



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2006

Recently we all returned well-rested to the seminary from our Easter Break. Some spent the week out of town, in places like San Diego and Colorado, others stayed closer to the seminary — or at the seminary — and just relaxed, sleeping longer in the morning and enjoying the time off. Now we are ready to get back to the work of academics for the final seven or eight weeks of the school year.

In a few days we will have our annual Forty Hours adoration. We seminarians spend an hour each day (of the three days) in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Then May will arrive — a month we always enjoy. The weather is nice, the practices of devotion to Our Lady are beautiful, and the end of school is in sight.

We particularly enjoy the daily crowning of Our Lady's statue and the daily public Rosary. There is a special May shrine in the church, and parishioners bring vases of flowers from their gardens for Our Lady. Someone makes a crown of flowers each day, and we crown the statue of Our Lady before Mass, as we sing a hymn. Usually, one of the seminarians or another server is given the honor of crowning the statue.

So, all in all, it is a beautiful time of year. May we all grow in devotion to Our Lady, especially this month. We appreciate your prayers and will remember all of you daily in our prayers.

Neither last nor least

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

St. Augustine wrote "Order is our guide to God, and whatever comes from God is always well ordered."

These are truly words of wisdom. Following a schedule is a great help to using our time well and avoiding many pitfalls in the spiritual life. As St. Gregory said, "He who lives according to rule, lives according to God." In the minor seminary, one of the most important parts of the schedule is the very first one: rising. This might come as a surprise, but a little thought will show how really important is this first act of the day.

Sleep is an amazing thing. It is the one time of every day when we cannot do anything wrong. It also refreshes the body for another day of laboring for love of God. But sleeping too long is only wasting the time that God intends us to use for labor. That time can never be regained once lost. "If God calls you today to do good, do it; for tomorrow it may happen that for you time will be no more, or that God will call you no more" (St. Alphonsus).

In the Sacred Scriptures we read of holy persons rising early: "Rising by night; rising early; rising at dawn of day." The saying *The early bird gets the worm* has a little deeper meaning when it comes to the morning. The devil waits anxiously to snatch the first fruits of the day. If we rise promptly and kneel down to make our morning offering of the day to God, then we begin well. But if we delay in rising, the devil snatches these first fruits and we set a bad tone for the day. St. Vincent de Paul even used to say, "The

May calendar

- 8 — Omar's birthday
- 9-16 — Senior Class trip
- 10 — Mid-quarter
- 22-24 — Rogation Days; procession
- 25 — Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord; Holyday of obligation; no classes
- 25-26 — Seminary outing
- 31 — Feast of the Queenship BVM; chanted Vespers; procession; Fr. Gabriel's ordination anniversary

grace of vocation hangs upon prayer, and of prayer upon punctuality in leaving our bed." This is why the spiritual writers say we ought to rise from bed as if the bed were on fire.

A little story from Fr. Paul O'Sullivan's book *An Easy Way to Become a Saint* will help us see how true this is. There was a young woman who was rather lazy in getting up in the morning. One morning after she was called to rise, she turned over again and

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The rain held off long enough for us to complete our outdoor procession on the Feast of St. Mark, as we chanted the Litany of the Saints.

Neither last nor least

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said, "I am tired this morning; I will sleep a bit longer." She then heard a voice, as of one lying beside her, which said, "Do, do, and I will remain with you." Recognizing it as the voice of the devil, she jumped out of bed and was never again slothful in rising.

No wonder that Fr. Daniel Lord, S.J., in his book on advice to parents strongly admonishes those parents who allow their children to be slow in rising. The morning is a time for making a generous beginning of the day. We have perhaps failed to make progress in the spiritual life time and time again. Now God in His goodness has given us another day. If we rise early, we have time to say our prayers devoutly, and not hurriedly. Today we must begin to serve God faithfully. As St. Francis de Sales says, "There is no better way of perfecting the spiritual life than continually to begin anew."

The Sunday singers

by Chris Strain, gr. 12

The routine events of our daily life seem to be the norm around here, but what do we do for God outside of the seminary? I, for one, like to sing. I've been told I have a really good bass voice, so I finally summoned enough courage to join the parish choir a few years ago, and I love it.

Mostly, we sing on Sundays, and during the Christmas and Easter Seasons. I especially like the latter, because of the different chants and the beautiful, yet somber songs like *O Sacred Head Surrounded*. I'll have to say one thing, though, and that is that my favorite Lenten songs are the *Seven Last Words*. They are beautiful Latin hymns and the best thing for meditation. I also like singing, during Eastertide, songs like *Sicut Cervus, Regina Coeli*, and *This Joyful Eastertide*.

Our choir director, Miss Anne Marie Vogel, is very good at what she does. She has been directing our choir for a number of years, and all of her 12 siblings have been in the choir at one time or another. Kevin Vogel, her brother, has also done a lot for us, including making up CDs for practice, and helping us out individually. He is also our only tenor at this time, although my brother CJ is trying to learn. My dad and I hold up the bass section of the choir with the help of Mr. Ed O'Hara, and Mr. Bill Dinneen, and sometimes my brother Joe. I should also mention that the Vogel girls, Meghan and Katy, seem to work hard at supporting the alto and soprano sections with the help of others.

We all seem to enjoy it, and we tease back and forth about different things throughout the course of practice, much to the dismay of our director, especially during the Lenten Season. Over the summer we usually take a break, and rightly so. It seems though, that when we come back around August or September, everything still seems to blend well, as though we hadn't taken a break.

I know Fr. Benedict is grateful to have a choir, even one as small as ours, and we all love to sing, which makes it fun and easy. But the one thing that makes it all worthwhile is to be able to praise Our Lord with our voices.

A heavenly admonition

by Caleb Short, gr. 10

For my spiritual reading this month, I am reading *A Woman Clothed with the Sun*. This book narrates some of the excellent apparitions of Our Lady.

My favorite apparition of Our Lady is La Salette. Our Lady appeared to Melanie Mathieu and Maximin Giraud, who were fourteen and eleven years old, respectively. It took place on September 19, 1846, in the parish of La Salette, which is in the French Alps. Our Lady came to warn the people of the punishment that would be awaiting them if they did not amend their lives. Not very many people were going to Sunday Mass and their moral condition was not very good.

Both of the children were tending cattle when they saw a strange light. They saw a Lady with her hands over her face, weeping. The Lady told them that her Son was ready to punish the people, especially for the profanation of Sunday. The other thing that made her Son's Arm so heavy was swearing by her Son's Name. She asked that the people be satisfied with the six days the Lord has given them and not to steal the seventh from Him. She then asked them to reveal these things to the people. Many pilgrims started to come to the spot where the two children had seen the Lady. There were a number of cures that took place there, too. And the people changed their ways.

Now, how can we apply this in our day? Take a look around you. Is our country not calling down the wrath of God? Let us not forget that these are mortal sins, enough to send one to hell! It is not hopeless; with God all things are possible. We must act and pray for sinners that they repent and save their souls.

St. Joseph Seminary presents our first

Boys' Summer Camp

To be held in northern Idaho

July 9-14, 2006

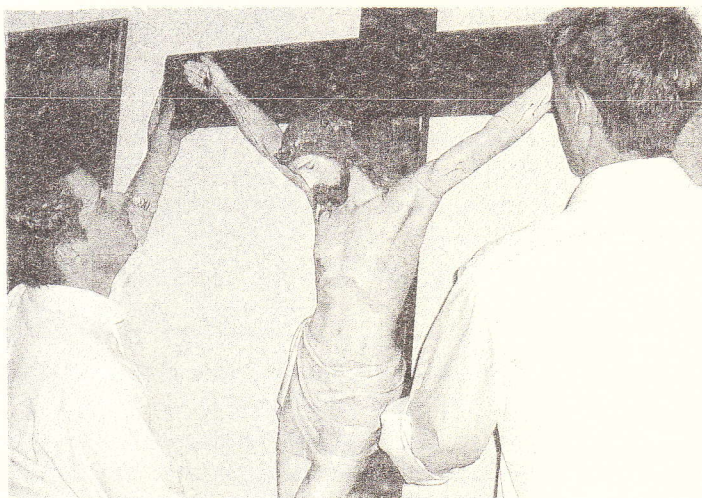
(for boys ages 9-18)

Daily Mass, prayers and spiritual guidance
Swimming, hiking and other recreational activities
All under the direction of the priests and seminarians

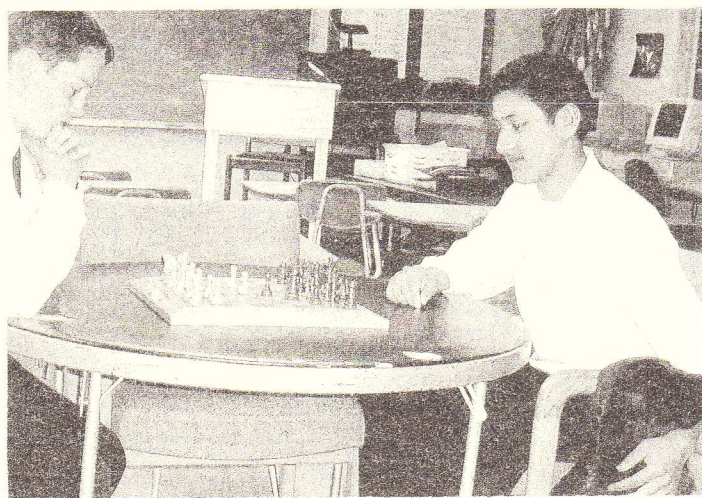
6 days of fun and adventure for \$125.00 per person

Write or call St. Joseph Seminary for information

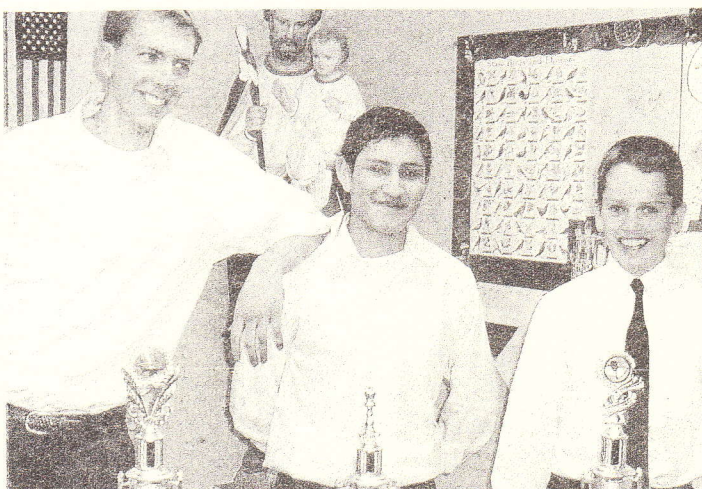
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On Good Friday the seminarians carefully take our large crucifix over to the church for Adoration of the Cross.



José and Caleb played their best for the championship in chess.



Our chess tournament champions for this year posed for this group picture.



The seminary gets a new deck and outdoor entrance on the east side of the building.



Father is having some landscapers do some work around the seminary. This photo shows some boulders recently placed by the hillside which is to be seeded.



Bosco here shows us what he does best — or at least most — sleeps.

Chess, the international language

by José de Jesus Castellanos, gr. 9

Chess is a game that does not need a common language to play. Here, I play with all the boys and also with Fr. Benedict. Chess is one of my favorite games because, aside from the fact that it is fun, it helps one to think fast. In chess you need to be very cautious, because with one careless move, your opponent can capture your piece and take the advantage.

I learned to play chess in Mexico just by watching grown-ups as they played. I never thought that I would learn how to play, but I practiced with my sisters and my parents. I practiced mostly with my sister Rosario, who is two years older than me. My sister was already skilled in how to play chess, but by the time I came to the seminary we were equal in our wins.

When I play Fr. Benedict it is very exciting because sometimes we are equal and with just one bad move he will take my best piece and win. Father wins most of the time that we play, but sometimes he, too, is careless and I win.

We just had a Chess Tournament at the seminary, and Caleb and I were the finalists. I was pleased but also nervous, because Caleb is a very good chess player. I believe that Caleb was also a little nervous. Fr. Benedict told us that we were going to play best of five games for the seminary championship. We began to play and I had to work hard at winning, but I was able to win the necessary three games. We shook hands and agreed that we played good games. I am happy to have won the tournament, and I am also excited to have my name added on the St. Joseph Seminary Chess Tournament trophy.

And then there was light!

by Brandon Odom, gr. 12

The snow is gone, the dark clouds have disappeared, and spring is in the air at St. Joseph Seminary. Due to the incredibly lackluster and morose winter season we have had, spring is particularly welcome this year.

Spring is appreciated at the seminary because we can now take P.E. outside instead of in the gym. However, as soon as Fr. Gabriel has us start running our mile everyday, we will probably pray for a downpour to erode all the roads. But even with our mile, P.E. is still very enjoyable. We have played

Capture the Flag a few times, and hope to get more into football once again as the weather gets warmer.

But another thing that comes with spring is spring-cleaning — especially here with all the property. We have had one outdoor work party and many people came to help. Pine needles have been raked and burned. A big job for us was sweeping four months' worth of gravel off the blacktop. Father is also having some landscaping done to improve the grounds.

During this time of year in the liturgy there are more opportunities for outside processions, such as Palm Sunday in Lent and on feasts in honor of our Blessed Mother in May.

We hope your spring is going as well as ours, and we hope you have a very Blessed Easter season.

He does well, who ends well

We have all experienced how hard it is to persevere in a difficult task. How many of us made great resolutions at the beginning of Lent and began the season well. But as the days turn into weeks, a certain routine sets in. We no longer experience the zeal we had at the beginning, and so we begin to cut corners in our resolutions.

This sad fact of human nature has many applications, not the least of which is with students in their academics. As the weather gets warmer and the end of school approaches, it is difficult for any students to continue giving their best efforts. The fatigue of study and homework affects the best of them, and so we teachers must continually urge them, at this time of year, not to slacken their efforts.

I have taught many years and have seen this "spring fever" affect students of all different ages — and teachers, for that matter. Our current school year has gone very well, and I am proud of these young men and their efforts. I caution them, however, that they must be careful to not lose the blessings of the school year by giving in to fatigue. May they persevere to the end of the school year, giving their very best efforts, spiritually and academically.

Again, I must thank you all for your prayers and support, which make this work possible. We are especially grateful to all those who so generously contributed to our Lenten Alms Drive. May God reward you all abundantly! And may we all grow in our love and devotion to Our Blessed Mother during this month.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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