



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2006

The past month of July has found our priests here busy with our first St. Joseph Boys' Camp, a priests' meeting and mission traveling. The boys' camp went well, as did our meeting in Omaha. Now we can finally begin to prepare in earnest for the school year — and there is a lot left to do in slightly less than a month. In addition to the normal ordering of books and preparing classes, we have a number of projects scheduled, such as painting various areas of the seminary, including our chapel.

As you can see, August promises to be a busy month for us. We hope that you are enjoying your summer. Please continue to pray for our seminary, especially for more vocations.

Fun at the boys' camp

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

This past boys' camp was fun because there were a lot of activities to do. On the first day, Fr. Benedict organized all the boys into four groups, each with a "counselor" to supervise the boys in his group. José and I had to take care of the younger boys, and Fr. Gabriel and Gerard were in charge of the older boys. Also, Fr. Benedict gave us some instructions and the schedule.

After this we went to our rooms to pick a bed and put away our stuff. Afterwards we had free time to play some games, but at 6:00 p.m. everyone was hungry. Someone rang the dinner bell and we all went to the dining hall. After everyone was full from a nice dinner Fr. Benedict gave us more instructions after dinner. He also gave us time to pick a saint's name to call

each group and told us there would be some competitions between each group. After supper we had free time to play pool, ping-pong, cards etc. At 9:00 p.m. everyone was weary and we gathered in the chapel for night prayers.

The next day we started with morning prayers and Mass offered by one of the priests. We then had a nice breakfast prepared by our cooks, Sr. Amada, Sr. Paulina and Mrs. Salgado. After breakfast we had the Rosary and then free time. The remaining days were almost the same schedule, but on each day we had an exciting sport like archery, rock climbing, "tubing" down the river, capture the flag, football, kickball, swimming, etc.

Everyone had fun in this boys' camp, and we hope for the next camp there will be more boys, because more boys means more fun.

They have better things to do

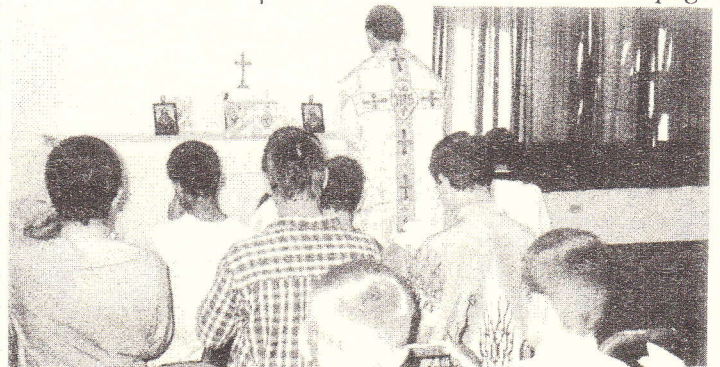
by Father Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

Not too long ago we held our first boys' camp sponsored by St. Joseph Seminary. It is sometimes difficult for Catholic children to find other good Catholics with whom they may associate. This camp was an opportunity for Catholic boys to meet one another and profit by their mutual good

example. It was also a chance for them to attend daily Mass, receive Holy Communion, and pray the Rosary together. Besides these benefits, there is another which should not be overlooked. They had a chance for some healthy recreation they need by participation in sports and games. Boys especially need to be engaged in productive activity. This is unfortunately not the case with many boys who spend hours playing video games.

Not too long ago I read an interesting section of a book written by a Catholic nun who taught kindergarten. She was writing at a time when the television was just coming into common use. She remarked how she could tell which students had a TV at home just by their increased nervousness. She said, "When a small child is spending his time immobile before a television set, he is denying his body the active physical exercise it needs, he is shutting off the emotional outlets provided by that exercise, and in addition, he is 'piling on,' as it were, an artificial emotional stimulus derived from the program he is viewing. The end result is

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Each day at the boys' camp began with Holy Mass.

They have better things to do

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definitely not desirable" (Your Family Circle, p. 123). She goes on to give several examples from her experience.

From my own experience in teaching, I find that when a student is failing in school, it is often, though not always, an indication that the student spends much time on video games. Boys especially need physical exercise. Video games only give them pent-up emotions which are unnatural. Sadly, by the time the parents realize the harm that is being done, it is often too late. It will then be very difficult to undo the damage.

My recommendation to parents is that they consider these things and ask themselves whether they have seen them for themselves. I suggest they consider the effects of this pent-up emotion, aside from the dangerous content that is often present. If their children are showing signs of slothfulness, especially in the spiritual realm, would it seem too unreasonable to take away the video games and engage their attention in some healthful outdoor physical activity? They certainly have better things than video games to do.

In their words

At the conclusion of our boys' camp, Father asked each boy what he liked about camp. To the question "What did you like most about camp," this is how each one responded:

"Everything we did as a group and all the new friends I made" — *Tim*

"Tubing, campfires, swimming, board games and making two new friends" — *Anthony*

"My new friends" — *Jake*

"The rock climbing and the board games" — *Feliciano*

"Archery and the campfires" — *Austin*

"Meeting friends" — *José*

"Catching 10 frogs" — *Shawn*

"Kickball" — *Raphael*

"My two new friends Mark and Jake and all the activities and playing football" — *Zachary*

"Swimming" — *Mike*

"Daily Mass, swimming, playing football and the food" — *Phil*

"Playing games with the other boys" — *Stefan*

"Rock climbing; capture the flag, meeting a few new friends and the campfires" — *Chris*

"Rock climbing and the fact that we had a good group — everybody got along well" — *Gerard*

"My new friends and board games" — *Mark*

"The new kids I met and the kindness of the boys at the camp" — *Tyler*

"Archery and everybody here and all the things we did" — *Tim*

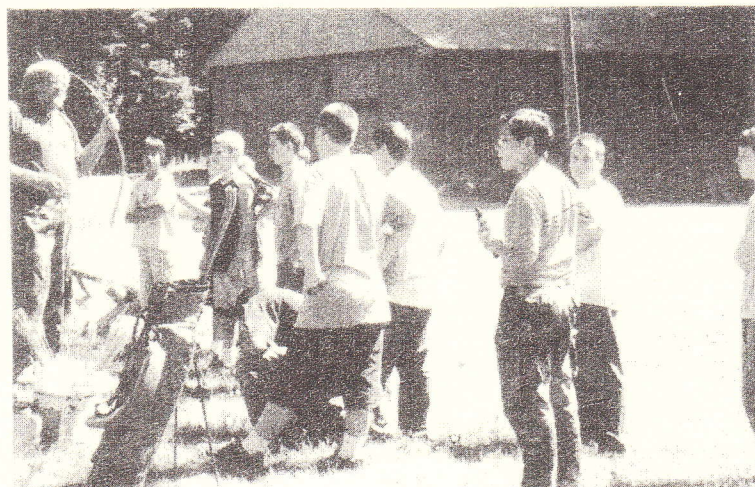
"The St. Tarcisus skit and going to the Cataldo Mission" — *Thomas*

"Making friends, rock climbing and archery" — *Michael*

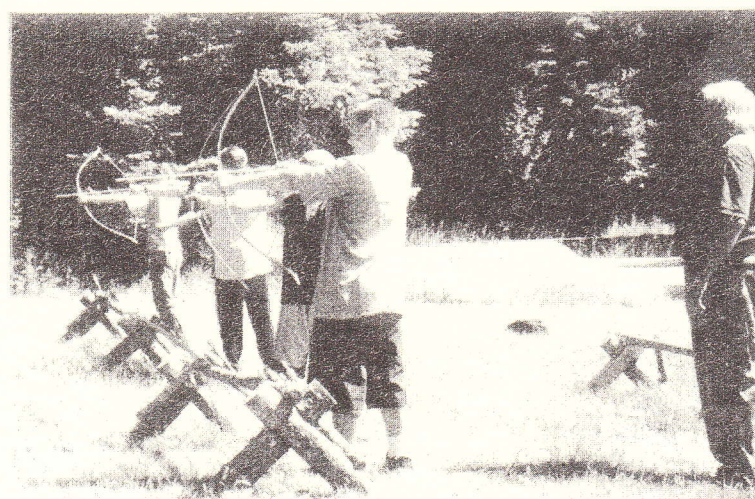
"Meeting new friends, the campfires, going to the Cataldo Mission" — *Adam*

"Rock climbing, going down the river and making new friends" — *Anthony*

"Making new friends, tubing down the river and the Cataldo Mission" — *Giovanni*



Archery began with a class on safety.



The archery range provided plenty of entertainment.



Part of rock climbing is getting ready with the proper safety gear.



One of the boys takes a rest after ascending part way up the rock wall.



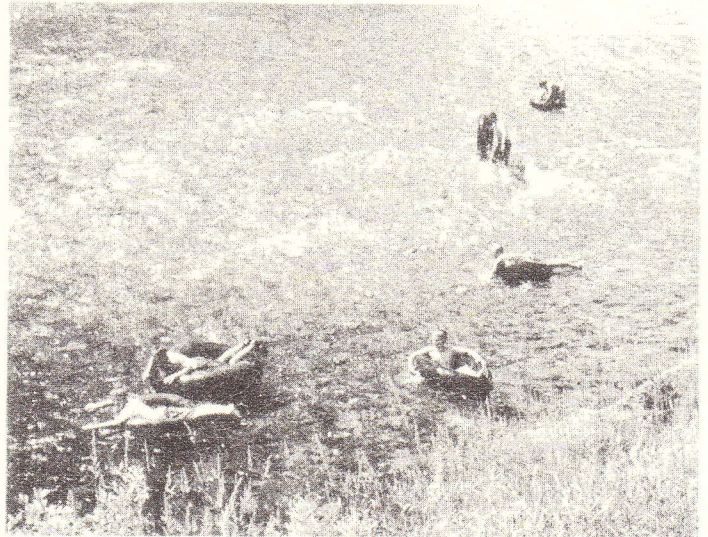
Fr. Gabriel has everyone's attention while he does a few science experiments.



Our cooks kept everyone well fed at the camp.



What's a campfire without marshmallows?



A group of boys heads down the river in inner tubes.

Mother's prayer for a seminarian

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest Who has entrusted to priests the important work of saving souls, and Who has deigned to inspire my child, my own flesh and blood, to strive after the high office of priesthood, I pray Thee most fervently to bless and assist him, and to make him more worthy day by day.

Give him success and perseverance in his studies and constant growth in virtue and holiness. Help him, O Jesus, to overcome all temptations arising from the world, the flesh and the devil which seek to frustrate his holy vocation. Fill his heart with burning love for God and for souls redeemed by Thy Most Precious Blood.

Grant me, O Lord, the unmerited grace one day to behold my own child in priestly garb ascending the holy altar of God, and to receive from his consecrated hands the priestly blessing and the Bread of Eternal Life.

As long as I live, O Jesus, I shall every day offer Thee, through the hands of Mary, the Mother of priests, all my prayers, works and sacrifices, and will commend to her loving intercession all God's blessings upon priests and especially upon my son. Amen.

My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge

During the month of August we celebrate several feasts of Our Blessed Mother. Our Lady of the Snows and the Assumption are 10 days apart, followed by the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Pope Pius XII instituted this feast on the Octave Day of the Assumption in 1942.

Although some devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary had existed in the Church since the seventeenth century, it was particularly at Fatima that prominence was given to this devotion. Our Lady told us that her Son wished to establish in the world devotion to her Immaculate Heart. That heart, which provided for the nourishment of the Divine Child in her womb, is also filled with loving compassion for all mankind.

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.



The three-legged race was one of the various competitions held at the boys' camp.

How greatly we need the powerful intercession of our heavenly Mother today! With all the evils in the world, it is to Mary that the struggling soul looks with confidence for help and protection. As Lucia faced the grim prospect of remaining on this earth without the support of her 2 young cousins, Our Lady consoled her with the words: "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."

Let us also learn to seek refuge in this same loving heart of Mary. Here at the seminary our sodality is named for the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is my hope that all our seminarians will learn to turn to Mary's Immaculate Heart with confidence in their needs. May she help them to become holy priests.

As always, you benefactors are remembered here in our daily prayers. We are most grateful for your support and your prayers for the success of our seminary. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary be our refuge and lead us all to God.

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.

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