



THE GUARDIAN

All is well here at the seminary, as we prepare for Lent and look forward to spring. With an early thaw, we thought that spring might be around the corner, but then an Arctic front with more snow came to dispel our illusions. But that was actually okay with us, as we enjoyed another ski day with perfect conditions: fresh snow, sunshine, and no wind, although it was quite cold.

By the way, you may have noticed in the photos that we now have a new dog — a big dog. We also are currently reading the life of St. John Bosco, who was often protected by a mysterious large dog that would show up out of nowhere. No one knew where this large animal lived, nor did anyone ever see him eat. Thus it is thought that the large dog was actually Don Bosco's guardian angel in the guise of a protective canine. So in honor of St. John Bosco, we decided to name our dog Grigio, which is the name of Don Bosco's dog.

Soon we will enter the season of Lent. At the seminary we have special Lenten practices. In addition, we each compose a short list of penances to perform on our own. It is not easy to do penance, but we know that it is for the good of our soul. Pray for us that we have a good Lent, and you can be assured that we pray for each of you. Let us all resolve to make this year's Lent our best ever, that we might be well prepared to worthily celebrate the glorious feast of Our Lord's resurrection.

The value of penance

by Robert Kowalczyk, gr. 9

As the season of Lent approaches, the liturgy of the Church turns to the sufferings of Our Lord, especially

His passion and death. And in the spirit of His passion, we observe forty days of fasting and penance, during which we meditate upon the humiliating crucifixion of Our Lord. Jesus suffered all this for the remission of our sins, and can we not suffer something for Him in return? Jesus suffered to reopen the gates of heaven, which had been closed by sin. Let us then follow His example and suffer for the conversion of the world.

The Lenten season is a time of sacrifices, when our fallen nature should be struggling for its survival. Lent is a time when the passion of Our Lord should be re-enacted in our hearts. The season of Lent is also an opportunity to gain much merit for heaven. We should make many sacrifices that are hard for us, for without pain we cannot expect to gain anything, especially salvation. Jesus, along with His Mother, has already done more than enough for us. But He is not going to do everything for us. We have to carry the crosses that are set before us, which earn graces for us. And still, the majority of people reject Our Lord.

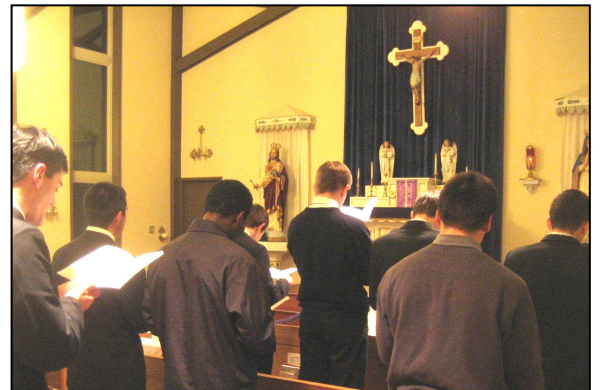
There are too few people, if any, in today's world, who are willing to make sacrifices in reparation for the sins of the world and for its conversion from sin. "Many souls are lost because there is no one to make sacrifices for them." This is Our Lady's complaint in response to the multitude of souls who are being damned daily. Therefore, it is our duty to pray for and instruct ignorant sinners, especially

March calendar

- 9 — Ash Wednesday ceremonies and High Mass
- 19 — Feast of St. Joseph, seminary patron; High Mass
- 20 — Annual seminary-sponsored parish breakfast in honor of St. Joseph and St. Patrick
- 21 — Father Benedict's feastday
- 23–25 — Third Quarter Exams
- 25 — Feast of the Annunciation BVM; chanted Vespers; end of Third Quarter
- 28 — Fourth Quarter begins
- 29 — Mathias's birthday

during the Lenten season which is approaching.

Lastly, we must remember that all our efforts will be rewarded if we persevere in the Faith. Everything we do for the glory of God will be rewarded for all eternity. It would seem absurd to give up everything and be damned, rather than suffer temporally and be rewarded with eternal salvation.



Every Sunday ends with the chanting of Compline.

The black box

by Juan Garcia, gr. 12

In World History class we have been studying about the Greeks. One of the famous stories recorded in the *Aeneid* is the destruction of the city of Troy. How did it happen? The Greeks, realizing the difficulty of conquering Troy, built an enormous black, wooden horse. This horse was introduced into the city, because it was the emblem of the Trojans. The Greeks deceived them. Nobody knew that Odysseus and twenty-nine select soldiers were waiting inside the hollow horse's belly to seize the city. This was to take place when all had gone to sleep. And so it happened. At night the soldiers came out, the city was sacked, and all were slaughtered. The Greeks won.

Similar to the *black horse* there has been introduced into our homes a *black box*, called the television. The latest population statistics show 306 million people in the United States. Of this vast number, according to an A. C. Nielsen Company report, 99 percent of households own a television. The average television watching per week in a household is 28-29 hours. Now a year has 52 weeks. If you are about 20 years old, that's about 30,000 hours of your life already spent sitting on a couch watching television!

Another problem of excessive television-watching, is the effect on our minds. When you see anything that appears in the television, there is a flickering. Cameras all around the studio are filming the actors, constantly changing from one place to another. What this flickering does is to cause the viewer to develop an attention-deficit disorder. That means that people are not able to concentrate when somebody is instructing them or when their mind needs to focus. Their minds wander from one thought to another.

Now, this does not mean that to have a television or a computer is evil. All things must be used in *moderation*. After all, where do you think I got my information? It was from the Internet.

If this is the disturbance television does to our minds, think now what it does to your soul. The television is a waste of time and an exposure to immorality. It causes sin, fights, divorce, etc.

The problem is pervasive in our society. People are too blind to remove themselves from this vice. They might ask themselves "Why do we not spend more time together as a family?" or "Why are prayers being neglected?" Excuses begin to arise, but they are often unwilling to consider the prime cause of these problems – the television.

So getting back to our Trojan story: Laocoon, a Trojan priest, discovered the plot and warned the people. The people did not adhere to his warning and so they met their doom. Thus, the legend of a black horse that destroys a city, becomes the reality of a black box that destroys homes.

Seminary life

by Abram Sharkey, gr. 10

In the coming days where shall we be,
is a question we all can see,
the thought of which has plagued us too,
what in this life shall we do?

For the days grow short, the hours late,
as we look back and meditate,
upon the past that has now gone,
we think of good that we have done.

We pray to God, His will be done,
now and forever we are His sons,
searching for His inner peace,
and striving to see His lamb-white fleece.

And now we look and pray for help,
before His statue we have knelt,
asking of His guiding hand,
to lead us safe across this land.

Therefore we wait for His command,
and if He asks where shall we stand?
Shall we ignore and walk away?
Or hear His voice and thereby stay.

And so as we await the call,
though it is not for us all,
we contemplate the life ahead,
and wonder 'will I ever change bread?'

I know not now but I am sure,
whatever Christ may have in store,
we must obey and follow through,
and do what He will have us do.

As white as snow

by Aedan Gilchrist, gr. 11

One day I was in church after having receive Our Lord in Holy Communion. I took a look outside and saw the snow covering the world in its light. Thousands upon thousands of these flakes of ice were turning everything white like a fresh white linen cloth. At the same time of making the world pure white it was also freezing it. This made me think about the graces we can and do receive from Holy Communion.

Think of those thousands of snowflakes and then imagine them as each a grace for us from Christ when he comes to visit our souls, the millions of graces he gives to those who ask for them. Christ can transform a soul as black as tar to a soul as white as snow.

Just think of these thousands of graces He gives to us then. First, He makes our souls as white as snow. Then He freezes

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Grigio accompanied us on a recent hike to Mineral Ridge, overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene.



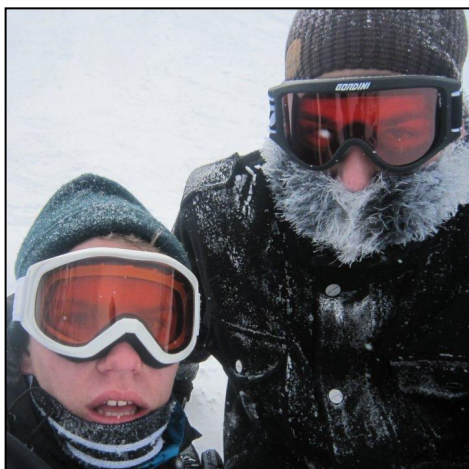
Here is another view from the top of Mineral Ridge.



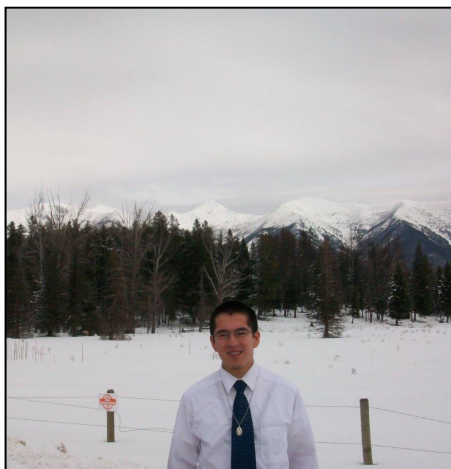
Our group gathers outside the lodge at the beginning of the recent ski day.



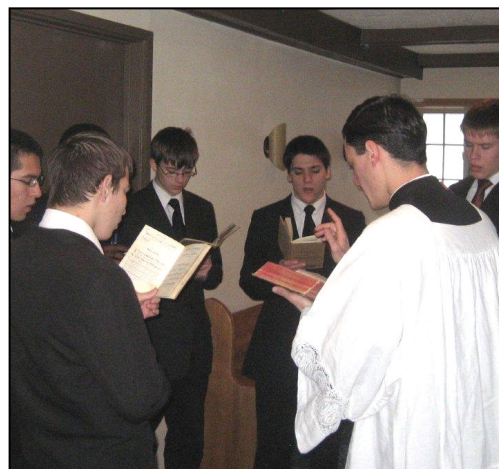
Back at the lodge for lunch on our ski day.



Abram and Zachary get ready for another trip down the hill on snowboards.



Juan accompanied Fr. Bernard on his recent mission to Montana.



We have been singing more high Masses at the seminary lately.

As white as snow

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the spirit of the world in us just like snow freezes the earth. So make sure to prepare as well as you can when going to Mass, and during Mass to receive Christ into your heart, for He will make it white and pure as the snow. In fact, every single person who has lived, is living and is going to live could become a saint from one Holy Communion. For we receive the source of the infinite fountain of all graces — Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cantate Domino

An important element in the training of a future priest is instruction and practice in chant. A future priest will one day be required to sing at High Mass and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. It also is most beneficial if he has the ability to lead his parishioners in hymns during Holy Hours and devotions. Both the ability and the love for ecclesiastical music must be instilled, and the seminary is the place for this formation.

Some seminarians come well-prepared for choral singing; others have not been taught to sing or are not musically-inclined. Here we strive to meet the needs of all these young men through our choral training. The problem this year, however, has thus far been the absence of a teacher. Although we have always had chant instruction on the schedule, this year has been the first in which it had to be omitted — until now. Since we were in such need of a teacher, I asked the bishop for help, and he graciously sent a seminarian from our major seminary in Omaha for this purpose.

So now we will make up for lost time with frequent High Masses and more chanting of the Office. And this is the perfect time for extra emphasis on music. Holy Mother Church in her liturgy has beautiful chants for various occasions, but none more varied and inspiring as those of Holy Week. Seminarians need to learn and cherish these chants, that they may in turn inspire the faithful one day as priests. For a beautifully sung liturgy can be a tremendous aid to piety. May these young men acquire that appreciation and ability, that they might one day use it for God's honor and glory and the good of souls.

I wish to again thank you for your support and prayers. We continue to receive requests for information from young men who are seeking to serve God one day as priests. Please help

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.



While on mission to provide Mass for traditional Catholics in Montana, Juan and Father visit the beautiful church of St. Ignatius, built by the Jesuit missionaries for their Indian converts.

us to continue this work of preparing future laborers for Our Lord's vineyard. May Jesus and Mary bless you and your loved ones.

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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