



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2012

On the Monday before Labor Day, our school year here at St. Joseph Seminary got off to an excellent start. Our first week included a great stay at a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene, along with plenty of academics to keep us busy. Fr. Benedict reviewed the seminary rules, and we all quickly adjusted to seminary life.

The main focus of our day is, of course, the spiritual life. We are blessed that each seminarian is able to serve Mass at least once a week. Since we have been serving for years, there is nothing really new to learn, but we always try to become better at serving.

Of course, there have also been plenty of outdoor activities. The above-normal temperatures of the past month have made swimming at the lake an attractive option after school. We also have started practicing for flag football. All our games this year will be during the month of October, so we will have to wait until the next issue to tell you about them.

You wildlife lovers might be interested to know that, in addition to all the deer we see around our property, flocks of wild turkeys have been regularly observed near the seminary. In fact, we see them at least once a day, sometimes right outside our door. They are always scrounging for food in the grassy areas and usually move around in groups of a dozen or so. They make us think of Thanksgiving dinner!

As we enter the month of October, there will be plenty to keep us busy. In addition to flag football games, harvesting all our apples and pears, and the Fatima Conference, there is also the daily public recitation of the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

Although we pray the Rosary together every day, October is special since the Rosary is accompanied by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. This important spiritual activity reminds us of how much we must pray for our country and the entire world, as Our Lady of Fatima requested. Pray for us, that we will be able to draw down many graces upon this world. You are also daily remembered in our prayers.

Our Lady's message to us

by Nicholas Doll, gr. 9

When we think of October what do we normally think of? Some people would think of another school year, the hot summer ending and a cool autumn starting. But spiritually what do people think of? Many of us think of Our Lady's feasts, most of which occur in one week: the Most Holy Rosary, the Divine Maternity, Our Lady of the Pillar, and Our Lady of Fatima.

Our Lady of Fatima is my favorite because she appeared in modern times and everything she said came true. As we all know, she appeared in 1917 to three small shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, while they were tending sheep in the fields a half mile south of their village. The first time she appeared, she said all the children would go to heaven but that Francisco would have to pray many
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October calendar

- 2 — Flag football game
- 4 — Flag football game
- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM; anniversary of Fr. Bernard's ordination; outdoor Rosary procession
- 9 — Flag football game
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; Fatima Conference lectures and banquet
- 13 — Anniversary of Our Lady's apparition at Fatima; Candlelight Rosary procession
- 14 — Fatima Conference guests visit our seminary
- 23 — Flag football game
- 28 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 29-31 — First Quarter exams
- 31 — End of First Quarter



The seminarians helped to serve the guests at our annual Western-themed school auction dinner.

Our Lady's message to us

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Rosaries first. On the thirteenth of the month they were to come to the Cova da Iria and Our Lady would give them a message.

We all know that the great miracle happened in October. That is why we have a public Rosary walk from May to October — to commemorate Our Lady's apparitions to these three small shepherd children. Our Lady of Fatima is really special to us in these very troubled times. For one reason, as I said, all her predictions came true. She appeared only ninety-five years ago, and a lot of good things and bad things have happened since then. She foretold things that would happen, culminating in World War II.

So we must take Our Lady's warning to heart and keep away from sin and be pleasing to her and to her Divine Son.

Our tubing expedition

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 9

While my fellow seminarians and I were attending class one day, Fr. Bernard told us that Mr. LeStage would take us tubing on his motorboat at Hauser Lake! First, we had to get to the boat and the only way we could was to swim in the chilly water. The way I did it was to walk into the water, let it get to my waist, sit for a little while, get used to it, and then dive in and swim to the boat. When I got to the boat we waited for the two other seminarians who did not know the technique. The boat was drifting away and they had to swim a bit farther than I. Mr. LeStage, his son Tim, and I were smiling as we watched them swim to the boat.

After we were all in the boat we set off and started tubing. My brother Thomas and I were the first to go in, and we were so excited that we were shaking with joy and fear of falling off at approximately 30-40 knots. First we went over big waves that the boat had made, and we must have caught ten feet of air — or at least it felt like it. This was my maiden tubing experience. While we were tubing, we hit a big wave and I fell off and slammed into the water. It didn't hurt and was actually fun.

After getting back onto the tube we started again, and Mr. LeStage took us through the lily pads. Thomas and I both fell off, because we didn't know what to do when we hit them with the tube. Mr. LeStage told us what you do is that whoever is on the side going through the lily pads needs to lift his side up and you will glide on the lily pads.

After that we tried water skiing, and that was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be. I was able to stand up for about three seconds and then fell into the lake. The waves swallowed me up, but I survived and got up and tried again. Again my feet fell under me and I fell into the lake. The waves swallowed me up again, but again I survived! Then I let my brother go and we both made an honest try. After that

Mr. LeStage took us on a scenic ride around the lake. We then thanked Mr. LeStage for that wonderful day and returned to the seminary.

A long trek

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 10

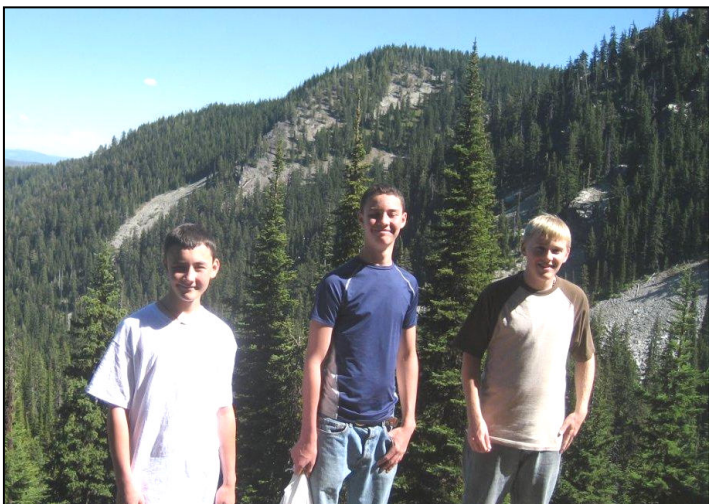
A hike! Fr. Benedict arranged for us (the seminarians and Fr. Bernard) to go on an all-day hike in a mountainous area around Blossom Lake. We prepared ourselves the day before and anxiously went to bed, as we awaited the sun to cast its bright rays over the land, signaling that it was time to get up. This was not, however, the awakening that we were destined for.

No, something much cruder was to revive us from our peaceful rest. But I will speak about this object, which is used to awaken us, with reverence, because I have been instructed that it is the voice of God. Therefore, I will interpret my thoughts thus: the morning bell rang promptly three times at 6:20 a.m. and we arose, stumbling about as we got ready to start our day with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. With the most important part of our day fulfilled, we packed some lunch and water and then, saying a quick prayer for the success of our hike, we set out on our adventure.

Upon reaching our destination we sallied forth from the car and eagerly took to the dusty path which led us straight into the green, shady coverage of the trees. Soon, we were hiking up the mountain taking the switchbacks (trails that swerve back and forth up the mountain), which made the going easier for the time being. But as we trekked on, our energetic pace was reduced to a sauntering walk. The path seemed endless, the switchbacks became monotonous, and beads of sweat rolled freely down our faces.

We continued up and up through the enormous trees over the dusty trail, resting periodically along the path and refreshing ourselves with the water we had brought, careful not to guzzle it so as not to get a side ache. Finally, after what seemed an eternity, we arrived at the spot which we had come to see. It was a glimmering lake — a large, clear, circular lake fed by the cold pure water from the rain and melted snow of the surrounding mountaintops. We stopped and, feeling victorious, broke out our lunches and ate and drank until we were satisfied.

After lunch, however, Fr. Bernard told us that we were not yet done with our hike. And we had no idea just how true that statement was! Soon we gathered our strength and continued our hike until we came to a smaller lake, even higher in the mountains. Then we climbed up the side of one of the mountains. We climbed this precarious mountainside and repeated the climb on several other mountains. Once we were on top of the last and perhaps highest mountain, where the wind was noticeably stronger, we rested and then descended, thanking God that we were still alive when we finally reached the car and headed home.



The mountains of northern Idaho are crisscrossed with many excellent hiking trails.



A warm September provided opportunities for fun at the lake.



Of all our water activities this past month, tubing was the most popular. Thank you, Mr. LeStage!



Even the puppies got into the action on one of our trips to the lake.



Everyone pitched in one Saturday in mixing the cement for a small milking barn.



The plum trees have produced an abundance this year.



We celebrated 4 seminarians' birthdays in the first 2 weeks of school!

Fun at the lake

by Michael Doll, gr. 10

At the beginning of the year, all the seminarians went to the Schindlers' cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene for two days. They have a fairly long dock at the end of which is a spring diving board and a high-dive platform. Now, I didn't know how to swim and the beach was full of rocks. So how did I have fun? Well, I had to learn how to swim. It wasn't easy. Whenever I tried swimming without holding onto anything, I would always panic. I wouldn't move my arms and legs the way they are supposed to be moved. But I tried again and again. Finally, I gave up and donned a life jacket.

How often do we sinners think we can do things without the grace of God? We probably do many things without thinking about God. It happens very often that people live their daily lives without thinking about God. It is a very simple thing to say a little ejaculation such as "My Jesus Mercy," to help us remember the presence of God. One little ejaculation can earn so much for you.

In the example I gave above, when I tried to swim I panicked and failed. I couldn't do it on my own. When I put on the life jacket, it was like saying an ejaculation. With it, I could swim with ease! I had to put my trust in the life jacket like someone who is in trouble must put his trust in God.

So all in all, I had a lot of fun at the lake after I had donned a life jacket. I eventually mustered up the courage and jumped off the spring diving board. We also brought a canoe and paddled all over Rockford Bay, through the cattails and the lily pads, a stop at the boat gas station, and back to the dock again. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Schindler, for your generosity to our seminary!

The value of routines

You might get the impression in reading *The Guardian*, that our seminarians have frequent fun activities throughout the year. The truth of the matter, however, is that the vast bulk of their time is spent in following a daily routine. The occasional outings provide diversion from the normal routine, but they are not the main focus of the seminary, to say the least.

To begin with, we start each day with morning prayers and Mass. Nothing can compare in importance with the unbloody renewal of the Sacrifice of Calvary, which we call the Mass. Daily Mass, common prayer, periods of silence and various other exercises fill our day and help the young men to form

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.

good habits of adhering to a well-planned daily routine. Some worldly-minded persons think that following such a schedule every day makes for a "hum-drum" existence. In reality, we all follow routines, perhaps even without realizing it.

Many people — to use just one example — who live in a parish where there are two Masses on Sunday morning, will regularly go to a particular Mass, perhaps exclusively. They may not even know the parishioners who go to the other Mass — persons who also follow a routine of going to the same Mass! So you can see that human beings can easily become habituated to regular practices and customs.

Not only are routines not bad, for a priest they can be very sanctifying. In fact, a seminarian who shows boredom in following a regular schedule, who always wants to be doing something different, will likely not make a good priest. Hence, one of the roles of the seminary is to instill in young men a love for a regular daily life, one that is busy in working for God and for souls. In such a life, the time flies by and the seminarians are content. They also use their time well and cultivate good habits.

At the beginning of this new scholastic year, I want to especially thank our benefactors who have been with us over much, or even all, of the past 13 years. We also welcome our newer readers. Above all, we count on your prayers for more good and holy priests. Let us all pray fervently that Our Lord will send pious and dedicated laborers into His harvest, for "the harvest is great, but the laborers are few." 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.

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.

St. Joseph Seminary
15384 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650