



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XIII, No. 10

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2012

The past month of May has been packed with activities—typical here for the final month of the school year. On the feast of the Ascension we made the short journey to Cataldo, Idaho, a town named after one of the early Jesuit priests who labored among the Coeur d’Alene Indians. Our destination was the Sacred Heart Mission, a large church built by the Indians under direction of the Jesuit priests, and which is now the oldest building in Idaho. These builders had only three tools with which to build the spacious church, but they also had a great love of God. While there we also toured the Jesuit novitiate, which portrays how the religious lived in the late 1800s.

Last week we journeyed to Tacoma, Washington, for our annual spring outing. Upon arrival we went to the home of a parishioner, who treated us to a delicious barbecue. We then went to the rectory of Fr. Anaya, where we spent the night. The next morning we had Mass at St. Mary’s Church, before going up to Seattle. Our day there started with a baseball game. It was great because the home team won, with a grand slam. After the game we went to the famous Pike’s Place Market, where you can purchase just about anything under the sun.

From there we went to the Seattle Center. We walked around for awhile and decided that the Space Needle was a bit too expensive for our budget. So instead, we went into the Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit, which had just opened two days before. It was fantastic. Dale Chihuly, a world-famous artist from Tacoma, makes incredible artifacts entirely out of glass. There are

enormous chandeliers and many other items. But we especially liked the outdoor garden, in which all the plants are made of glass! After our tour of the exhibit, we returned to the rectory.

On the final day, after Mass and breakfast, we returned to the seminary, stopping at a state park where petrified wood has been found. We found the video presentation on how wood petrifies quite informative. We didn’t have a lot of time there, but one of the seminarians purchased some items at the rock shop before leaving. In general, we can say that the trip was fun and relaxing.

Now we are into our final two weeks of school. You can imagine that we are looking forward to a summer with our families. Pray for us, that we will maintain our prayer life and continue to prepare for the vocation God has in store for us. We hope that next year there will be a good number of new seminarians to share our life of prayer, studies and common life in God’s house. We will also remember to pray for you, our benefactors.

## June calendar

- 2 — Bishop’s annual visit; Confirmation
- 4 — Feast of the Queenship of Mary; High Mass; chanted Vespers
- 5 — Camping trip
- 7 — Feast of Corpus Christi; school program and awards ceremony; end of school
- 10 — Corpus Christi Procession
- 13 — Public Rosary Procession

## The Roman Colosseum

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 9

Imagine you are a Roman in the heart of ancient Rome who is looking for some excitement. Where would you go? Perhaps you would go to the Colosseum and watch the animal hunts, gladiator contests, or re-enactments of wars and various events of long ago. But since you aren’t a Roman who lived hundreds of years ago, you probably wouldn’t

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*Each of the parishioners presented a bouquet of flowers to Our Lady during our annual Queenship procession.*

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## The Roman Colosseum

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know just what those events were like. So I will tell you a little about the Colosseum, first explaining its history.

Construction of the monumental edifice began around 72 AD. The site chosen was a flat area on the bottom of a valley into which flowed a canalized stream. In 80 AD it was finished, and accounts state that over 9,000 wild animals were killed during the games. Later, a series of underground tunnels were constructed to house animals and slaves. In 217 the Colosseum was badly damaged by a major fire that burned the upper levels of the amphitheater's interior. It is said that the fire was caused by lightning. Afterwards it underwent several repairs starting in 240. Years later in 1749 Pope Benedict XIV endorsed as official Church policy the view that the Colosseum was a sacred place where early Christians were martyred and its use as a quarry was prohibited. He then consecrated it to the Passion of Christ and erected the stations of the cross in it, declaring that it had been sanctified by the blood of martyrs.

The dimensions of this magnificent structure are 615 feet long and 510 feet wide with a base area of 6 acres (a total of 261,360 square feet). The height of the outer wall is 157 feet. The central arena, an oval shape, is 287 feet long and 180 feet wide. It is surrounded by an inner wall 15 feet high, above which is seating for spectators. The spectators were given tickets in the form of pottery shards which directed them to their seats. It was thought that the Colosseum could seat 87,000 people but modern estimates suggest that it held closer to 50,000 spectators. The underground structure, or hypogeum, was connected to the arena at several different points and held substantial amounts of machinery which could raise and lower scenery and props, and consisted of elevators and pulleys to bring up caged animals. There is even evidence of major hydraulic mechanisms, and it is believed that it was possible to rapidly flood the arena.

The Colosseum was used for gladiatorial shows along with many other events which were staged among elaborate sets. One popular show was the animal hunt or *venatio* which used wild animals imported from Africa and the Middle East. During the early years of the Colosseum it was flooded and used for the re-enactment of a famous sea battle. Oftentimes it was used for dramas depicting events from mythology, and they would even use condemned people who would be killed by beasts or burned to death.

By now you may have come to the realization that people at that time enjoyed watching others being slaughtered in disgusting ways. Is this entertainment ethical? When Jesus was on earth, would He have gone to the Colosseum to watch people getting mauled to death by lions? I don't think so. Yes, God intended for us to have entertainment, but certainly not of this type. Fortunately, today that same colossal structure that was once used as a slaughtering pen is now just a major, partially intact, tourist attraction, outside of which occasional

events are held. In conclusion, if you were a Roman living 1900 years ago in the heart of Rome, would you go to the Colosseum?

## The Vatican with its gardens and chapels

*by Patrick Gilchrist, gr. 8*

I would like to describe for you the Vatican, covering three topics: the architectural history of the Vatican palace, the gardens, and the chapels of the Vatican. In the next few paragraphs I will relate to you what the popes did to contribute to the making of the Vatican palace and its magnificent gardens and chapels.

The architectural history of the Vatican palace is very interesting, involving a lot of purchasing and remodeling. At the foot of Vatican hill lay the ancient Basilica of St. Peter. By extensive purchase of land the Medieval popes acquired possession of the whole hill, thus allowing building to commence. It is certain that Pope Symmachus, during the years 495–514, built a residence to the right and to the left of St. Peter's. Pope Nicholas III began building on the Vatican hill a palace of extraordinary dimensions, which was completed by his immediate successors. He also made room for the Vatican gardens.

Enclosed between the city walls and adjacent houses lie the Vatican gardens. Visitors are allowed into this walled area only with the special permission from the sub-prefect of the Vatican palace. In this garden grow some of the finest plants: grapes, oranges and wild flowers being only few of the many trees, bushes, and flowers that grow between the ancient Roman brick walls.

There are also a large number of chapels of all different shapes and sizes in the Vatican, but by far the largest and the most famous is the Sistine Chapel. The Sistine Chapel is where papal ceremonies and papal elections are held. It was built between 1473 and 1481 by Giovanni de'Dolci at the commission of Sixtus IV. This extraordinary chapel is 133 feet long and 46 feet wide, and has on each side six stained-glass windows, given by the Prince Regent Leopold of Bavaria in 1911.

There have been many changes to the Vatican palace and the gardens over the years. Also, multiple new churches have been erected since the construction was completed around the mid- to late 1200s, but they have always tried to imitate the original and keep the beauty that was given it by Pope Nicholas III.

### “Oh, the mercies of the Lord. . . .”

This month of June is dedicated by Holy Mother the Church to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (see *The Raccolta*, #253). Here at the seminary we include among our daily devotions during June the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,

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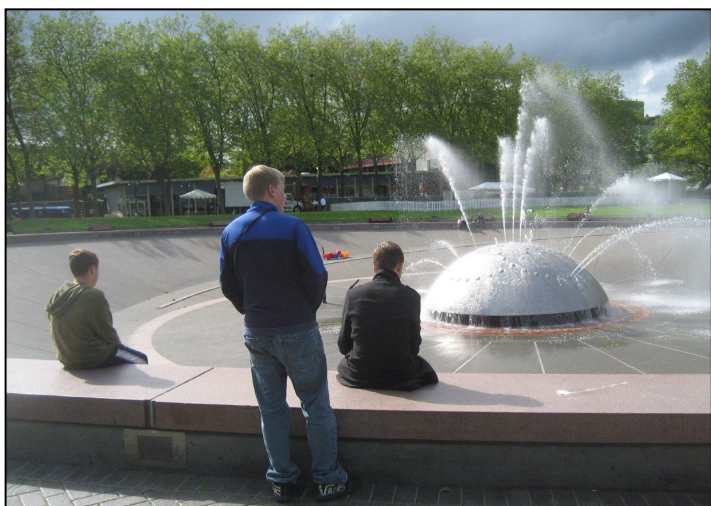




*The chanting of the Minor Litanies.*



*We paused for a photo in front of the Seattle skyline on our recent class trip.*



*One of the fountains at the Seattle Center.*



*These colorful glass chandeliers are at the Chihuly Garden and Glass exhibit at the Seattle Center.*



*Thanks to Fr. Anaya for hosting us at his rectory near St. Mary's Church.*



*We recently had the opportunity to enjoy a hike near a local lake.*

## “Oh, the mercies of the Lord. . . .”

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and we encourage you to do the same. For although the feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated this year on June 15<sup>th</sup>, really the entire month is centered on this devotion.

Just what is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? We are all at least somewhat familiar with the apparitions of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary in the late 1600s. He showed her an image of His heart surmounted by flames, indicating the vehemence of His love for us. There is also a cross among the flames, revealing the manner in which Jesus died for us, so great was His love. Our Lord also gave to St. Margaret Mary the most wonderful promises, indicating His tender love for each of us, His creatures.

In general, this devotion emphasizes the incredible mercy of God. Holy Scripture is filled with references to God’s abounding mercy toward sinners. In the revelations of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, our loving Redeemer wished to remind us of this fact, as a source of encouragement in our spiritual lives. For where would we be without the mercy of God? “The mercies of the Lord, that we are not consumed” (Lam, 3:22). “For thou, O Lord, art sweet and mild, and plenteous in mercy to all that call upon thee” (Psalm 85:5). Such quotations from the Word of God could be multiplied endlessly.

On the other hand, how do we practice this devotion? Of course, there are various prayers, such as the litany and other prayers and ejaculations approved by the Church. But along with these prayers there are two principal acts on the part of the devout Christian who wishes to honor the Sacred Heart, namely love and reparation. As we recall the tremendous love of the Son of God, we find ourselves inspired to love Him in return. Love begets love. This is most important, for it is much more meritorious to serve God from love rather than from fear.

This love also leads us to want to atone for those who do not love the Sacred Heart. It saddens us to see His love rejected by the vast majority of men. We thus wish to console the Sacred Heart of Jesus, by our acts of loving reparation, for the wounds caused by so many. At the same time we pray for their conversion — that they will surrender once and for all to the King of love.

## Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will give peace to their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life, and especially at the hour of death.
5. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. I will bless the homes in which the image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
9. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
10. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written on My Heart, never to be effaced.
11. I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
12. I promise thee, in the excess of the mercy of My Heart, that its all-powerful love will grant to all who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of every month, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; and that they shall not die under My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Let us, then, resolve to rekindle this devotion in our hearts during this month. Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a source of many blessings for individuals and families. If you have never had your home enthroned to the Sacred Heart, I strongly suggest that you speak to a priest about having that done. May we all grow in our love for Jesus this month, and may He deign to 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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