



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2009

We begin the year with the usual camping trip to Lake Coeur d'Alene. We renewed old acquaintances and met new seminarians in the enjoyable two days of swimming, canoeing and games. Fr. Gabriel provided our Mass each morning, as we started off the new year by keeping this great tradition alive.

Despite some cold weather, September has been an exceptionally warm month. That is good and bad. Good, because we enjoy our sports outside, but bad because the yellow jackets are everywhere. It has been a challenge picking plums and pears because our fruit trees are crawling with yellow jackets. The plum trees by the church are fine, but the orchard is a danger zone. Despite these cruel insects, however, the fruit has been delicious. Soon we will turn our attention to harvesting our abundant apple crop.

Now we are getting ready for our annual flag football games. We did not do well last year, so we hope for a better showing this time around. We also will continue our tradition at the seminary of the daily Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during the month of October. It is a wonderful time of year for many reasons. Above all, we hope to continue the good start we have had and make this school year one of lasting spiritual growth, learning and enjoyment. We appreciate your prayers and assure you of ours in return.

Youth's regret

by Angel B. Gamboa, gr. 12

Quiet mornings, busy afternoons and peaceful evenings made up my summer schedule. I awoke at 7:00 every morning, except Saturdays and

Sundays, and went to Mass at 7:30 a.m. After Mass, it was breakfast and then work. Not much difference in either work or the daily schedule almost made it seem monotonous during the first two or three weeks. Nevertheless, before I knew it, I learned to enjoy solitude. Never before had I realized the beauty of quiet recollection. There was time for everything — no rush and no stress.

Personally, I would rather work than study, and that was exactly what I was doing. While Niño worked in the garden and in cutting dead tree branches, Juan worked at the Freddi's farm. As for myself, I weed-whacked most of the time and did little odds and ends. At times, Niño and I did not meet until lunch, and sometimes even a little later. Juan was another story, as we did not see him until 5:00 p.m. Thus passed most of my summer.

I was fortunate to be invited by the Nguyen family for two weeks to California. It was a real change of pace, and enjoyable to the last hour. Also, I was privileged to meet the Prado family while I was there. I was also able to visit the little parish about an hour-and-a-half away from where I stayed. That is where Robert's family attends Mass. That trip led to a prolonged stay, as I spent two memorable days with the Prado family. Just as water escapes our hands so did these two weeks drain away. When the trip ended, there were mixed feelings as it

October calendar

- 1 — Football game
- 7 — Most Holy Rosary BVM; no homework; Rosary procession
- 7-11 — Annual Fatima Conference
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; chanted Vespers
- 13 — Our Lady of Fatima; sodality ceremony
- 22 — Football game
- 25 — Feast of Christ the King; annual renewal of seminary enthronement
- 27 — Football game
- 27-29 — First Quarter exams
- 30 — End of First Quarter; no homework

was hard to say good-bye to the fun, but I was also eager to get back into the more routine schedule of the seminary.

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Fr. Gabriel directs the seminary choir during the High Mass on the feast of Our Lady's Nativity.

Regret

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I came back and reluctantly faced the new school year. Summer was gone. It was time for earlier risings and mental workouts. A sudden change of corporal to mental exercise again confronted me. Once again St. Joseph Seminary became as busy as it could be. A new year began from which we must gain as much as possible.

New year, new opportunities

by Juan Garcia, gr. 12

“Time present and time past are both perhaps present in time future, and time future contained in time past” (Thomas S. Eliot). A new year. How am I going to use it? This is the fourth year of my scholarship at St. Joseph Seminary. Stopping for a moment, I reflect on the camping, the skiing, the new culture, the joking around, and even the getting in trouble. Above all, I thank God’s benevolence for letting me come to this seminary and for giving me good friends.

New seminarians and parishioners take me back to when I arrived in 2006. I remember learning a new language and a different set of rubrics to serve Holy Mass. Not only did I learn to serve Low Mass, but also Solemn, Requiem, and High Masses. I am very grateful to be in St. Joseph Seminary. The peaceful Masses celebrated every morning help me to ponder God’s Will for me.

I also like to sing. Among my favorites are chanting evening *Vespers* in honor of Our Lady and Sunday *Compline* at night before retiring. All these traditions I have been taught in this place. I have other memories that encourage me to look to the future. I thank God so much for all the good He has given to me. I hope to do better this year. I ask for your prayers that I might do the Will of God. May God bless you and may Our Lady protect you!

Back by popular demand

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 11

Ah, Lake Coeur d’Alene. Like last year, this year is just as beautiful. Lake Coeur d’Alene: still so crisp and pristine, but quieter, more peaceful this year — waiting for us to return and break the peace with our swimming! Back by popular demand, my own second annual kick-off seminary camping trip *Guardian* article! Same lake. Same cabin. Same seminarians. More fun!

Like last year, we again had seven seminarians, give or take a couple of “replacements.” And again, we had seven authorities on fun and seven times the fun! The moment vacation started, we darted out of the car and into the lake. The water in late August was getting colder, but we were warm regardless of the temperature. For three straight days, there was constant breaking of the stillness and silence with

our swimming. Diving, racing, pushing someone off the dock — basically anything and everything you can do in the water outside of drowning: we did it all! It was the first time for our “replacements,” but they seemed more experienced with aquatic fun than us veterans, myself most of all!

New for the second year was canoeing. Half the group, myself excluded, went out to a cliff on the other side of the lake. They returned and recounted the fun they’d had, so Fr. Gabriel and I decided to try it on our own. The rock didn’t seem so far away from the cabin and we thought we could canoe there and back in an hour. Well, it took us nearly an hour to even get there, but we canoed the width of Lake Coeur d’Alene. It was sunset when we reached the cliff and dusk by the time we returned. Oh, and we missed dinner.

Drawn by the moon for a second year, we took our sophomore plunge in full moonlight, although the “replacements” seemed more enthused about their freshman swim. Fr. Gabriel joined us again this year, making a grand total of eight “lunatics” in the lake. With seven seminarians, a priest, a weekend on Lake Coeur d’Alene, and a lake-load of midnight lunacy, no wonder our camping trip and this article are back by popular demand!

A rock-climbing excursion

by Martin Concepcion, gr. 8

Cold breezes, burgers filled with cheeses, and Fr. Gabriel’s sneezes — all the things we witnessed while we were out free rock climbing by a river with a beach on the side and a crowd of territorial seagulls and long-beaked ducks. While we were crawling and climbing through the obstacles of sharp rock and slippery moss, there was one seminarian who accidentally slipped and got cuts on his arm, but he turned out okay because right after he came back to the picnic area, he began throwing football passes back and forth with Robert.

Almost the whole time we were there, a party was going on and they were singing karaoke in an enclosed building, but we could hear them as if they were standing right by us and screaming in our ears. There were not that many people around the park. I don’t blame them because it was blistering cold when we arrived, and I had goose bumps that surrounded my arms. I saw a couple walking their baby girl in a stroller with jackets that you would wear in the cold snow of winter, and even on their baby girl as well.

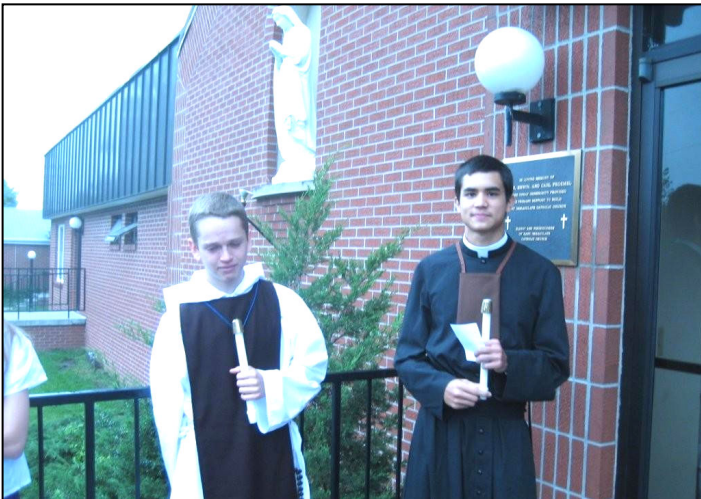
Juan and Bryan were working the grill in the beginning, which was great because they made excellent burgers. The rest of us went rock climbing. Forrest, Robert, and Patrick put their first steps on the rocks they were climbing, as if they were monkeys in a jungle. I, on the other hand, just sat dead in my tracks looking down at the harsh running water and the sharp rocks below. Forrest attempted to teach me how to not kill myself but miserably failed. (That doesn’t mean I’m dead right now, because I managed to find some tracks that wouldn’t kill you if you stumbled.) Overall, we had fun and are looking forward to doing it again.



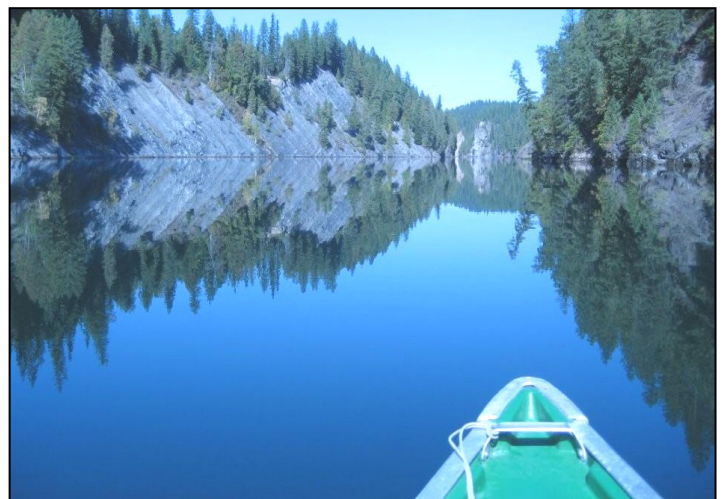
Religious steps were taken by Bro. Anthony Marie and Marcellus Moylan, pictured here with Bishop Pivarunas. The lit candles signify purity of heart and perseverance for the religious.



Fr. Benedict poses with former minor seminarians in Omaha after Bro. Anthony Marie's first vows.



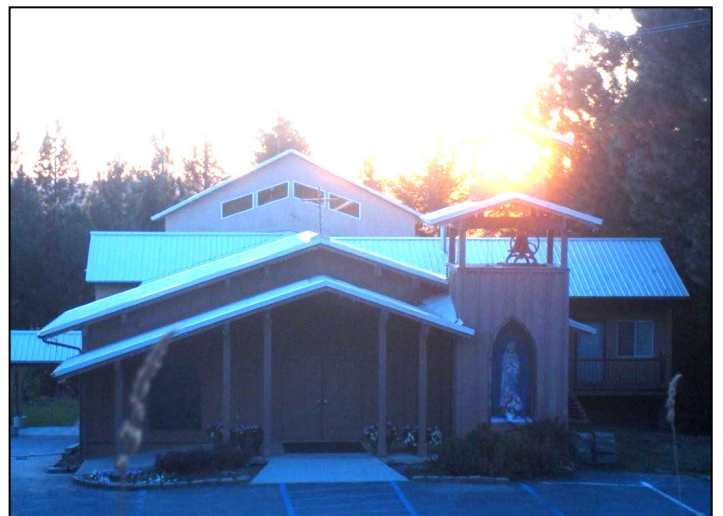
Bro. Anthony Marie and Marcellus pose for a photo following the ceremony of their religious steps.



This photo was taken on a recent canoe trip on the beautiful Pend Oreille River.



Robert and Zachary pick fruit from the orchard. We have an abundance of pears, plums and apples.



The sun sets behind Mary Immaculate Queen Church at the City of Mary, just a short walk from St. Joseph Seminary.

Our daily Rosary

One of the wonderful gifts God has given to us, through our loving Mother Mary, is the Holy Rosary. At the seminary the daily common Rosary is a focal point and a dividing line. Our morning Mass sets the tone for the school day, and the evening Rosary before supper sets the tone for the final chapter of the day.

After classes, recreation and chores, we all assemble in the chapel. A calm settles over the seminary after the busy part of the day. The sun is setting, evening is advancing. As the bell rings, a priest begins the Rosary. Then the seminarians lead their assigned decades, in either Latin, English or Spanish. Everyone responds in unison as we all attempt, never entirely successfully, to meditate on the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries in the lives of Jesus and Mary. We offer our Rosaries to our heavenly Queen, asking her to accept them as tokens of our love, however imperfectly they have been recited. Afterwards, we sense a renewed strength to fulfill our daily duties and to “fight the good fight.”

Our Lady at Fatima said that Francisco would have to recite many Rosaries before he could get to heaven. Who then are we to content ourselves with the occasional Rosary? As never before, the enemy prowls about “seeking whom he can devour.” Our daily Rosary helps us to resist him “strong in the faith.” May we always remain faithful to its daily recital!

During October, the Month of the Holy Rosary, let us all renew our resolve to fulfill this request of Our Lady to recite the daily Rosary. Families, especially, should not fail to pray the Rosary in common each day, which is a source of tremendous grace and strength for all the members of the family.

On another subject, we ask for your continual prayers for our seminary and for more vocations. One applicant was denied a visa, and so we will help him attempt another application. Please remember that intention in your prayers. More than ever devout priests are needed in the Lord’s vineyard. You, our benefactors, have an important role to play in this work by your prayers and support. Be assured of our gratitude and daily prayers for all our friends and benefactors. May Jesus and Mary bless you abundantly.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The seminarians and Fr. Lavery pose for a group photo while on vacation at a cabin on Lake Coeur d’Alene.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

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 Latin, theology, 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 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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