



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2011

Dear seminary friends and benefactors,

One of the happiest memories of my boyhood was attending a Catholic boys' camp each summer for several years. Camp St. Joseph near Columbus, Ohio, run by priests and seminarians, was attended by about 150 boys at a time. The boys were grouped according to age, each group supervised by a "counselor," who was a seminarian from the local major seminary. Each day of the week-long camp began with prayers, followed by Mass and sermon. Night silence was observed from after night prayers until the end of Mass in the morning, just as in a seminary. During the day, however, there were continuous games, competitions and other activities to keep us busy.

Our annual Camp St. Joseph is much the same, but without such a large number of boys. This year's camp was supervised by three priests and four seminarians, with 25 boys in attendance. The daily Mass with sermon, opportunity for confession, Rosary and catechism classes, were complemented by plenty of opportunity for canoeing, fishing, hiking, biking, campfires, capture the flag, and many other activities. I hope that these boys enjoyed our summer camp as much as I did when their age.

July was also the month for our semi-annual priests' meeting, which was held in Omaha. It is always a source of great encouragement to assemble with one's fellow priests to discuss common problems and plans, to study and research, and to pray and recreate together. Priests need the company of their fellow priests, more than the laity could understand. Such

opportunities for a few days together are precious.

Now we enter August, which reminds us that the new school year is a scant few weeks away, with classes beginning on August 25. First, however, we priests will enjoy a few days of retreat, to prepare ourselves spiritually for another school year. A good retreat helps one to put everything into perspective.

We are also reminded during August of the great good that a holy priest can do. For we celebrate the feasts of St. Alphonsus, St. Dominic, St. John Marie Vianney, St. John Eudes, St. Bernard, and St. Augustine — to name some of the better known priest-saints whose feasts occur this month. Let us not forget to do our part, especially through prayer, to bring more holy priests to the altar of God. Our Lord's command — "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into His harvest" — rings in our ears, as we call to mind the critical need for priests today. Let us all redouble our prayers for more priestly vocations and for the perseverance and sanctification of our Catholic clergy.

Be assured of our deep gratitude for your prayers and support. Every day at St. Joseph Seminary we pray for our benefactors. May Jesus and Mary deign to bless you and your families.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI
(rector)

August calendar

- 9–12 — Seminarians' summer camping trip
- 15–19 — Seminary summer retreat
- 21 — Ceremony of reception of a novice for our Congregation of Sisters
- 24 — Seminarians arrive
- 25 — First day of classes

A Prayer for Priests

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord;
Keep them, for they are Thine . . .
Thy priests whose lives burn out before
Thy consecrated shrine.

Keep them for they are in the world,
Though from the world apart;
When earthly pleasures tempt, allure,
Shelter them in Thy heart.

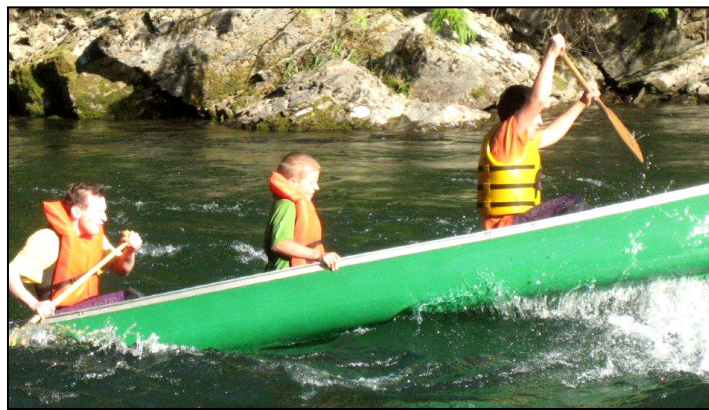
Keep them, and comfort them in hours
Of loneliness and pain
When all their life of sacrifice
For souls seems but in vain.

Keep them, and O remember Lord,
They have no one but Thee;
Yet they have only human hearts,
With human frailty.

Keep them as spotless as the Host,
That daily, they caress . . .
Their every thought and word and deed,
Deign, dearest Lord, to bless.



Preparing to set up camp along the St. Joe River.



The fairly mild rapids on the river made for a great canoeing experience.



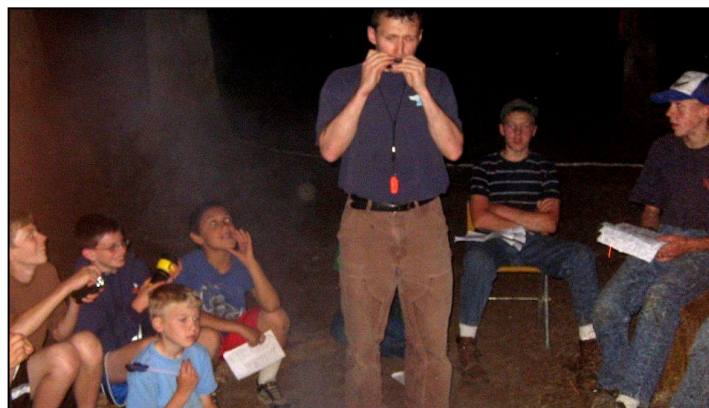
Fr. Gronenthal gives the boys a lesson during his Mass at the campground.



Thank you, Mr. Isakson, for teaching the boys how to cast using a "dry fly" rod.



Lots of activities makes for big appetites . . . our three dedicated cooks helped to make the summer camp a great success.



Singing around the campfire is always an enjoyable activity at the camp.

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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