



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. VII, No. 8

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2006

It has been a long winter. The first day of spring, however, dawned sunny and warmer. Since then, we have been enjoying warmer weather, after the mostly below-average temperatures of March. It is nice to see nature coming back to life.

The main news of March is that we had our annual retreat. Fr. Gregory Drahman, an instructor from Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha, conducted our retreat this year, while both Fr. Benedict and Fr. Gabriel were out of town. We all agree that the retreat was a spiritual boost for us.

Last week we finished our tests and assignments for the Third Quarter and are now entering the final section of the school year. This week we have our annual pool tournament, before beginning Passiontide, during which we intensify our Lenten practices. Soon we will enter Holy Week, during which we all participate in the various ceremonies.

We hope that you are all making a good Lent, which is the best way to prepare for a joyous Easter. Please continue to pray for us.

## Holy Week and the Passion Play

by Giovanni Ortiz Aparicio, gr. 9

Dear benefactors and friends, I would like to tell you about how we celebrate Lent in my hometown in Mexico. It is very special because we perform a play representing the Passion of Christ from when He arrives in Jerusalem until He dies on the Cross, saving us from our sins. This play is a big production, which takes four to five months of preparation. A lot of people help; some are actors and others help

with the setup. Not only do people of our town come to see the play, but people from the United States also come.

Our services start on the morning of Palm Sunday with confessions, the Rosary and the blessing of palms. The Passion Play then begins with one of the youth of our parish representing Christ as He leads a large procession through the streets of our town. Then we have Mass. After Mass everyone hurries to prepare for the play that starts in the evening. The performance represents how the Jews received Christ when He entered Jerusalem, and other scenes of the miracles Jesus worked.

On Holy Thursday Father offers a special Mass in remembrance of how Jesus instituted the first Mass (at the Last Supper). He also washes the feet of the men representing the twelve Apostles. After Mass people make visits to the Altar of Repose to gain the plenary indulgence while the Passion Play continues outdoors with the Agony in the Garden, and the betrayal by Judas. The soldiers then lead Jesus to our outdoor theater to face His false accusers, Annas and Caiphaz, who they hope will condemn Him to death. The play ends for the evening, with the soldiers placing bets over Christ's robe, and Peter crying with shame over his denial of Christ.

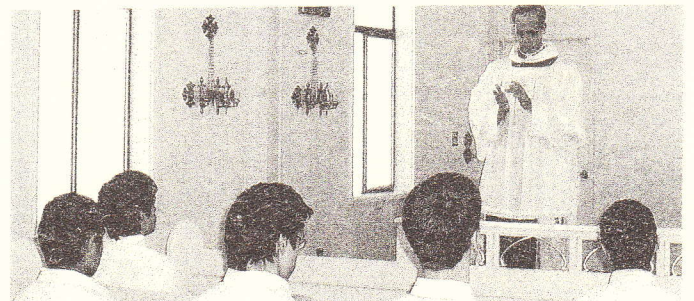
On Good Friday the sidewalks are roped off so the actors have the freedom to perform the Way of the Cross through the

## April calendar

- 4-6 — Annual standardized testing
- 7 — Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows; chanted Vespers
- 9 — Palm Sunday ceremonies
- 13-14 — Holy Thursday; Good Friday
- 15 — Holy Saturday; Easter Vacation begins
- 23 — Low Sunday; seminarians return from vacation
- 24 — Classes resume
- 26 — Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel; chanted Vespers
- 28-30 — Forty Hours Devotion in our parish

streets. With a microphone in hand and a portable speaker, the priest recites the Stations of the Cross as the actors re-enact them. The streets are full of people watching, just like in the time of Christ. The difference is that all the people in the streets today are very sad for Christ's suffering — especially when Jesus encounters His Mother and the weeping women of Jerusalem, and when the soldier actors whip Jesus, as

*continued on page 2*



Fr. Gregory was our retreat master this year.

## Passion Play

*continued from page 1*

real whips are used for the play. The procession actually goes all the way to the top of a hillside in our town. Onlookers fill the hillside. On one hill Judas hangs from a tree. On the other the actor who plays Christ is stripped of His robe and "tied" to the Cross.

At the end of the play, after "Christ" is put in the cave, the ambulance comes, because some people (in the audience) need to be taken away from the effects of the heat and emotion. The priest then returns to the church and gives a sermon on the Seven Last Words. After the Liturgy there is veneration of Our Lord Crucified and then we have a silent, candlelight procession in honor of the Sorrowful Virgin through the streets of our town. Those who want to do penance make the procession barefoot on our unpaved streets. I am happy to share with you the way the people of my town celebrate Lent.

## A sedentary experience

*by Caleb Short, gr. 10*

Father needed one seminarian to accompany him to serve a funeral. The reason I am writing this article is because I was picked. The funeral was far away in a town in Western Montana. It was a great experience, and I really enjoyed skipping a day of school.

After school on a Tuesday, and after packing my own things and helping Fr. Benedict pack some things for the Mass, we set out on our five-hour drive of magnificent mountain scenery, but also of everlasting sitting. We arrived in Kalispell about 9:00 p.m. Mountain Time and stayed at a hotel. There are few better feelings than that of standing up after a five-hour car ride. The next morning we packed up, went to the funeral home, and set up for Mass. It was very different to serve a funeral with only one server, but I made it through unscathed.

After the funeral and reception, we set the steering wheel for home. On the way we visited an old mission in a town called St. Ignatius. The building was well over one hundred years old and was built by the Jesuit missionaries. Inside there were many beautiful paintings and statues — and a very ugly Novus Ordo setup in front of the original altar and communion rail. Some of the many beautiful paintings were even on the ceiling. The Jesuits used these to instruct the Indians about the Catholic Faith. After a brief visit we finished our trip.

This excursion showed me really how much our dear priests have to go through. Both of the priests here have plenty of other things to do besides teaching. They still have to travel all over the country to bring the sacraments to those in need. Please pray that some of us will be blessed with vocations so that we may one day lighten their burden. *"The harvest is indeed great but the laborers are few."*

## "It's freezing"

*by Alex Odom, gr. 9*

Have you ever had ice water dumped down your shirt? If you have, then you have shared a slight feeling of the pain that has been "showered" upon our backs this past month. Our water heater failed and we were obliged to either take freezing cold showers or do without them. It was painful, but, since it is Lent, we all, I'm sure, offered it up.

One evening after taking his shower, Giovanni told Chris and me that the water was freezing. We (Chris and I) take our showers in the morning, so we assumed that the water problem would be resolved by that time. Boy, were we wrong. The next morning as I was getting ready to take my shower, I turned on the hot water. To make sure it was hot, I stuck my leg in, and instantly, I pulled it back out. It was COLD! After I summed up enough strength to go in, I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and went in. Bad idea. I immediately lost my breath and stiffened up, just like when you get ice water poured down your shirt. It was easy washing my hair, because I just had to stick my hair in the stream of water. But rinsing off my body, that was a totally different feeling. I tried taking brief entrances, in and out of the water, but that didn't work. I knew what I had to do, and I did it. It was painful, yes, and I never got used to it, but I offered it up and it was soon all over. After I dried off and got out, Chris, who was in the other shower, told me pretty much the same thing I told you. We both had a good laugh and went back to our rooms.

So, if your water heater ever fails, offer it up, and know that there are others who share in your suffering.

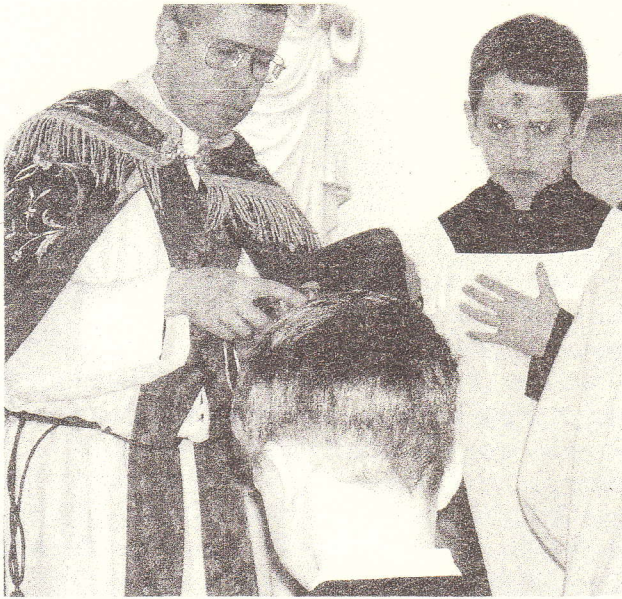
## What's on the fundraiser menu?

*by Brandon Odom, gr. 12*

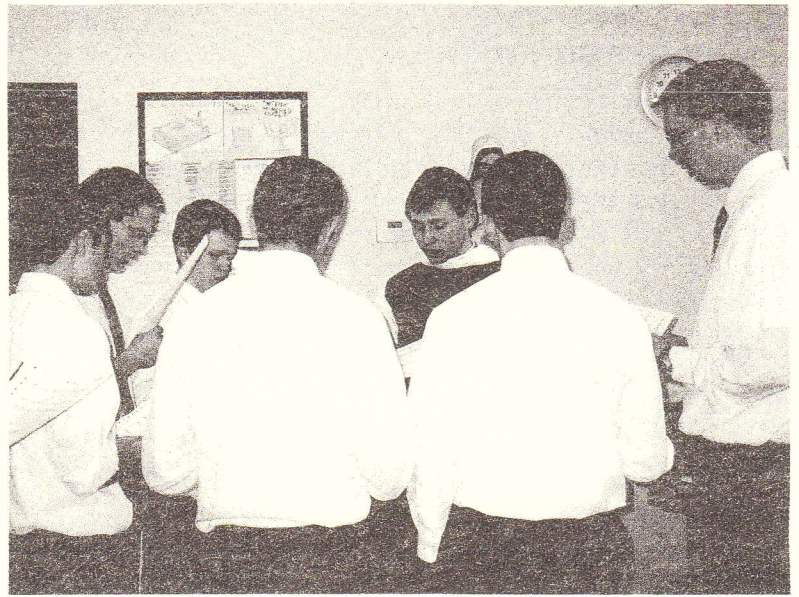
On March 19, we seminarians held our second breakfast in honor of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, and it was our best breakfast yet. We served the usual dishes of scalloped potatoes, egg soufflé and biscuits with gravy. We also had Blarney Stones and Irish Coffee for a little extra.

The breakfast was held after both Masses on Sunday, and this is the first breakfast to date that we didn't run short on one of our dishes. Usually we run short on potatoes or gravy as the last few people are coming through, so we have to give them extra food from the other dishes. However, at this breakfast we had just enough for a few people to have seconds, and when we were done serving there wasn't even enough food for a single serving of anything. It was perfect. We did run short of one thing though. Water! Of all the things to run out of! The filter shut off and for awhile we didn't have drinking water. We were still able to do the dishes though, unfortunately. One final thing we did was to eat a huge cake in honor of Fr. Benedict's upcoming feastday on March 21.

*continued on page 4*



*Caleb assists Father during the Ash Wednesday ceremonies.*



*Fr. Gabriel helps the choir prepare for the High Mass on the feast of our patron St. Joseph.*



*We enjoyed one final trip to the ski slopes on St. Patrick's Day.*



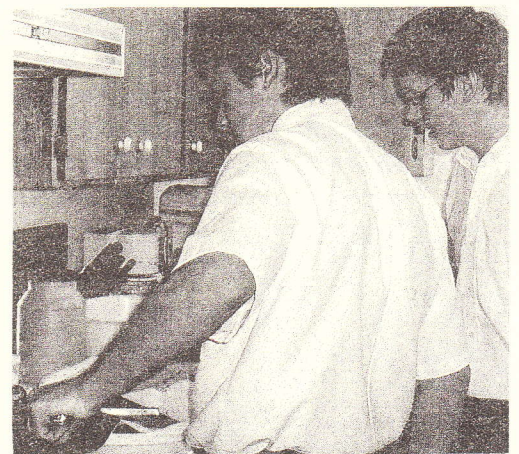
*Brandon pauses for a moment at the top of the slope before heading downhill.*



*A talent show was part of the festivities on St. Joseph's Day, as we took a break from our normal class routine.*



*Gerard performed a piano piece as his contribution to the talent show.*



*Everyone pitches in for Sunday breakfast preparations.*

## Fundraiser menu

*continued from page 2*

After everyone had finished eating and most had left, the real work began. One hundred and fifty people make a lot of dishes, and those soufflé pans are brutal to clean. Washing the dishes was probably the most time-consuming part of the whole breakfast, but it was worth it. We hope to use the money we raised to go to Silverwood Theme Park at the end of the year, and we are anxious to see the reaction of the Mexican seminarians to this local attraction.

## The last and only

*by Gerard Odom, gr. 10*

Something great has happened. Something even greater than skipping our lap has happened. An event so great that Fr. Gabriel, our homework-happy science teacher, suggested a no homework day! What was this great event? We won a basketball game! The reason why this is such a big deal at the seminary is because we had not won a single game all season. Here's what happened:

Our game took place at North Idaho Christian School at 5:00 p.m. on March 13. At the start of the game, the opposing team scored two, then four, then six points, until they had St. Joseph's Sentinels at a lead of 10-0. Our situation looked unsurprisingly bleak. Then Fr. Gabriel got the bright idea to send in the team's only blind player, who provided our team with great support, given the outlook of our situation. Apparently, it must've worked. No sooner had everyone gotten their act together, than the team's biggest small fry took one of his signature "Hail Mary" shots, giving it an arc that nearly hit the ceiling . . . and made it! After that, the ball was constantly stolen, and shot after shot was made by both teams, until the Sentinels had the lead of 17-16 at halftime.

After a rallying lecture from Chris, our team enthusiastically took to the court. Once again, the same thing happened. The ball was constantly stolen by our team, shot, missed, shot again, missed, and then stolen with the same process by our opponents, until someone finally scored. The score remained fairly even. In the fourth quarter, however, as if to make our claim a solid one, we scored shot after shot, while the opposing team scored only two more points, leaving the final score of the game 39-33, St. Joseph's Sentinels.

The victory was a sweet one. We all went out for pizza to celebrate our win. To our amazement Father suggested a no

homework day as well. It was a great experience to be able to play other schools but it was an even greater experience to finally be able to beat one. So our first win was our last and only one, but how sweet it was.

## Forty Hours

Seminarians require a strong devotion to Our Blessed Mother, but more than anything, a future priest must have a deep piety towards the Blessed Sacrament. Daily Mass and Communion, common prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and visits to Our Lord all nourish this essential devotion. During April, however, our young men have an even greater opportunity to nourish their Eucharistic devotion.

It is during this month that Holy Week occurs, with its unique liturgical celebrations. The Holy Thursday liturgy, with its procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose presents an excellent opportunity. Following the liturgy, we make our Holy Hours as we contemplate the institution on this night of the Sacrament of Love.

April is also the month when our local parish holds the annual Forty Hours adoration. This devotion provides seminarians a wonderful opportunity of fostering Eucharistic piety. The ceremony opens with a Solemn Mass and procession of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the chanting of the Litany of the Saints. Each day of the exposition we have a public Holy Hour, as well as ample opportunity for private time of adoration. Finally, the devotion concludes on Sunday with the chanting, once again of the litany, followed by another procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the final Benediction.

Well do I remember participating in the Forty Hours Devotion at the parish of my youth. Each of the altar boys was assigned an hour to spend with Our Lord exposed in the monstrance. I was particularly impressed with the closing ceremony, attended by many priests from neighboring parishes. These impressions contributed, no doubt, to my own realization of a vocation. It is my prayer that our young men will imbibe, through the various liturgical functions, a deep and lasting piety towards Our Eucharistic King.

We thank all of you for your support and prayers for the success of our seminary. Please continue to pray for those who are preparing for the priesthood, and also for more vocations. We pray for you and your loved ones daily. May you be blessed with the joy of the Resurrection at Easter.

*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.

**St. Joseph Seminary**  
**15384 N. Church Rd.**  
**Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**