



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2006

All is well at the seminary. October has been a beautiful fall month. We finally received much needed rain, followed by a pleasant Indian Summer. We have been busy picking apples, cutting and stacking firewood, and playing some football games as well.

Recently, on the feast of Christ the King, we renewed our seminary enthronement to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Also, on that day, we held a fund-raising breakfast in the parish here. (This is something we do several times a year to raise funds for winter skiing and our trip at the end of the year.)

Now we turn our attention to the Poor Souls, to do all we can to help them through our prayers, sacrifices, reception of the sacraments, and gaining of indulgences during November. On All Souls' Day we attend three Masses and make as many visits as we can to the Blessed Sacrament, to gain the *Toties Quoties* indulgence. We are also fortunate to have a cemetery in our parish, where we can make visits for the Poor Souls.

We do appreciate all of you, reading our articles, praying for us, and supporting us. For those who would like some news on Bosco, we regret to report that he has been "in the doghouse." We normally let him out early in the morning, but he has a bad habit of barking at the moose and deer. These animals come out to feed in the early hours before dawn, and in the evening hours. The other day, during the Canon of the Mass, Bosco spied three moose. He was off after them, barking up a storm, and Father was not very happy. So now we cannot let Bosco out of the house until after Mass.

May God bless all of you. Please continue to pray for us.

Seeing fresh sights

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

I always wondered what the other side of the country was like. Recently, Fr. Benedict was able to take a fortunate seminarian with him on his mission trip to Boston. The trip consisted of a six-hour flight to Boston, visiting the shrine of the North American Martyrs in New York, and after Sunday Mass in Boston, going up to Lewiston, Maine, for Mass.

I was surprised that in New England there is nothing but trees outside of the cities. During the drive I became bored with the beautiful scenery in about ten minutes because all the forests look the same to me. Perhaps I am just spoiled since I grew up next to the Rockies.

The pilgrimage to the North American Martyrs shrine was the highlight of the trip. It is on top of a flat hill, the site of a former Mohawk village. Some of the parishioners from Fr. Collins' parish near Albany came with us. My favorite part of the pilgrimage is what they call "The Ravine." This is where St. Isaac Jogues and St. René Goupil would often go to pray. Here the martyred body of St. René was taken by St. Isaac Jogues for burial. There are many beautiful shrines and statues down in The Ravine, which is a peaceful place of prayer.

November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day (Holyday of Obligation); End of First Quarter; no classes
- 2 — All Souls' Day; extra Masses, prayers and observances for the Poor Souls
- 13 — Giovanni's 15th birthday
- 21 — Feast of the Presentation BVM; Sodality reception ceremony; chanted Vespers
- 22 — Seminary Talent Show; Thanksgiving Break begins after classes
- 25 — Angel's 14th birthday
- 27 — Classes resume; feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; chanted Vespers

Before both Sunday Masses Father told me to lead the Rosary. Fortunately for me, I survived both times, at least, I think I did. The parishioners were very kind.

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Fr. Benedict and Caleb visited the shrine of the North American Martyrs in New York.

Seeing fresh sights

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This trip was a spiritual eye-opener for me. It showed me how desperately we need priestly vocations. There is so much spiritual hunger in the world today, a hunger for the Mass and sacraments. A hunger that only a priest can satisfy.

I enjoyed the trip immensely. It was nice to have a little vacation, but I was really tired afterwards. Besides seeing what a priest goes through, I finally saw what the other side of the country is like.

The case of Galileo Galilei, Part I

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

At our recent annual Fatima Conference at Mt. St. Michael I had the great pleasure of listening to a talk by Dr. Leonard Giblin, a Catholic scientist. It was refreshing to hear him explain in part of his lecture the true history behind the case of Galileo, an unfortunate event often used to attack the Catholic Church. It interested me so much that I decided to research it further. The true history is very different from the one most people are taught. It in no way shows that the Church is opposed to true science.

Most people are taught that Galileo was unjustly condemned by the Catholic Church for his scientific views on the solar system and that this was due to an opposition toward and an ignorance of science on the part of the Church. Some even say he was tortured and imprisoned.

A number of non-Catholic authors, who have been honest enough to research the facts, do not agree with this attack on the Church. One in particular, Mr. Sherwood Taylor, became a Catholic after studying the case (Cf. *Robert Bellarmine*, Brodrick, 1961, p. 367, footnote 1). So what is the true history?

Galileo did not discover that the earth goes around the sun, nor did he prove it. At his time there were two theories about the universe. The most common was the geocentric theory based on Aristotle and Ptolemy. It taught that the earth was the center of the universe around which the sun and other heavenly bodies revolve. The other theory was the heliocentric or Copernican theory, which held that the sun was the center of the universe and that day and night were due to the rotation of the earth. This theory was named after a Catholic Canon, Nicolaus Copernicus, who published a book on it 21 years before Galileo was born. This book was dedicated to Pope Paul III with his knowledge.

Part II of the Galileo case will be printed in future issues of *The Guardian*.

November — month of the Poor Souls

by José de Jesus Castellanos, gr. 10

What is purgatory? Purgatory is the place that God made for the souls who die with venial sin on their soul and those who die with the temporal punishment of forgiven

mortal sin, so that they can go to heaven after their souls are purified.

The souls in purgatory suffer greatly by fire. Can you imagine what the suffering in purgatory is like? Some writers tell us the physical suffering of the souls in purgatory is the same as the suffering in hell. The big difference is that the souls in purgatory know that they are going to heaven, while the souls in hell are not.

There are some things that we can do for them. We can pray and make sacrifices for them, not only in November, which is the month of the Poor Souls, but every day. We must pray for them and offer the suffering that we have for them.

This is what we do here: The cemetery is very close to the seminary, so we take rosary walks and make visits there. During November we also try to gain many indulgences by going to the church, making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, and praying six times the *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory Be* to gain a plenary indulgence for a soul in purgatory.

A history field trip

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

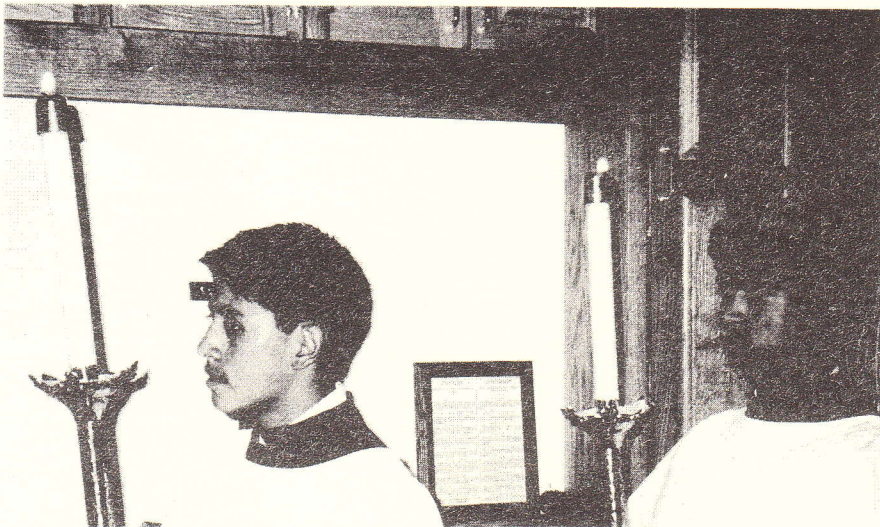
What is white, cold and one of the most enjoyable things in winter? Well, the answer is obviously, the snow.

This past October 20th we had another trip; this time we went with Fr. Benedict to some of his missions in Montana. Father made this trip especially because we are taking U.S. History this year, and he thought this would be an effective way to learn more about the brave people who fought and sacrificed for their country and for their own freedom. We went to visit some interesting places like the Big Hole, where a battle took place between the Indians and U.S. troops, and also a museum, which illustrates the journey of Lewis and Clark in their exploration of the Northwest Territory.

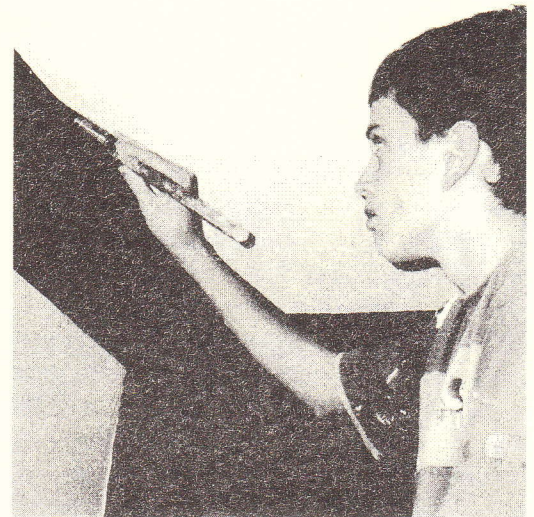
But before all this took place, we had to make some stops to visit some people there. The first day we stopped at a buffet restaurant with many different types of food. After a hearty meal we went to visit the Clark family, who are some of Father's parishioners there. We spent the night with them and the next day we left to see St. Mary's Mission and the Big Hole. On the way it was snowing and a little bit cold. We stopped to rest, and as soon as I got out from the car I threw the first snowball of the year at Caleb and José. I took many pictures of the snow. I was really enjoying it.

When we were in Helena, Father offered Mass for his parishioners there. After Mass some of these parishioners invited us out for pizza at a nearby restaurant. We had to leave as soon as possible to go to Great Falls. We spent the night in a hotel there. The next morning Father offered Mass for a group of parishioners in this city. After Mass we went to the last place on our trip, the Lewis and Clark Museum. Afterwards, we continued on our way back to the seminary. It took us five or six hours to get back.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable trip. I am very grateful for the hospitality of the parishioners in Montana.



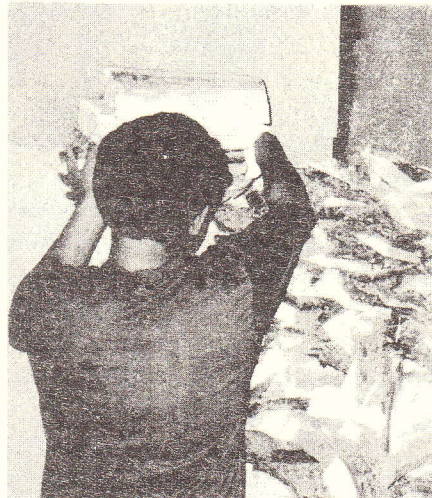
The seminarians prepare to serve Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament during our daily October Rosary.



Caleb has spent many hours painting the chapel.



The seminarians and Bosco enjoy a Sunday afternoon hike in the woods.



Cutting and stacking firewood has been one of our fall chores.



Splitting wood is more fun than work.



We encountered our first snow of the season in Montana.



Lewis and Clark had a difficult time portaging around the Great Falls of the Missouri.

My new life in the seminary

by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 9

Before coming to America, I imagined that it would be very different from Mexico. Someone told me that there were many deer, and I thought I would be able to touch them and feed them, but when I want to get close to a deer, Bosco chases after it and it runs away. I also heard that it was cold here in Idaho, but I never imagined that it was so cold.

I knew, from the moment I arrived, that I would be very happy here due to many things, like learning a new language and growing in the spiritual life. In the short amount of time that I have been here, all has gone well. I have made some short-term goals, and one of them is to beat Fr. Gabriel in running the one-mile lap in P.E. I am not a good football player, but I try to do my best every day and I hope to improve in all aspects as I learn the rules of the game.

I didn't know Juan very well before traveling with him to America, but he is a good person and our friendship grows every day. I come from the same town as Giovanni and José and I knew of them, but I didn't know them well. Now that we all live together, we are becoming very good friends, and I wish I had met them sooner. Living with my very good classmates is fun because we make up games. When we have differences we try to fix them as soon as possible and try not to commit the same mistakes again.

Many thanks to our benefactors for helping us to live at the seminary. You will always be remembered in my prayers.

Lessons in Catholic History

In our classes at the seminary, we endeavor to teach our seminarians the Catholic view of a particular subject. This especially comes into play in the study of history. Since we are studying American History this year, I decided to take the three older seminarians with me to Montana recently, as you have read in Giovanni's article. In addition to our Mass circuit, we visited St. Mary's Mission, the first mission founded by Fr. De Smet in the Rocky Mountain region, and the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument.

The Big Hole, located in southwestern Montana, is the little known site of a famous Native American battle. A group of 800 Nez Perce Indians who would not accept the government's new treaty depriving them of most of their land, had fled. In an effort to force them to return to the reservation, an

American army pursued them. On the morning of August 9, 1877, before dawn, the soldiers attacked the sleeping Indians. They had been told to aim low, as the Indians were sleeping in their teepees. Consequently, they killed numerous Indians, mainly women and children. The Indians rallied and drove back the American army, before fleeing on a long trek that covered a total of 1,170 miles and ended with surrender just south of Canada.

As I explained to the boys, the injustice of our government to these natives is a sad page in our history. After originally agreeing to assign the Indians a large territory in central Idaho, the government reneged on that treaty, because settlers moved into the area, found gold, and demanded that the government change the treaty. The new treaty which the Indians were being forced to accept assigned them to one-tenth of the original territory.

This reminded me of what I had read in a book on the history of Mexico (Blood-drenched Altars), to the effect that the Spanish civilized and integrated the native peoples of the areas they colonized. You do not hear about Indian reservations in Mexico or other countries settled by Catholic Spain. The English, on the other hand, who settled our original colonies, cared little for the natives. They drove them farther and farther west. In the same fashion, the young American government established reservations, giving the Indians the least desirable land, often separating them from the cemeteries where their ancestors were buried.

To add insult to injury, after the Catholic missionaries established missions to teach and civilize the Native Americans, many of these were dismantled. Of the many missions established by Catholic missionaries among the Sioux, for example, all but one were taken away and given to the Protestants. The only thing that is more shocking than the vast difference between the treatment of the native people of the New World by Catholic and Protestant countries, is the silence on this fact in our modern history books.

My dear friends, we have so much to be grateful for as Catholics: not only the true Faith, Mass, and sacraments, but also the rich heritage that is ours. May God grant us all the grace to be worthy of the Faith, labors and sacrifices of our forefathers! Once again, we thank you for your financial support and your prayers, without which we could not continue this seminary.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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