to say we all got some good practice in singing this month.

The first of these feasts fell on September 8. Holy Mother the Church chose this day to celebrate the Birthday or Nativity of the Mother of God. This was the day on which the Mother of Our Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ came into the world. How often do we find ourselves anticipating weeks ahead the Birth of Jesus? Wouldn't it please Him just as much if we gave that same honor to His Holy Mother Mary?

The second feast is the Holy Name of Mary on September 12. St. Anthony of Padua said: "The name of Mary is sweeter to the lips than the honeycomb, more delightful to the ear than a sweet song, more entrancing to the heart than the purest joy." We should send all our prayers through Mary!

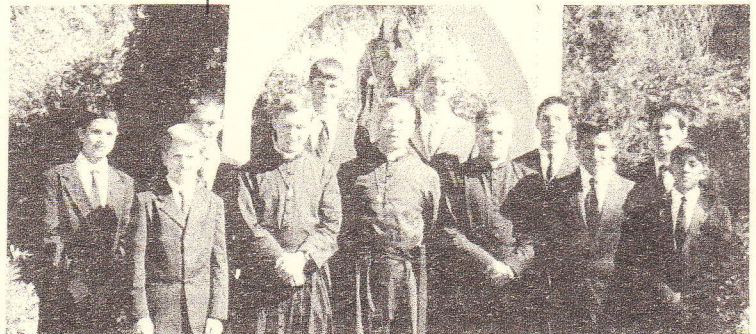
The third feast on September 15 is that of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. It has been said of Mary that if all the suffering and sorrow that she endured throughout her life were divided among all the people that ever lived, they would all die from the overwhelming pain.

These are three of the main feasts in the month of September, but there are also the feasts of Our Lady of La Salette on September 19, Our Lady of Ransom on September 24, and Our Lady of Victory, a feast celebrated on

October calendar

- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BMV; chanted Vespers; no homework; seminary outing
- 8 — Fr. Gabriel's final vows ceremony; Jose de Jesus' birthday
- 10 — Guests of the Fatima Conference visit the seminary
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; chanted Vespers; no homework
- 13 — Anniversary of Our Lady's final apparition at Fatima; sodality reception ceremony
- 27-28 — Final exams for the First Quarter
- 30 — Feast of Christ the King; High Mass; annual renewal of seminary Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; seminary-sponsored fundraising breakfast
- 31 — End of First Quarter

September 28. We Catholics should pay special honor to Our Lady every day for all she does for us, but we should especially honor her on her feasts.



Our seminary this year contains a diverse group of 9 young men and 3 teachers.

First impressions

by Caleb Short, gr. 10

Hello! I am Caleb Short from Colorado, and this will be my first year here at the seminary. Before I came here, I didn't quite know what to expect. It was a little difficult to adjust to the new people and surroundings. It is kind of weird to be so far away from home. The first two days especially were difficult, because everyone up here was new to me. (This had me thoroughly confused). After I got used to everybody it was much easier to think straight.

This will be my first year of not being home-schooled. School up here is a bit easier than home-schooling because you do not have to do as much on your own. My favorite class (and probably that of all the other seminarians) is P.E. We start off the period with a 1-mile run, and then we do some stretches and exercises. The best part is that we get to play some sports. Lately we have been playing flag football, in preparation for playing some other small schools.

I like the daily schedule very much. It leaves a good amount of time for prayer, which makes the day much more pleasant. It is very beneficial to talk to God often throughout the day. It helps us to keep in mind what our real goal is — to get to heaven. The best thing about being here is that we have the awesome privilege of attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass every day. I think it is much easier to bear our crosses well when we've started the day with Mass. So far it has been a very neat experience and I am enjoying it very much.

An involuntary swim

by Vincent Sentman, gr. 9

As the seminarians start a new year at the seminary, we had a grand first week, homework and all. At the end of the second week Fr. Benedict decided "Why not a camping trip?" So he made reservations, and the seminarians got up in the morning and were scurrying around the house trying to get ready. In all the scurry and hurry someone for the second time walked through our brand new screen door. Well sometimes those things happen. Then we were off.

After a journey of riding in the van for an hour-and-a-half, we arrived at King's Lake and set up camp. After all was ready we ran down to the lake and jumped into the canoe and paddleboats. We were on the water until it was time for dinner.

After Vespers and dinner, Alex and I decided to take out the canoe. Well, after a little while Alex had figured out that you could rock the boat side-to-side. After I told him that rocking the boat wasn't the smartest thing to do, considering that canoes tip very easily, well, Alex (not being the brightest of the seminarians although he is the youngest), finally rocked the boat so much that over the side the two boys went into the cold lake!

There we were in the middle of the ice-cold lake. Fortunately, two other boys were right next to us in a paddleboat and picked us up. They then got the canoe and tugged it back to shore, while we jumped into the shower and changed clothes. Then we went outside and played some football. We then went down to the lake again and jumped back into the boats. This time we were very careful and wore our life jackets.

The rest of the time was without incident, and everyone enjoyed the trip very much. All the seminarians would like to extend a special thanks to Fr. Benedict for a great trip.

Experiences — good and not so good

by Gerard Odom, gr. 10

As is our custom here at the seminary, we went on an overnight camping trip after the first couple weeks of school. The only difference between this year's camping trip and those of the past few years, is that this trip was unlike any other trip we've had!

The beginning of our venture started out like any other: after Mass and breakfast we got busy preparing to leave. Then Father came in and told us that we'd have dishes for a week if we didn't hurry up and get ready. After that, things went downhill! Everyone jokingly agrees that the trip started out with a bad omen. After breakfast, each seminarian was busily running around, trying to get his things packed and ready to go. During this whole time, every door in the house was left wide open. But for some reason, someone decided to shut the brand new screen door upstairs. Less than a minute later, an eager seminarian barreled through the screen, which had been repaired from a previous accident, and messed up the whole screen all over again. Because everyone was too busy packing, no one had the time to get it fixed. Soon afterward, we were on our way, along with Fr. Jose Rodriguez, who was visiting at the time.

When we finally arrived at the campground, everyone was in the best of moods. We all were eager to do everything and ended up doing everything, too. We went swimming in an ice-cold lake. We went paddleboating in the same ice-cold lake. We even went fishing, not realizing at the time that fishing was not permitted in that lake. Oh well!

After our gourmet fish dinner, we enjoyed card games, more paddleboating, and telling jokes at the cabin. Then, late at night, we headed back to the campsite. Since it was freezing cold that night, we all looked forward to building a nice warm fire. The only problem was we didn't have any matches to start the fire! After borrowing matches from our neighbors, we built a nice big fire. Then we put it out and went to bed.

The next morning, we woke up, assisted at Mass, and had a delicious breakfast. We enjoyed more activities and left around 2:00 in the afternoon. We all learned many lessons from our wild adventure, but the most important lesson we learned was: think before you fish!



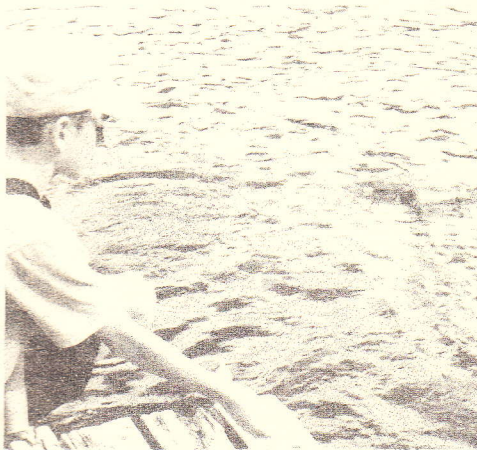
Jose and Giovanni were accompanied to the seminary by their pastor, Fr. Jose Rodriguez.



A swim in Lake Coeur d'Alene is one of the last rituals of summer, before the weather turns cold.



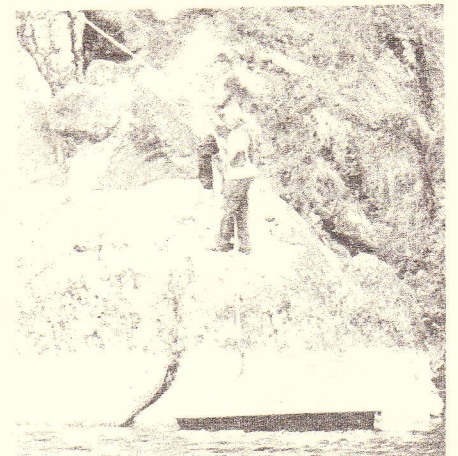
Twice a week the younger boys join us for an enjoyable game of flag football.



Feeding the fish from the dock convinced us that fish are as eager to eat as we are.



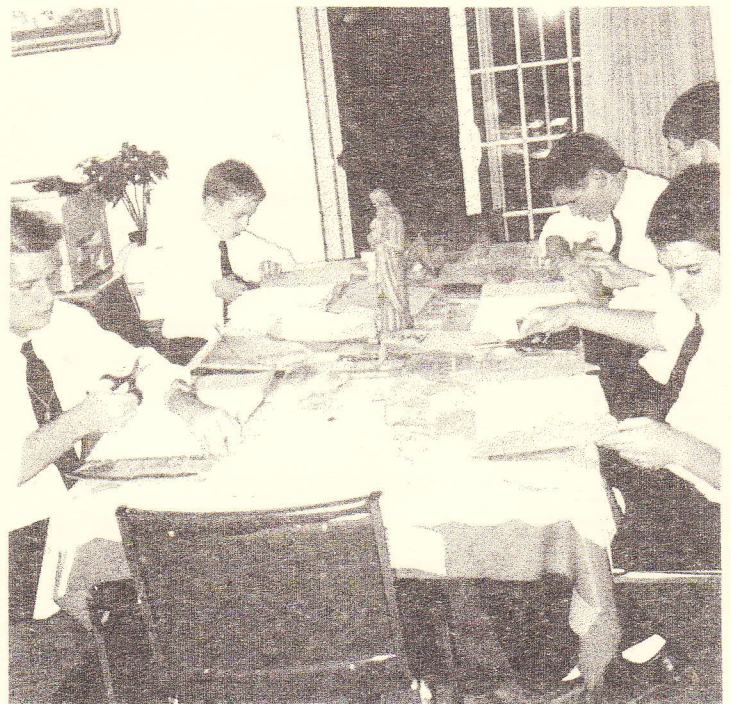
The paddleboats and canoe provided hours of enjoyment on the lake.



Two seminarians explore the rocky shoreline at King's Lake.



We helped Mrs. Salgado celebrate her birthday in early September.



Covering books is an essential task in the first week of school.

Our Mexinarians

by Alex Odom, gr. 9

Here at St. Joseph Seminary, we have several brand new seminarians. They are freshmen and they speak very little English. Jose and Giovanni are both from the same town in Mexico. Jose is 14 and Giovanni is 13 years old. This is their first time away from their hometown. Omar, on the other hand, is 14 years old and is from Tijuana.

Their first few days here were mostly spent learning some basic English from Mrs. Salgado and Sr. Amada. They know a few words but almost all of the time they have no idea what the heck we're saying, and the same goes for us when they're talking. If we say something in English, most of the time their response is: "WHAT!?!"

We're all trying to teach them English and they're trying to teach us Spanish, but so far it's just a bunch of Spanglish. We'll jumble together words like "muy bien" and "gracias" and then we'll put some English in and, voila, Spanglish. They're pretty good at pool and ping-pong considering that they had never played these games before. As far as sports go, they pretty much know how to play football (not soccer), and they have even made some amazing catches. Since they're the first Mexican seminarians we've had, someone decided to give them a nickname — the Mexinarians.

They also went with us on our annual seminary camping trip and had some interesting experiences. In fact, they were the first ones into the water, which was very cold. You can read all about our trip in the other seminarians' articles. Boy, was that a trip!

These new seminarians are beginning to learn the English prayers, and they're also learning that Latin is the hardest subject to learn even though Spanish is very similar. The good thing is that they're having a good time, and we have more people to help us do the dishes!

God's greatest gift

During the past month we have been reading the story of Our Lady of Fatima. What especially strikes the reader, and puts us to shame, is the amazing spirit of penance that the young visionaries exhibited. Our Lady had told them, "Pray, pray a great deal, and make sacrifices for sinners, for many souls go to hell because they have no one to sacrifice and pray for them." These young children took Our Lady's words very much to heart and were heroic in offering sacrifices for poor sinners.

While sacrifice is important, we must remember that our first sacrifice is to accept and bear with patience the crosses God

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.

sends us. Sometimes, that is the hardest thing to do. St. Louis Marie de Montfort tells us that the cross is a gift that God gives us — in fact, His greatest gift. If we bear it well, it will be a source of many blessings.

I have seen the demonstration of this truth many times. In our seminary, for example, we have had our crosses over the years. Perhaps this year's group of fine young men, all of whom have a good morale and the spirit of cooperation and prayer, is a blessing merited by the carrying of past crosses. We must always remember that our crosses, if carried with patient resignation, will merit many graces for us, even though at the present time we cannot see their purpose.

God is indeed good. Let us not be selfish, however, but strive to merit the graces needed by others through the practice of prayer and penance, as Our Lady requested. Please also remember the Poor Souls, and be sure to return the enclosed intention card with the names of your departed loved one.

We thank you for your support and prayers. May St. Joseph intercede for all of us and obtain from his chaste spouse and her divine Son the grace to always persevere in our Holy Faith, despite the crosses we experience. You all have a daily remembrance in our prayers. May God bless you and your families.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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