



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2011

It has been a busy month. In the second week of May our seniors traveled to Omaha with Fr. Bernard for the ordination ceremony of Minor Orders. Meanwhile, the rest of us enjoyed a visit from a priest and his companion from Italy. Later in the month we had a seminary outing to Grand Coulee Dam and other points of interest in Eastern Washington. Finally, we closed out the month with our annual procession and high Mass in honor of Mary's Queenship.

Throughout the month of May, as usual, we have had our daily public Rosary, May devotions and crowning. It is always a bit of a letdown to leave behind such a beautiful month, but now we look forward to our Senior graduation and end of school events. Soon summer will be in full swing, and we will all enjoy a much-needed break from studies.

We hope that you will all enjoy your summer. So far, there has not been much warm weather here in north Idaho, as our cool, wet "La Nina" spring continues. But we know the hot weather is around the corner.

## Hyperdulia

by Juan Garcia, gr. 12

Here at the "City of Mary" the month of Mary was filled with various Marian devotions: Rosary, May crowning each day before Mass, offerings of flowers, decorated shrines, devotions such as those to our Mother of Perpetual Help each Tuesday, a public Rosary procession on May 13 and another on May 31, the Feast of the Queenship. Of course all these external devotions are pleasing to Our Lady and

may bring graces to help you have one interior devotion.

In reality, you cannot possess a pious exterior devotion without the interior, for otherwise it would only be a vain bunch of mumbling and routines. You must mean what you say and do. Yet at the same time, you might say that it is difficult with so many distractions and concerns. If you think this, that is great! That is exactly why you need to make the act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, so that you may do, act, pray, walk, talk, with Mary, through Mary and by Mary.

Total Consecration according to St. Louis de Montfort is an act of the will, by which we give Our Lady all we possess, including our prayers and sacrifices. In a word, we become slaves of Mary. This, and the thought of giving up everything we possess, can sound repugnant to human nature, because we are either too attached to earthly possessions, or we do not like the idea of giving up our spiritual satisfactions. Yes, it is true that we might pray and want some benefit for certain individuals, when we know that Mary will take all and distribute them, but we must not think that she is going to deprive us of our needs and the needs of our beloved ones. On the contrary, she loves us and loves the sacrifices and prayers we perform. Truly, she has already arranged what is best for us, even if it is not the way we wanted.

By becoming slaves of Mary, we become instruments of Mary. We must be ready to give up ourselves for Her intentions. What intentions? . . . the conversion of souls. We must trust in Mary and in

## June calendar

- 1 — Seniors' Farewell Dinner
- 2 — Ascension Thursday; Holyday of Obligation; no classes
- 4 — Senior graduation
- 8 — School program and awards ceremony; end of school
- 26 — Corpus Christi Procession

her powerful intercession with God. If God told Job's friends to ask holy Job for his intercession with God, lest He punish them, why should we not go to Mary, who is the holiest of all saints and angels, to intercede for us lest God destroy us? We must also love Mary. How should we love Mary? By loving her Son. And how should we love the Son? By obeying His commandments: "He who loves Me, keeps My commandments."



Our four seniors attended the ceremonies of tonsure and minor orders in Omaha on May 11.

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## Why our Faith is so weak

by Robert Kowalczyk, gr. 9

Our Lord rejoices at the conversion of a sinner who enters His Church. So much so that there is unexplainable joy at the return of His creature. So it is also that Our Lord is thrown into an incomprehensible state of grief and pain when one of His faithful turns from His church. This is a sad reality in today's world when so many traditional Catholics are snatched from the fold of Christ by the hellish hounds of this world. The temptations of the world are so overwhelming that it is almost impossible to stay true to the Faith if we let down our guard in these times.

Satan is waging a war against God, a war which he seems to be winning, but no one can defy God and have victory. Satan knows this but he is so full of pride that it only motivates him more for the destruction of souls. He therefore calls upon his most potent weapons which have led to the destruction of so many souls: TV, magazines, video games, immoral novels, the mass media, and bad companions are the tools of the devil that have probably done the most damage to souls. These vain entertainments are so dangerous because we try to make them seem not so bad. "He is just a friend, it's not real, it's just a story, I don't have to listen," are just some of the excuses that we make for keeping these temptations close to us. We come up with some very stupid excuses for not praying, going to Mass, or contributing to the church.

If we don't put God first in our lives, he will never be in our lives. We can imagine this better by pretending that all the things we do are grains of rice, and we fill them into a glass jar that signifies our lives, and the time we make for God is like a walnut. If we fill the jar with rice first we can't fit the walnut into the jar. This means that if God doesn't come first He doesn't come at all. He is a very jealous God, and if we don't put Him first we are not worthy of Him.

## What's to follow?

by Zachary Odom, gr. 12

The end of another school year has come again (a long, drawn-out gleeful sigh), and although most students are looking forward to a nice three-month break before they charge headfirst into the next onslaught of classes, I will not be coming here next year due to the fact that I am graduating. I sigh because of the fact that I am graduating, not because I am glad to be leaving. I definitely have mixed feelings about leaving. On the one hand leaving means I am done with school which I am immensely happy about, but I know that I will be sad about leaving because I won't be able to see all of my friends here again for some time, although I do hope to visit here again sometime.

I honestly do not know what to expect from now on. It's going to be weird waking up the day after I have graduated, or even three months from now, and think about school and how I won't have to attend it. It will be weird to me because there

is embedded in me a sense of routine. I have been doing the same thing, more or less, for twelve years now, and with that twelve years I have come to expect that it will always be this way, that this routine will never change. But now there is the realization that it's not going to be the same this time around, and that there will be a change. It's like having a room in a certain order for years, and then coming back to it one day to find that everything has been switched around.

A lot of people have asked me (everybody really) what I am going to do after graduation. I dodge the question, because I know the implication of "Are you going to become a priest?" I can honestly say that I will do whatever God's will is for me. That is all we can do.

Even though I am graduating (happy face), and leaving for now (sad face), I will never forget all of the things that I have experienced or the people I have met here. I have had a great time here (when I wasn't doing homework or school), and I will continue to pray for all of the people here and all of the readers of *The Guardian*. I only ask that you, dear reader, not forget us graduates, and I exhort you, dear reader, to please pray for us that we will always remain steadfast in our Faith. May God bless you all, and may Mary keep you safe.

## Going out in style

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 12

To go out in style, we seniors took a senior trip, as any law-abiding senior should. To where we would go though, we had yet to decide. Since we didn't have the pocket money for a big trip, we all went out for a haircut.

But it wasn't our hair that was cut. Much less, it is only a "haircut" insofar as hair was cut. Much more, it was tonsure: a seminarian's formal renouncement of the vanities of the world and his formal admittance into the clergy of the Church. But much much more, it was Marcellus' tonsure, who coincidentally was one of the seniors of two years ago and who remains one of my best friends. But for the sake of vocation, he graduated from minor seminary and upgraded to major seminary, leaving two-years-younger me behind. At last, after two years, he would be tonsured, and at last, after two long, Marcellus-less years, we would have our reunion: ceremoniously situated at an eventful time in his life and mine: a haircut and a senior trip — or so we thought.

Lacking sufficient funds for flight, we drove. And driving for two days one way for 12 hours a day, we lacked sleep: we had to wake up early, go to bed late and couldn't sleep on the way. Even so, we arrived in Omaha late in the evening (Marcellus stayed up to meet us. So did the Bishop).

The haircut was scheduled for eleven the next morning: we all planned to catch up on sleep tonight and catch up with friends tomorrow. So intent was I on fulfilling the first, that I neglected most of the second. So tired was I that I overslept: all the way till noon and long after Marcellus' tonsure. (Fortunately, someone was ordained to the order of porter that

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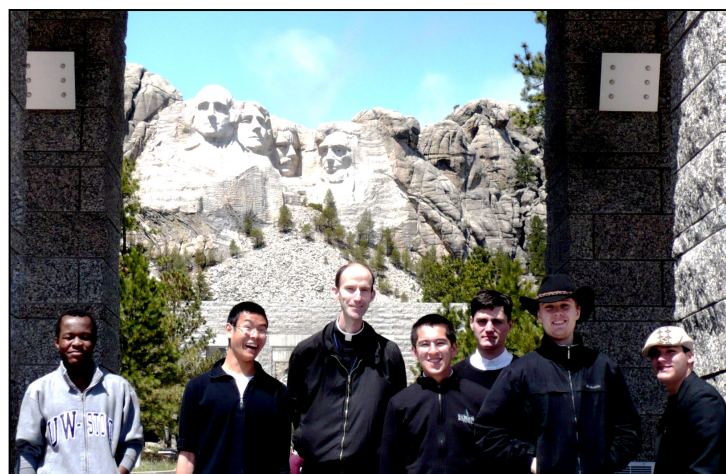
*Fr. Bernard, Forrest and Aedan assist Fr. Benedict at the incensation of the missal at the Gospel (opening Mass of Forty Hours).*



*Opening ceremonies at Forty Hours.*



*The seminarians pose with the Bishop after the ceremonies in Omaha.*



*During the senior class trip we stopped at Mt. Rushmore on the way to Omaha.*



*Seminarians pose for a group photo at Dry Falls State Park in eastern Washington, on a recent seminary outing.*



*Fr. Abrahamowicz (4th from right) visited our seminary on a trip to the United States from Italy.*

## Going out in style

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day, and, as part of the ceremony, rang the bell in the church steeple, waking me up.)

Despite my zealous sleeping, I was irrepressibly embarrassed. I'd missed the occasion we'd driven days to attend, the haircut Marcellus was so looking forward for me to witness, and the trip all seniors should sentimentally take. Almost everyone was nice about it, though: the Bishop laughed that I needed the sleep, and Mr. Grassigli (who rang the bell) laughed, too. And by "almost everyone," I mean everyone except Marcellus: He was exaggeratedly (I think) but sarcastically (I hope) grudging over my oversleeping and hit surprisingly hard for a cleric and man-of-God. (Unfortunately, I couldn't hit him back after his tonsure, as I would have two years ago: he became an official member of the clergy then, and I would become an official ex-member of the church if I had.) All the same, the tall and lanky one still wore his smiley face. So, after oversleeping, missing the ceremony, botching my senior trip, taking a beating from a cleric, and rubbing my sores, I promised him if he were still kind enough to invite sleep-deprived me, I wouldn't oversleep for his ordination — *provided* he scheduled it in the evening.

## Return to England

*by Aedan Gilchrist, gr. 11*

June 10<sup>th</sup> is when I return to England to my beloved family. I'm happy to be able to see them again and grateful, as I know not everyone can see their families this summer. I am sad too, as I will be leaving behind my other beautiful family. I also will be leaving behind the wonderful joy of living in the same house as Our Lord, for as a seminarian I truly live with Him. It's going to be a tough battle going back, as I will be very much in a land now made foreign to Catholic living. It is indeed a cross.

But in saying all this, England is a sweet cross for England is Our Lady's dowry, and someone needs to help look after it. And so I take joy in hoping and praying that maybe, out of all the people I know, maybe, just maybe, one will convert to the Faith for the greater glory of God through Mary. England is my cross and joy. Please pray for the conversion of England, for the souls that I have been living with for the past nine years are not definitely doomed. Rather, they are just lost

in their journey and so can still be saved, if only we remember them in prayer.

I'm looking forward to seeing my many friends and family and to having the chance to start the projects that I have planned for the summer. Jobs, building things, and hopefully some good work for Our Lord. I will not have the Mass as often, and I will admit I'm a bit frightened about going back, but at least I will always have Mary my Mother with me. If you remember me and England in your prayers I'm sure Our Lord will be pleased. God bless you and Mary keep you in her heart. You'll be definitely remembered in my prayers.

## "I place my trust in Thee"

Just as Mary surely leads us to Jesus, so the month of May gives place to the month of the Sacred Heart. Our journey through the liturgical year is a beautiful journey, filled with reminders of the beauties of our Faith. Of great importance is this month of the Sacred Heart — an opportunity for us all to renew our confidence in the loving heart of Jesus.

All Catholics are familiar with the many wonderful promises, made by Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary. It is truly incredible how much Jesus promises to those who love and honor His Sacred Heart. Given all this, why would we ever doubt God's love for us? When tempted to discouragement or doubt, let us throw ourselves into the loving arms of Jesus, who came into the world to redeem us, laying down His life for us. Surely, He does not wish us to be lost, but yearns for the life of each of His sheep.

A beautiful ejaculation, which most clearly expresses this devotion, is "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in Thee." It would be good for each of us to repeat that simple prayer often during this month. Especially in difficult times of temptation or discouragement, repeat it over and over. If you do so, Our Lord will not fail, given the burning love of His Heart, to come to your assistance.

We thank you, one and all, for your support and prayers. As we conclude another year here at the seminary, we ask that you continue to pray for our young men, that they will follow God's will and sanctify themselves. Pray also for more vocations, which are so greatly needed today. Be assured of our prayers in return, that Our Lord will keep each of you in His loving Sacred Heart.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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