



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2011

We have fewer seminarians this year than last; nevertheless, our new academic year has gotten off to a great start. We have all been busy with our classes, as well as various other activities. We enjoyed our “camping trip” at the beginning of the school year, and have lately been playing flag football. We also have been having classes in how to serve Mass, so that all the seminarians learn well how to serve, which is a great privilege.

But most of all, we are getting adjusted to the seminary routine. One of the things we have all found out, is that there isn’t much extra time at the seminary. By the time you have finished your homework, it’s almost time for night prayers. In addition to our studies and schedule, we have also had some work projects, such as staining the wood decks over at the church and feeding the animals, in addition to our regular mundane chores.

Our regular spiritual conferences remind us of why we are here. Daily Mass and common prayer in chapel help us to focus on the spiritual life. At the same time, our studies are important, and we are all working on developing good study habits. Thank you for being part of our life. We hope that you enjoy our writings and we ask your prayers, as we also promise to pray for you.

The mission

by Aedan Gilchrist, gr. 12

After returning from my country I found myself back in a familiar place — St. Joseph Seminary, the place of my dreams, the place of my crosses and the place of my peace. I will be honest with you, my friend, I sometimes ask myself why am I here. Out of all the

places in the world, why am I here, in the seminary, in Idaho. It only takes a few moments before I am reminded of what I’m here for. I’m here for Jesus and Mary and for the mission I must complete.

I’m extremely happy that Our Lord has given me three companions this year, one of them being my cousin. I just hope we will all persevere in doing God’s holy will, for then there is nothing to stop us from becoming saints. I know there is one thing that must be done and you too, my dear friend, can help with this. It is to grow in devotion to Mary. We need to, not only for ourselves but for the seminary. The seminary is in great need. I know there are plenty of boys who should be here, but do not come because they do not realize what awesome amounts of grace they are missing. Maybe I’m wrong and they do know, but instead they listen to the devil whispering in their ear, “It’s not for you; it’s boring; it’s too hard.” Or possibly it is parents who are too attached to their sons and will not give them to God. Well, whatever the case may be, please pray with me that these obstacles are overcome.

Pray to Mary, the Mediatrix of All Graces. She will not let us down. Remember to pray for new seminarians and pray for the perseverance of the ones here. It would be a great joy if in this current 13th year of the seminary, we could get 12 semina-

October calendar

- 6-9 — Fatima Conference events
- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary, BVM; Fr. Bernard’s anniversary of ordination; no homework day
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; flag football game
- 13 — Anniversary of Our Lady’s final apparition at Fatima; Sodality reception; Rosary procession
- 18 — Flag football game
- 27-28 — First Quarter exams
- 28 — End of First Quarter
- 30 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 31 — Begin Second Quarter

rians, as it would be like Jesus and his apostles. We have Our Lord and four seminarians, so let’s pray for the rest. God bless you and remember: pray more to Mary for us.



Every football game begins with a prayer — we offer all to God, including our recreations.

Ah, the lake!

by Christian Ingham, gr. 8

Recently, we enjoyed our annual overnight trip to the Schindlers' cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene. This, being a new experience for me, was very exciting. After all preparations were made and the van was loaded, we hit the road, praying our daily Rosary along the way. Upon arrival we explored the two-story cabin with an elevated porch and a big dock. We also discovered there was a ping-pong table in the basement which we used for a couple tournaments.

After unpacking our bags we ran down to the lake to swim, but we soon had second thoughts when we stuck our toes in the water to test it first. It was pretty cold but then we all overcame our hesitation and jumped in. After five minutes or so the water began to feel really nice, and we soon discovered a patch of muddy sand. I scooped up a handful of mud and promptly threw the mud ball at Aedan. He responded by hitting me with a mud ball of his own, and soon a full-fledged war erupted and we were all soon covered in muck.

Then we went swimming again to wash off all the mud and sand. We then returned to the basement to play more ping-pong. Soon we returned to the lake to swim some more. After swimming for an hour or so, we went back inside for dinner. After awhile we headed back outside for a bonfire and S'mores. Then we got this crazy idea that we should go swimming . . . in the dark. When we jumped in, the water was actually rather warm, but when we got out the frigid air hit us like a freight train and chilled us to the bone. So we rushed up to the fire and leaned over until steam began to rise off our back and we couldn't handle it any more. This process was repeated several times until we began to feel our eyelids droop.

We then headed back to the cabin yawning and, after changing into our pajamas, we lay down all over the couches and chairs powwow style and watched a movie. Halfway through the movie I fell asleep. I awoke the next morning to the sound of Jordan snoring, which sounded more like a Mack truck down-shifting on the highway. We then prayed morning prayers, after which we attended Holy Mass. After a delicious breakfast we got changed into our swimming trunks and went swimming . . . again.

Soon we discovered that Aedan had accidentally dropped his watch into the water. Thus began a huge operation to retrieve it from the murky depths. First, we found some clear plastic wrap, as we had no goggles, and wrapped it around his eyes. This worked for about 10 seconds and then the water seeped through the uncovered parts and clogged his vision, so we got some tape and taped the seams. That worked pretty well, but we soon found ourselves facing another difficulty: breathing. He could only stay under for about 30 seconds, so Fr. Bernard found a vacuum hose which we tried to use for a snorkel. Aedan continued to dive, groping about in the murky

water. This process was continued until we had to give up hope of finding the watch because it was time to head home. So we packed our bags, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Schindler, loaded up the van, and returned to the seminary — to our home away from home, where our dear Lord awaits our arrival.

Our Lady's Rosary

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 9

On the thirteenth of September we prayed a Rosary in procession in Spokane, Washington. There were approximately one hundred men women and children, some in wheelchairs and some with strollers. There were also a few bewildered onlookers. Some looked at us strangely, but it was worth it! It was encouraging to see so many devout Catholics reciting their Rosary.

The scenery was beautiful, as we passed back and forth over the Spokane River. We processed through the park and under some groves of trees, always staying on a path which wove and curled around the large central park. The seminarians went in a group in the middle of the procession with Fr. Benedict and some Sisters who were from Mt. St. Michael. The weather was wonderful for the time of year and we all enjoyed it. We are all looking forward to the next procession, on October 13th, although it will be cooler and darker.

Seminary life

by Patrick Gilchrist, gr. 8

When I arrived here at St. Joseph Seminary, I had an idea of what it was going to be like, but as you well know, things don't always turn out as you think they will. Well, that's pretty much what happened to me. It started out harsh — getting up at 6:20 a.m. was not my thing. But, the seminary is probably the best place where a young man can live to grow in grace.

Sometimes I just wonder why I am even here, why I'm in this seminary, why I live in this country. The seminary has helped me know that it is by the grace of God that I was born into a Catholic family. I could be somewhere in Russia without one bit of the Faith. I feel sad inside when I think of all the people in the world without the Faith, and happy at the same time that out of all the people in the world, God chose me to be born were I was.

The seminary is very helpful with making good habits, like getting your homework done, being considerate of others, being a good Catholic and especially being on time. The bell . . . now that's something I have to use several sentences to describe. The bell is both good and bad. It is bad, because the loud noise of it when I am not ready sometimes startles me. The good of the bell is that it orders our life. It's like a message from God telling us when it's time to pray or eat.

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On Labor Day we enjoyed a hike on Mount Spokane.



We paused for a group photo before heading back down the mountain.



The water was perfect for our annual camping trip in early September.



We used the campfire to warm up after a late swim on our camping trip.



Jordan Hartman, from Arizona, is one of our new seminarians this year.



Fr. Bernard instructs the new seminarians on serving Mass.

Seminary life

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It was difficult to get used to, but we all understand how valuable it is.

Even though some parts of our life at the seminary can be hard at times, I know that I made the right decision to join. I hope that you will pray for us seminarians, that we will cooperate with God's grace and profit from our time here.

Food for the soul

I have mentioned before about a custom in religious houses which we observe at the seminary, and that is spiritual reading during some meals. This common reading provides food for the soul as we feed our bodies. It also furnishes the seminarians with the opportunity to develop the ability to read well in public, a quality essential for a priest. Each of the seminarians takes a week as *lector*, on a rotating schedule, to read at table and to lead prayers.

Currently, we are reading, again, the story of Our Lady of Fatima by Fr. de Marchi. Re-reading the simple beauty of Our Blessed Mother's message is always an inspiration, and the account of the sacrifices and prayers of the privileged children also provides a wonderful example. This story reminds us that prayer and reparation are essential to turn aside the just wrath of God. It also spurs us on to live our Catholic Faith in such a way as to obtain the graces for the conversion of sinners.

Daily spiritual reading is a must for any Catholic who is serious about saving his soul. A good book is like a sermon that we can have whenever we wish. Oftentimes the perusal of the same good books never tires, but is ever a new source of inspiration. So be sure to adopt the practice, if you have not been doing so, or to return to it, if you have lately neglected good reading. Remember, that while we must feed our bodies, our souls stand in much greater need of nourishment, and good reading is a big part of that spiritual sustenance.

As we begin another year at the seminary, we thank our benefactors who have been with us over the years, and we welcome our newer readers. Above all, we count on your prayers for the tremendous need for good and holy priests. Let us pray fervently that Our Lord will send pious and dedicated laborers into His harvest, for the harvest is indeed great, and the laborers are few. Remember that even one priest can save many souls. What a joy for the laity to be a part of this work, by supporting the education of future priests.

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 seminarians helped with the annual parish auction.

We are most grateful for your prayers and support, and assure you of our daily prayers for 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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