



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2012

Dear seminary friends and benefactors,

Praised be Jesus and Mary. While most of the country has been suffering through excessive heat and drought conditions, we have enjoyed a relatively mild summer thus far, with above normal amounts of rainfall. But finally the steady dry heat that we are accustomed to in July and August has arrived. Regardless, the summer has been a wonderful time of relaxation and rejuvenation for us priests.

The past month's activities featured our annual Boys' Camp here in northern Idaho and the Priests' Meeting in Omaha. Our camp this year was held at St. Joseph River, a tributary of Lake Coeur d'Alene. Among other activities, the boys enjoyed rafting, swimming, using a rope swing, tubing behind the boat, canoeing, evening entertainment around the campfire (Thanks to Mr. John Bole for joining us with his guitar and mandolin!), hiking the mountain, Capture the Flag, fishing, etc. Of course there also were daily Masses, confessions, Rosary, spiritual talks, and the inspirational Stations of the Cross on the last stretch up the mountain. All in all, this short camp has given the boys enough memories to last a lifetime.

The following week found us gathered in Omaha for our semi-annual Priests' Meeting. These gatherings are held every January (in Spokane) and July (in Omaha). Their importance for priests cannot be overestimated, as they provide an important opportunity for prayer, discussion, study and priestly camaraderie. In his famous poem on the priesthood, the French priest Henri Lacordaire, OP, refers to priests as being "a member of each family, yet belonging to none..." Priests are

intercessors before God for the faithful, to whom they bring the Mass and the sacraments. Yet their very vocation sets them apart from the laity, a position that can be difficult at times, especially for priests who live alone. That is one of many reasons why these gatherings are a spiritual boost for those who have accepted Our Lord's invitation to "Come, follow Me."

During this month we celebrate the feast of St. John Marie Vianney, patron saint of parish priests. It is a good opportunity to recall the great importance of praying for priests. Yes, pray for more vocations, but also pray for your priests. The devil is not going to leave them alone, after they have made the decision to leave the world and have persevered unto the altar of God. On the contrary, he knows that by causing a priest to become discouraged or to fail in his spiritual life, he can bring harm to many other souls. We could say that when you pray for your priests, you are praying for yourselves, for the holier they become, the more they can help you to grow spiritually.

Enclosed you will find an intention card for our annual novena in honor of Mary's nativity. This novena, occurring as it does at the beginning of each new school year, is an excellent opportunity for us to beg the help of Our Blessed Mother upon our teachers and students. We

August calendar

- 9 — Feast of St. John Marie Vianney; special observance at the seminary
- 14–18 — Annual religious retreat
- 22 — Vows ceremony for our Oblate Sisters
- 23–25 — Camping trip to Glacier Park in Montana
- 26 — Boys arrive at the seminary; orientation
- 27 — A new scholastic year begins with our first day of classes.

invite you to add your intentions as well, as we implore our heavenly Mother, who is "our life, our sweetness and our hope" to help us do the will of God and reach our heavenly home. May she and her divine Son grant you and your loved ones all the graces, of which you stand in need.

In the service of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI
rector



Every day at the Boys' Camp began with the priests' Masses.



The boys had a great time with white-water rafting on the river.



The camp included a lot of water activities on the river and on Lake Coeur d'Alene.



Thanks to Mr. LeStage for taking the boys tubing with his boat.



Evenings included music around the campfire.

To Be a Priest
by Père Henri Lacordaire, OP

To live in the midst of the world
 without wishing its pleasures;
 To be a member of each family,
 yet belonging to none;

To share all suffering;
 To penetrate all secrets;
 To heal all wounds;
 To go from men to God
 and offer Him their prayers;

To return from God to men
 to bring pardon and hope;
 To have a heart of fire for Charity,
 and a heart of bronze for Chastity;

To teach and to pardon,
 console and bless always.
 My God, what a life;
 and it is yours,
 O priest of Jesus Christ.



Erecting the cross on the top of the mountain.



(left) A group photo on the mountaintop, after raising the cross made from beams which were carried up the mountain by the boys.



(right) At the priests' meeting in Omaha.

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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