



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XIII, No. 1

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2011

From the rector

Already we have been in school for a week, during this, the 13th year of our minor seminary's existence. Through these years, despite ups and downs, we have continued the mission of our seminary to form young men who are seriously considering a vocation to the priesthood. We are grateful that you are a part of this mission, especially through your prayers for vocations, which are so desperately needed today.

The past month has certainly gone by all too quickly, but it has not been without many blessings. Early in the month Fr. Bernard took the seminarians who have been here for the summer on a brief camping trip to Glacier National Park. They enjoyed the beautiful scenery, seeing longhorn sheep and mountain goats, and hiking through snow in August at Logan Pass! The following week we made our annual retreat. Later in the month we rejoiced to see one of our parishioners enter the religious life as a novice and receive the habit in our congregation of Sisters.

Now the summer is past and we once again turn our attention to the all-important work of forming, with God's help, the minds and hearts of our young men according to the pattern of Christ. Our seminary motto *SPES MESSIS IN SEMINE* is a reminder of the importance of this work of education. We again thank you for your support, for being a part of our mission. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may He continue to guide us in this important work.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Where do vocations come from?

A vocation is a precious gift from God, a calling to a man or woman to leave all things and dedicate his or her life to the service of God and souls. The Gospel gives us several instances of vocations. There are, of course, the stories of the calling of the various apostles, who "left their nets and followed Him." Then there is the story of the rich young man. When he asked Jesus what he must do to gain the kingdom of heaven, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. That wasn't enough. He wanted to know what more he could do. Then Jesus "looking upon him, loved him" and told him to sell all he had, give the proceeds to the poor and then to come and follow Him.

This story gives us an insight into what a vocation is. First, it is an act of loving predilection on the part of Christ Himself: "Jesus, looking upon him, loved him." Second, there is a call, which often is difficult to perceive. Our youth today will not audibly hear Jesus inviting them. Rather, His call can be understood through prayer and guidance. Third, a vocation requires a great sacrifice — the sacrifice of one's own liberty and possessions, the sacrifice of the opportunity to marry and have a family. Finally, a vocation requires that the person so invited "follow

September calendar

- 5 — Mrs. Salgado's birthday
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; chanted Vespers
- 9 — Jordan's 15th birthday
- 9-10 — Annual seminary camping trip
- 13 — Public Rosary procession
- 15 — Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 23 — Mid-quarter
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael; no homework day

Him." Years must be spent in training to acquire the virtues necessary to become Christ-like, to worthily represent Christ to the world.

We all know how desperately vocations are needed. Even one vocation represents many souls that can be brought back to God by the prayers, sacrifices and labors of the priest or religious. What can we do to obtain more vocations? Pray. There is no other means given to us than this. Jesus said,

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Not a day went by at our summer Boys' Camp without honoring Our Lady by reciting her Rosary.

Vocations

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“Pray the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His harvest.” Each vocation is the result of many prayers for this end. We also must support the work of seminaries, which rely on the financial help of benefactors to maintain their operation. But primarily we do our part by prayer.

Finally, a word must be said to those parents who desire to be blessed with vocations among their children. There can be no greater blessing for a family than to have one or more of its members called by God to His service. Parents who understand this truth ardently desire such a blessing. What can they do to obtain it? Of course, they must pray — and pray daily — that God will call one of their own to His service. They also must provide the atmosphere in the home that will allow a vocation from God to be recognized and to flourish. They must carefully eliminate any occasions of sin that could come through the media or from harmful companions or amusements. They must lead their children to God by good example as well as by their encouragement. And they ought to instruct their children in the value of a vocation and urge them to pray daily to know God’s will for them. On the other hand, parents must be careful to not push their children toward a religious calling. Remember, a vocation comes from God, not from the parents.

Let us all do our part to pray for vocations and to encourage those youths who are seeking to pursue what they believe is the will of God. Lord, grant us many, holy priests and religious!

Meet our staff

The following is a brief description of our staff members and the classes they will teach this year at St. Joseph Seminary.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI: A member of the Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen since 1972, Fr. Benedict brings many years of teaching experience to the seminary. In addition to teaching, he travels regularly to bring the Mass and sacraments to souls who otherwise have no Mass to attend. Fr. Benedict is the rector of St. Joseph Seminary and will teach Latin and math this year.

Fr. Bernard Welp, CMRI: Fr. Bernard worked as a nurse when he perceived the call to serve God as a priest. After entering Mater Dei Seminary and then completing his priestly training, he was ordained in 2008. Fr. Bernard also travels often to bring the Mass and sacraments to starving souls, and has been a staff member at St. Joseph Seminary for the past two years. This year he will teach theology, science and physical education.

Mrs. Rosalinda Salgado: Mrs. Salgado begins her 11th year as our indispensable secretary, registrar and all-around helper,

often running errands or taking boys to appointments. Once again she will teach computer skills to our seminarians.

Mrs. Nancy Gallagher: Now in her 5th year as a member of our seminary staff, Mrs. Gallagher is a retired public school teacher, who has experience in teaching at every grade level. She not only teaches English and government this year, but she also cooks for us on weekends and is a real mother to our young men.

Miss Mary Antonia Seale: As our head cook, Mary Antonia keeps the seminarians happy and healthy. She also takes care of sewing needs and enjoys sharing her culinary skills with seminarians who want to learn how to cook. Our kitchen is always a cheerful place when she is working on meal preparations.

Support a Seminarian

One of the necessary preparations for a new academic year is budgeting. Although the generosity of our supporters has made the work of the seminary financially possible now for several years, we do have concerns for the new year. As you can imagine, all of our seminarians come from large Catholic families, many of whom cannot afford the entire tuition amount, modest as it is. At the same time, we would not want to ever turn away, for financial reasons, a young man who felt called by God to the priesthood.

To help resolve this difficulty, we have instituted a scholarship program for our seminary. Through this program, donors who are financially able and willing to do so, contribute the cost of maintaining a seminarian each month. Those who would like to participate but are unable to afford the entire amount would contribute a part of the monthly tuition fee. This scholarship would then be matched with a deserving seminarian, who would thus become that donor’s “adopted” seminarian.

Similar programs have been in place in the Church in the past. Without such support, the work of seminary training could not continue. Imagine the blessing of being able to bring a young man to the altar of God as a priest, particularly a young man who would otherwise not be able to become a priest! If you are interested in this program, please contact me, as there are still some seminarians who need a part of their tuition paid though the scholarship program.

Mother of the First Seminarian

This month of September is filled with lovely feasts of Our Blessed Mother. It is certainly fitting that we should commence each recurring year during this month, when Jesus’ Mother is so honored. For who could better understand the importance of formation for future priests than the Mother of the First Seminarian? Under the vigilant eye of Mary, Jesus developed into manhood. She watched in wonder as the Son

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Our small group of campers enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Glacier National Park.



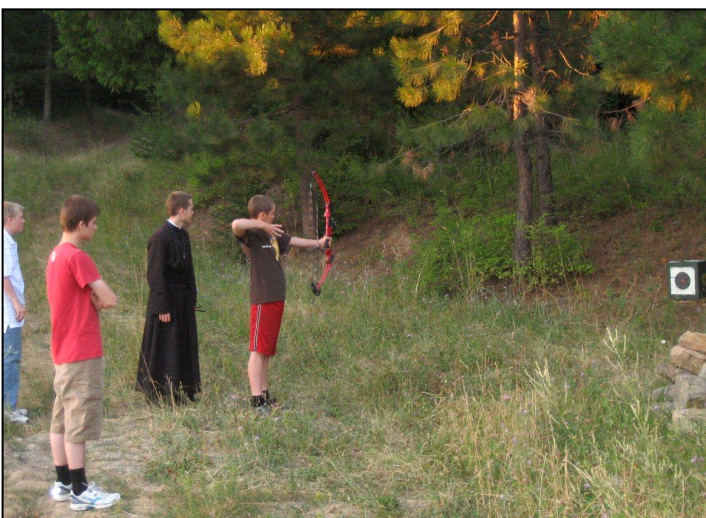
We enjoyed a rare treat by seeing a mountain goat at close range.



We encountered a herd of bighorn sheep high up in a meadow at the park.



A recent project has been staining the decks and stairs at the church.



Frater Anthony gives the seminarians some pointers in archery.



Our new novice, Sr. Mary Evangeline, OSCM, received her white veil on August 21st.

Mother of the First Seminarian

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of God grew in wisdom, age and grace during those hidden years at the “seminary” of Nazareth.

On the Feast of Mary’s Nativity we recall the blessed day when she was born into this world. A few days later we celebrate the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, reminding us that God chose this name for His immaculate Mother from all eternity, and that we should often invoke reverently that Holy Name. The feast of the Seven Sorrows of Mary reminds us of her love, and of the terrible cost of our sins. The feast of Our Lady of Ransom (Our Lady of Mercy) reminds us of the tender solicitude of our heavenly Mother for all her children.

This heavenly mother and queen is greatly loved by God. He gazes with delight upon His perfect creature, our tainted nature’s solitary boast. St. Thomas Aquinas tells us that God could have created a greater heaven and a greater earth, but He could not have created a more perfect human being than Mary. Imagine the pleasure of an artist after he has completed a masterful painting. After weeks, perhaps months, of laborious effort with brush and paint, he finally steps back to admire his artwork. What satisfaction he feels in beholding the completed product of so much planning, sweat and labor! Can this description even begin to compare with God’s satisfaction upon beholding His creature, the most Blessed Virgin Mary?

And so we begin a new seminary year under Our Lady’s mantle. May we always strive to imitate her, however feeble our efforts. May she help these young men to grow in wisdom, age and grace — to become daily more and more like her divine Son.

Our Special Patron

We must not forget St. Joseph, the other member of that Holy Family. Like Our Blessed Mother, he too observed with wonder the growing divine Child. St. Joseph meticulously fulfilled his role as superior, bread-winner and guardian of both the Holy Mother and her divine Child. St. Joseph is a hidden saint but a great one. After Mary herself there is not a greater saint in heaven than her spouse, who was chosen to be the guardian of the great High Priest, Jesus Himself, during His youth.

It was no accident that our seminary was named for this great patron, for a minor seminary is for adolescent youths

Prayer to know one’s vocation

O my God, Thou art the God of wisdom and good counsel, Thou who readest in my heart a sincere desire to please Thee alone and to direct myself in regard to my choice of a state of life, in conformity with Thy holy will in all things; by the intercession of the most holy Virgin, my Mother, and of my Patron Saints, grant me the grace to know that state of life which I ought to choose, and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Thy glory and increase it, work out my own salvation and deserve the heavenly reward which Thou has promised to those who do Thy holy will. Amen.

(indulgence of 300 days, once a day)

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.

who believe they may be called to the priesthood. Hidden away in the seclusion of the seminary — much like Jesus in the home of Nazareth — they strive to learn and imitate the ways of Christ. Who better can assist them in this task than St. Joseph? May he help our young men to follow the pattern of Christ.

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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