



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2012

The month of November is an important one here at the seminary, as we try to fulfill our duty to alleviate the pains of the members of the Church Suffering. We are currently reading the book *Purgatory*, which inspires us to do all we can for the poor suffering souls. On All Souls' Day we attend as many Masses as possible and make many visits to gain the *Toties Quoties* indulgence. We also visit our cemetery, especially during the octave.

Our recent Fatima Conference was a real boost for us. We attended most of the lectures and events at Mt. St. Michael, and we also visited with many of our benefactors during the "open house" here at the seminary. Fr. Trinh, a visiting priest, also honored us with a visit. We really enjoyed the Conference, and are looking forward to participating again next year.

We have now just finished our first quarter exams and are enjoying a break before the new quarter begins. It is amazing that one-fourth of the year is already past. How quickly the time goes by. Please pray for us, that we will make a good use of our time here, growing daily in our faith. May God bless each of you.

A month of celebrations

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 10

Long ago when Rome completed the conquest of the world, it began to look for other things to do. Unfortunately, Rome was still mostly pagan at that point. As a result they were influenced by the pagan ideas of entertainment. That was the main reason why God's martyrs, by giving their lives to Him, proceeded from the Colosseum straight into heaven by the hundreds.

This sickening slaughter and terrific triumph of the Church's innocent athletes is the reason why we have a day dedicated to all the saints. It started out as a day to reflect on all the martyrs but was soon transformed into a day for all the saints. Now it is known as All Saints' Day, but, sadly, it is woefully neglected.

The general public at this time of the year are focused on Halloween and Thanksgiving. This is not to imply that it is wrong to celebrate on these days, but they are secular holidays and should not be carried to excess — especially Halloween. Sadly, this day which was originally a vigil of preparation for All Saints' Day has been deformed into a "scare fest" or a time to get as much candy as possible. Going to haunted houses, corn mazes or any place that is meant to scare you, is a waste of time. It isn't a sin in most cases; however, it may bring up occasions of sin. In my opinion, I can live without purposely going somewhere to be scared. And, concerning occasions of sin, as the saying goes: "it is better to be safe than sorry."

Thanksgiving! The holiday when you can eat as much as you want! The devil certainly is clever. He has turned the sin of gluttony into a supposed tradition. It shouldn't be that way. One should not have to commit sin in order to celebrate. As St. Thomas Aquinas once said, "We eat to live, not live to eat." By all means enjoy your cele-

November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day; no classes; seminary outing
- 2 — All Souls' Day; special observances for the Poor Souls; beginning of Second Quarter
- 9 — Fall outing
- 21 — Feast of the Presentation BVM; chanted Vespers, seminary talent show
- 22–25 — Thanksgiving Break; no classes
- 27 — Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; chanted Vespers

bration — just don't overdo it.

In conclusion, the month of November is filled with opportunities to grow in grace, to rise up out of the mire of the world in which we live. And let us not forget the oftentimes forgotten day dedicated to the saints, All Saints' Day.



On the feast of the Holy Rosary we held our final outdoor procession of the year.

Purity and modesty: Two powerful virtues

by Michael Doll, gr. 10

This article is a summary of two sermons. One was a talk given by Fr. Dominic Radecki at the Fatima Conference, and the other was a Sunday sermon given by Fr. Brendan Hughes sometime during the summer.

Purity is a virtue and modesty is one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Ghost. These two gifts of God are very highly esteemed in heaven. If we practice them well, they will merit for us many graces; if we fail to practice them, we will deserve the hottest place in hell for all eternity.

A lot of people think that modesty is just for young ladies. Well, it isn't, and let's hope that you're not one that thinks it is. Modesty and purity are for everyone of both sexes, young and old alike. So often do we observe indecent dress in public places: very low necklines, super short shorts, no shirt (men). Also, how many people abandon the scapular because it ruins their looks when they wear a low neckline? Dear reader, this isn't an uncommon thing. It happens all the time, sadly, even among traditional Catholics!

As Fr. Dominic said at the Conference, the more you run after fashion, the more you will receive looks from those who are seeking indecent pleasure. But if you follow the Church's modesty standards and are conscientious about purity, you will find those people who have much higher and honorable morals. Those who have higher morals would also turn to prayer more often than those who have lower morals. If everyone in the world practiced modesty and the holy virtue of purity, can you imagine how pleasant it would be to live in this world and serve God?

The problems with Vatican II

by Thomas Pulliam, gr. 9

At the Fatima Conference we learned about Vatican II and the new religion that came from it. Vatican Council II was called by John XXIII just 90 days after he was elected "pope". If you have read the documents of Vatican II, which began in 1962, you will be able to see that its teachings are erroneous. At the Conference there was a slide show of the masterminds behind the New Church. It included a few pictures of Freemasons receiving communion, and another with a modern mass with the masonic symbols on the altar. This is only some of the proof of the errors of Vatican II.

Fr. Benedict read a paper written by Freemasons on their agenda to destroy the Church. It stated that the new faith needs to have the following: remove the statues, remove the word *holy*, call the altar a 'table' and make it have the design of one, take away the word *father*, and so on. Obviously it is wrong. John XXIII accepted these practices into the new faith.

His successor Paul VI approved the documents of Vatican II, including the practice of incorporating pagan rituals into the modern liturgy. For example, they now have liturgical dances.

We have two converts from the modern church: Fr. Michael Oswalt and Fr. Anton Thai Trinh, who both have interesting stories. Fr. Oswalt said he was ordained in the Novus Ordo but converted because he saw the contrast between right and wrong and because of his practice of saying the Rosary. Fr. Trinh said he came to America from South Vietnam because the communists were coming in and killing the Catholics.

Fr. Trinh eventually was ordained in the Novus Ordo in 1990 but had many hardships trying to be traditional. He had a parishioner who left her husband and children for a same-sex relationship. When these two women who were living in sin wanted to receive Communion, Father would just skip them. They made a complaint to the bishop who then told Fr. Trinh he had to give them Communion. But Father would not, and he told the two women that "He would strongly suggest to God that He should send them to Hell!"

He was eventually kicked out of the modern church and went to the SSPX to prepare for ordination as a traditional Catholic priest. Eventually, he left the SSPX and is now an independent priest. He has told us that he wants to become a part of CMRI.

Let us all thank God that we have the true faith and the true Mass, and have not been misled by the new religion of Vatican II.

Our shattering flag football loss

by Nicholas Doll, gr. 9

There we were, waiting for the kickoff, the other team on the other side of the field waiting for the whistle to blow, and anxious to pound us into the ground again. The whistle blew, the ball was kicked, and the game started.

We thought we could beat them during practice, but when we came to the game we just fell apart. We didn't know what we were doing, or what we were supposed to be doing, even though our coach kept telling us what to do. In the first game we did poorly, losing by a score of 51-12. In the second game we also did poorly, the score being 42-13. The final score of our third game was 26-13. As you can see we are doing better, but still suffering a terrible loss. We could have won every game if we had paid closer attention to the coach.

We can apply this story to our lives. We think we are strong and will easily conquer the devil and sin, but in times of temptation we get scared and easily fall without God's help. But with God's help and His commandments we can easily overcome sin and the devil.

If we get our act together we can easily win our final game and get a good score on the board. I hope we win this game. Dominic and I scored touchdowns. Both of us got amazing interceptions and pulled many flags in our games on dives.



Finally our new outdoor statue of St. Joseph arrived!



Asphalt repair at our church parking lot.



Every football game begins with stretching exercises.



Dominic passes the ball at a recent game.



One Saturday chore recently was digging a ditch for a water line by the goat pen.



It's fun to make sushi, which is a good Friday meal!

Our shattering loss

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Thomas and Jordan sacked the quarterback many times. We are doing well, but not good enough. Let's hope we improve and then win our final game!

All for God

The feast of Mary's Presentation in the temple on November 21st is a minor feast of Our Lady; nevertheless, it is one of my favorite Marian feasts. In fact, it seems to be a special feastday for those, such as minor seminarians, who leave home at an early age to serve God. According to tradition, Our Lady was only three years old when she was presented to God in the temple by her parents, Sts. Joachim and Anne. From that time, until her betrothal to St. Joseph, she lived a life of prayer and seclusion in God's house.

This example of Our Lady has been imitated by many saints. We are all familiar with the story of how the Little Flower longed to enter Carmel at an early age, even requesting permission of Pope Leo XIII. Another example is that of Pope St. Pius V, who became a Dominican at the age of 15. Many other saints also consecrated their lives to God from their youth.

By the grace of God, this sacrifice on the part of young men and women who heed the voice of God to serve Him continues in our own day. They reject the voice of the world and self, urging them to just "put it off a while longer." For the devil loves delay, knowing that if he can convince an aspirant to delay the call to serve God, he stands a good chance of eventually getting the young person to give up that resolution completely.

How uplifting it is to see young persons, untainted by the world, giving up everything for God! We must pray for those youths who make this sacrificial choice, that they will persevere in their resolution. Pray also that many more will follow God's call. And let us all learn from Our Lady in her Presentation to renounce the spirit of the world and to serve God as best we can, according to our vocation. Remember, that it is only devout Catholic families that are favored by God in the choice of one (or more) of their members to belong to Him alone.

As always, we thank you for your prayers and support of our seminary. We assure you of our daily prayers for you and your loved ones. May God bless your families.

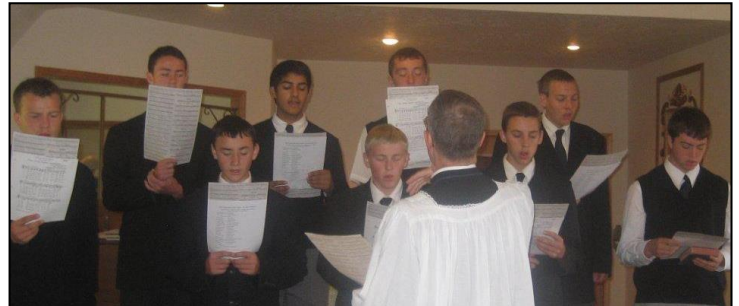
Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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.



We have started singing high Masses now on a regular basis.



We enjoyed the visit of Fr. Trinh during the Fatima Conference.

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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