

# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2006

**D**uring the final week of school, we had our much anticipated outing to Silverwood Theme Park. We all had a wonderful time, and it was a nice ending to a great school year.

On the First Saturday of June, Chris and Brandon received their diplomas from Bishop Pivarunas. A few days later, we all said our good-byes and headed home for the summer. Some of us, who are still in the area, will be attending the summer boys' camp.

We all look forward to a relaxing summer with no homework, classes or tests. Please continue to pray for us and for more vocations.

## Farewell at last

by Chris Strain, graduate

**G**raduation is here at last. Today, in a sense, ends one thing; tomorrow starts something new. Commencement is revitalization for me — I feel like I've been cooped up forever. Everyone knows how it is, you finally get to the end and you can't wait to get out. High school, those two dreaded words — no sooner do you get out than you miss it with all your heart. I hear stories of when people were young. They had all this freedom, and then when they got out of school they had "responsibility." Why can't life be simple? Can't we just graduate and have fun?

Well, there is a silver lining. I'll have more time to work, earn money, and by the time I reach 60 or 70, maybe I'll be able to retire. But really, I'll miss everything and everyone a lot. I'll miss Gerard's wit and I'll look forward to his funny articles; I'll miss being this close to God, and not taking advantage of it; and I'll miss playing games with all the

other seminarians here; but most of all I think I will miss the good conversation I've had with my friends here. It's so hard to find good Catholics to befriend, and even harder to talk with them. Really, though, it's all of you people that pray for us and work to spread God's word and love among His children. You've helped me to shape my life. Yes, it was the people that were close to me by their good example, their clean words and life, but ultimately it was your prayers that have made a difference.

I am truly grateful to all the people that have given me the education that I have acquired. I want to thank Mrs. Vogel, my kindergarten teacher, who gave me a good basis for all my further education, and Sr. Shannon and Sr. Teresita, who taught me in my earlier years. I want to thank, also, Fr. Benedict who has helped to shape my spiritual life, and Fr. Gabriel who just came this year, to sacrifice his time for us. I would really like to thank Mrs. Salgado, Sr. Paulina and Sr. Amada for making this feel more like a home.

Most of all, I'd like to thank my parents and family, because without them I wouldn't have been able to come up here and meet such wonderful people. Finally I thank God and the Blessed Virgin for their grace and help. If

I hadn't had Them and my patron saints, I'm sure I would not have made it through all my schooling.

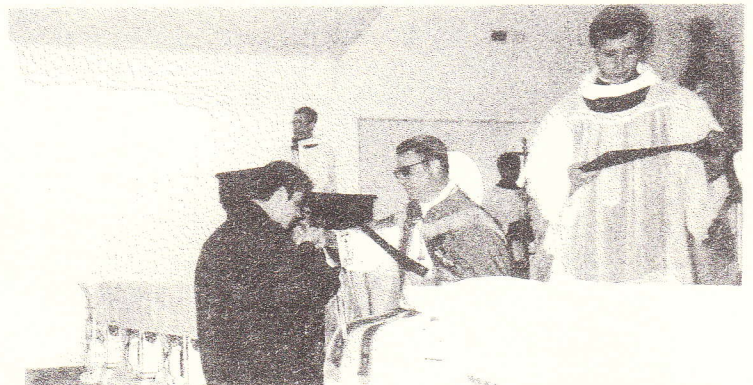
## Wholesome fun

by Gerard Odom, gr. 11

**S**chool is finally out! With that thought come the other thoughts about summer and what we plan to do. Sadly, the thing that most people neglect to think about is the spiritual side of their summer. Without a doubt, summer is the time when we need to be especially on our guard against temptation.

A saint once said, when seeing a group of boys at a game of cards, "Have fun. Just don't sin." That really tends to stand out in one's mind. When most people hear about the spiritual life, they think about a day without fun or enjoyment where all you do is pray. That's not the case. One can have fun and keep up a good spiritual life at the same time. As long as your amusements are not occasions of sin, and as long as nothing inappropriate is going on, then

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Brandon receives his high school diploma from Bishop Mark Pivarunas.

## Wholesome fun

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you are having some good, wholesome fun. There is, however, such a thing as too much fun. If all you do is fool around and play all day, then you tend to forget about God. That's why it is important to set aside a little of each day over the summer for God. In doing so, everyone is happy. You've had your fun, and God hasn't been neglected.

It's important to keep up a good spiritual life over the summer because, in doing so, we are able to more easily fight the innumerable temptations that come our way. There are many ways that we can keep up a good spiritual life over the summer. One of the best and easiest is to go to daily Mass, or at least strive to make a visit to Our Lord in the church once in awhile. If you are unable to do that, then you could at least set aside some time each day for spiritual reading of some sort. You should also say your Rosary each day, which is what you are supposed to do anyway. Anyone who won't do that has problems that need to be fixed. If you keep these things up, then you should have a spiritual, good and fun summer.

Hopefully, more people will consider having a better spiritual life this summer than in past summers. It's important to have some fun over the summer, but it's even more important to bring our souls closer to God as well.

## A sedentary experience, Part II

*by Caleb Short, gr. 11*

**M**y title kind of sounds familiar, doesn't it? Well, it should. Should you dig up our newsletter of several months ago, you would find an article with the same name. Yes, Fr. Benedict let me go with him again on his mission to Montana.

Unfortunately, this time we left on a Saturday in the morning, so I didn't get to skip another day of school. When we crossed the Montana-Idaho border, it was raining. When we arrived at Great Falls and then Helena Saturday evening, it was raining. When we left Helena for Missoula Sunday morning, it was . . . yes . . . raining. But there was one time on our trip when it wasn't raining. Guess what! It was snowing. When we were crossing the passes, the temperature took a nosedive and on came the flurry. There really wasn't much, but it's neat to see snow at the end of May. Just two weeks before at the seminary, the temperature had been in the blistering nineties. Mother Nature really likes to fool us sometimes.

But there was a little bit more to the 800-mile trip than rain. There was the 14 hours of sitting as I could feel myself atrophying, the large amount of time I slept as we roamed the mountains and hills, and also serving Mass for Fr. Benedict in hotel conference rooms.

On the way back we took a few detours. We got to see the place where the St. Joseph Seminary boys' camp will be held.

We also searched a few areas to see if we could find a good area for picnicking for future use. Then we finally got back to the seminary.

I think this little trip was beneficial to me because it showed me what a priest has to go through on a mission and also the urgent need for more priests. So please pray for more vocations, to our seminary and the major seminary. *"Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest."*

## Final school trip

*by Alex Odom, gr. 10*

**A**s the end of school approached, we seminarians looked back over the year on all our accomplishments and "dis-accomplishments," all our good and bad days, and said to ourselves, "We sure didn't go on very many field trips this year." OK, so we went on three ski trips, one of which I missed out on, and a camping trip, but that was all. Then we all had a great idea. We would go to Silverwood Theme Park.

On May 30, after a few morning classes, we changed our clothes and piled into the van. On the way we said our Rosary and when we arrived at the park, we ran off into our own little groups. Some went alone, and others stuck with a companion, while some did both. One of the most popular rides was **Panic Plunge**, a new ride at Silverwood. The riders are strapped into seats and taken up 125 feet into the air. As soon as they reach the top, without any time to catch their breath, they're dropped. The ride up takes about a minute, but the plunge down — you don't know how long it is because you're trying not to picture your stomach being shot suddenly up into your throat, and then flung all the way down to your legs when you reach the bottom of the drop.

Two other favorite rides are Silverwood's wooden roller coasters, **Tremors** and **Timber Terror**. On Tremors, the ride goes underground for about two seconds, and it does that four times. On the third tunnel, a camera takes your picture, so everyone tries to think how they are going to pose, while they're screaming their heads off and getting thrown up and down in the ride. Timber Terror is basically just a bunch of ups and downs and a couple circles, but it's a lot of fun. Everyone had a great time.

All the seminarians would like to thank Father for allowing us to go on this trip, which was a great way to end the school year. I hope that everyone has a great summer.

### Ejaculation in honor of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, and in supplication for the holy souls in purgatory and for the needs of holy Church.

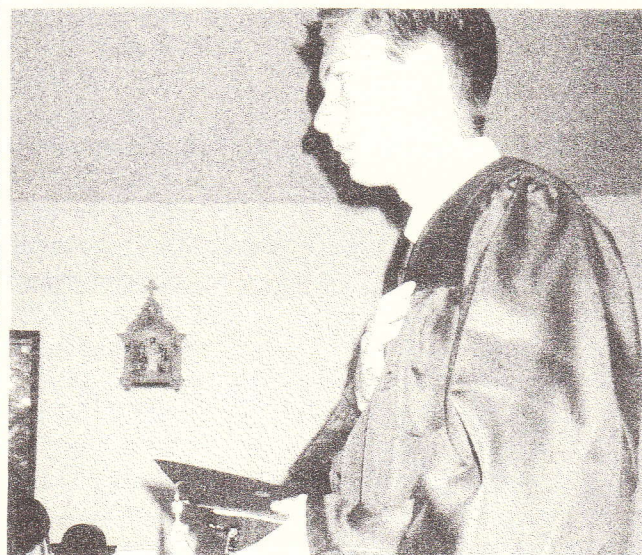
An indulgence of 500 days.

## Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will give peace to their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life, and especially at the hour of death.
5. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. I will bless the homes in which the image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
9. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
10. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written on My Heart, never to be effaced.
11. I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
12. I promise thee, in the excess of the mercy of My Heart, that its all-powerful love will grant to all who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of every month, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; and that they shall not die under My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



*This beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus near Madrid, Spain, was erected by the Spanish people in 1951.*



*Chris Strain enters church to receive his high school diploma.*



*Before our processions in honor of the Queenship and Corpus Christi, we prepared the path by spreading wood chips.*



*Riding a roller coaster is a lot of fun — for most people.*

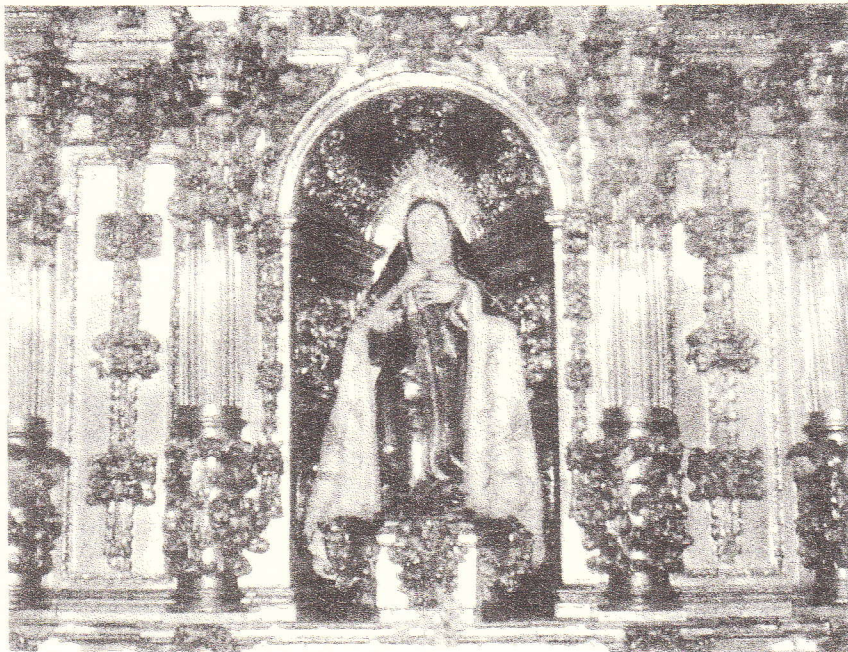
## The Glories of Catholic Spain

Since studying Spanish in high school, and later in college, I have always wanted to visit Spain. Modern textbooks don't treat Spain very kindly, and, consequently, many of us did not receive a proper education on the greatness of this country, which contributed so much to the spread of the Faith in the New World. At last, I recently had the opportunity to spend a week in Spain to see some of the shrines and evidence of the Catholic heritage of this country.

As I traveled around the north-central part of Spain, visiting such wonderful Marian shrines as Our Lady of the Pillar in Zaragoza and Our Lady of Montserrat, I also read an excellent book on the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930's (*The Last Crusade*, by Warren Carroll). Most students of modern history have been fed a line about how cruel Franco was and how the "fascists" won the Spanish Civil War, plunging their poor country into decades of a new Dark Age. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact is that Francisco Franco was a devout Catholic general, who attended Mass and prayed the Rosary every day. He was unanimously chosen "Generalissimo" (commander-in-chief) by the other generals, to lead the army against the communist forces who tried to subvert Spain.

During the war (1936-1939), over 6,000 bishops, priests and religious were murdered by the communists, without even one of them defecting from the Faith. These martyrs are a testimony to the solidity of the Faith in Spain at that time. Their martyrdom also betrays the true motives and character of the "freedom fighters" who assassinated them.

The highlight of my trip was a visit to the Cerro de los Angeles in Getafe, just 8 miles south of Madrid. This hill, which marks the geographical center of Spain, is surmounted by an enormous statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The original statue was erected in 1919 to commemorate the consecration of Spain to the Sacred Heart. This consecration was inspired by the preaching of Fr. Mateo, who wrote the act of consecration which the king recited. Sadly, the communists destroyed the original statue during the war. In its place another statue was erected in 1951. Perhaps it was the consecration of Spain to the Sacred Heart, which merited the



*Fr. Benedict recently visited Avila, among other sights in Spain. Here is the statue of St. Teresa which adorns a separate chapel inside the church named for this great saint.*

victory over the communists in the Civil War. (The Catholic troops wore Sacred Heart badges on their uniforms.)

We should all remember the tremendous promises of Our Lord, especially those which concern Catholic homes. Our Lord promised St. Margaret Mary that He would bless every place in which an image of His Sacred Heart is exposed and honored. He also promised that He would bring peace to those families that honor Him. Today there are so many forces which attack the home. The family is under assault from all sides, and the graces of the Sacred Heart are needed more than ever. Be sure to speak to your pastor about the enthronement of the home, if you have never made this act of consecration. Let us all resolve to honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to always retain the utmost confidence in His loving Heart.

Dear friends, we thank you for all your support over the past year. It has been a very good school year, thanks to your help. Please continue to support us, especially by your prayers for our young men and for more vocations. We remember you and your families daily in our prayers.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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