



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2013

Toward the end of the school year we always have a camping trip. This year, however, we have two of them. The first was to Priest Lake State Park. A visit to this beautiful, majestic lake in northern Idaho has become an annual tradition here. It rained during our overnight stay there last week; fortunately, we were sleeping in a cabin. Despite the rain, we had a great time. It was chilly, but that made the campfire all the more inviting.

Next week we will wind down the year with a several-days camping trip in Oregon. We will have to write about that trip for the July issue of *The Guardian*. For now, we are finishing up our academics and preparing for final exams.

We also have been very busy cutting grass and keeping up with all the other outdoor chores. It seems like once we finish mowing, we have to start again. But the seminary grounds are beautiful and serve as a fitting background for our outdoor processions this time of year.

In addition to these events, our May activities have centered around our Marian devotions. Also, several of the seminarians are preparing to make the Act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary on May 31, so there are daily prayers and readings. All in all, we have been busy, and the time is flying by. Soon, we will be packing to head home for the summer. We hope that all of you will have a grace-filled and enjoyable summer with your families.

## Summer-long battle

By Michael Doll, gr. 10

One day, way back in the middle of the January thaw, we looked

around at the bare, desolate countryside and each of us said, "Oh, how I wish the world could be green again." At the time we didn't know what we were bringing upon ourselves. Very quickly however, the barrenness of the hills gave way to lush green foliage. Too quickly because we didn't have a real spring. The weather just kind of went from a cold, frigid winter to a humid, intense summer heat. We had maybe two weeks of rain between the two. The result of all this is we had grass halfway up to our knees before we had a chance to mow it.

When we first started to mow the jungle of grass, we were only using a lawn mower which you had to push with your own power. It didn't work very well on hills because it would push you downhill and it was very toilsome to have to push a mower through tall grass. The end result was we didn't get very far before Frater Anthony went to town and bought a Honda self-propelled lawn mower. Well, that got the grounds looking nice in about a week with the help of the tuned-up Bobcat riding lawn mower. So well we finally finished it. But wait! We didn't. The very next week the grass was back up to our knees again. I know field corn goes haywire in hot humid weather, but I didn't think grass would grow that fast! At any rate, still footsore from the last bout of mowing, we tackled that grass again. Surprisingly, the grass grew thicker in one week than it had since the beginning of the year.

When the grass-cutting season started, we only had for equipment a Bobcat riding mower that needed some help, a push-it-

**June calendar**

- 2 — Corpus Christi procession
- 3-5 — Camping trip
- 6 — End of year program and awards ceremony
- 7 — Feast of the Sacred Heart; last day of school
- 13 — Outdoor Rosary procession in Spokane
- 21-24 — Religious Retreat
- 25-27 — Priests' Chapter meeting

yourself mower, a wheel whip that was beyond repair, and a Stihl weed wacker that needed its engine rebuilt after the first couple operating sessions. Additions include another Stihl weed wacker, and as I mentioned before, a Honda self-propelled lawn mower. Considering how fast the grass is growing, we'll have to mow the lawn every week to minimize the workload on the machines. Footsore beyond footsore! More merit if we offer the pain to Jesus through Mary.



The outdoor shrine was adorned with flowers at our annual Queenship ceremonies.

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## **We are slaves**

*by Thomas Pulliam, gr. 9*

“Thank you, dearest Mother” should be the words spoken to Our Lady when she presents our prayers to Our Lord. Our prayers must go through Mary to Our Lord if we want them to be worthwhile to Our Lord. It is like the story I am sure we have all heard before. There was a servant who wanted to pay tribute to his King because he loved the King. He had nothing to give the King except for an apple. This was the best apple he could find from his tree. It had a blemish and a worm hole. When walking up to the castle gate, the guard asked what he wanted. He said he wanted to see the King. When going in, he did not want to present the apple in the state in which it was. So he went to the Queen. She took the apple, polished it and turned the apple around so the worm hole was not visible. She then proceeded to put it on a golden platter, put flowers around it and told the servant “Come with me.” She then went to the royal hall and presented it to the King. He looked at it, smiled at the servant and accepted it graciously from the Queen He loved so much. He then rewarded the servant for going to the Queen instead of going directly to him. This is how Our Lord and Our Lady are for us. Our Lady will take our prayers that are so much stained by our imperfections, polish them up and present them to Jesus, Her Divine Son. She is the Mediatrix between God and us. Our Lord came to us through Her, so we should also go to Him through Her.

I will now talk about Holy Slavery. There are three kinds of slavery. One of nature. This means we are slaves to God because we completely rely on Him. Then there is the slavery of constraint. This is the slavery of the damned in Hell. They do not want to be there, but they must. The third is a willful slavery — making ourselves slaves because we love someone and want to please them. This is what is meant by Holy Slavery. We make ourselves slaves of Mary because we love Her and want to please Her. This will grant us special graces and She will intercede for us when we die with Her Son. There was a story of a man who always wore a scapular and said three Hail Marys before he went to bed. He heard about the consecration to Mary (Holy Slavery), said the prayers and made the consecration. When he died, the devils were dragging him to hell when Our Lady said “What are you doing with my servant? He has been faithful to Me.” They then immediately fled from the man. Our Lady told him to amend his life. She restored him to life. This just goes to show how powerful Our Lady is with God and how much power She has over the devils.

We should all make this consecration to Our Lady. But three things are essential. Holy Slavery must be internal, meaning that we have the right intention. Second, it has to be uninterested, meaning we don’t do it because of what we can get out of it. And it must be done out of love. This means we

should not do it so people think we are holy and pious, but rather, we do it for Her glory and out of love for Her.

Let us all pray for the grace to make this consecration to Our Lady. We should all strive to live up to this consecration and be a good example to make others also make this consecration. Our Lady of Mercy! Pray for us!

## **The end of the beginning**

*by Jordan Hartman, gr. 10*

Finally! The end of the year! Ever since it started I thought it would never end. Of course I thought the exact same thing in my freshmen year during my first few months in the classroom of St. Joseph Seminary. But now I have occupied the seminary long enough to master most of the basics and attempt to achieve some of the higher goals. Along with knowledge comes facility in doing your daily duties, and along with time comes the monotony of it all. In this last Guardian article of the school year, I would like to explain what I think is a typical school year at the seminary as I have encountered it to be. In it, I will compare our year to a race. Not a rat race, although sometimes the analogy might seem fitting, but more like a marathon.

We begin the year at a steady pace as we (the seminarians) get acquainted with each other. After being refreshed by summer break, we apply ourselves readily to any work given to us. But as time goes on, we pick up our pace and buckle down for a long ride. Time appears to go faster now as we are in full swing of this phase, and soon we are speed walking. By now the new seminarians get the gist of the schedule and we plod swiftly along the track. Soon we are jogging and, although punctuated by a few breaks along the way, the race is relatively uninterrupted. While jogging it is easy to stumble on obstacles and run into things in life which may be hard! But that’s why we have spiritual directors. Some seminarians may be attracted to the glitter and cheering of the world about them, and if they don’t focus, they will eventually fall to the unforgiving reality at their feet. Then it is up to the fellow seminarians to pull the fallen to their feet. No seminarian gets left behind!

We have passed the midway point of the race and have become familiar with each other: our talents, habits and eccentricities. So much so that it almost becomes annoying. Now charity comes into play. This is a vital component of the seminary life and is important to forming our vocations. Everyone is panting and sweating. It is now more tempting to shirk our duties. It is at times such as this when doing what we are supposed to do is so meritorious. Everyone is now running. We have to pray that Our Lady will keep us from straying off track. The schedule has lost it’s freshness and almost becomes a burden. But for those who persevere it is a sure means of salvation. At last the finish line is in sight! It was never so near and now it seems as though it will take an eternity to reach it. But, despite our doubts, we pass the finish

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*Our seminarians and staff members pose for a group photo as the year draws to a close.*



*Our seminarians have spent many hours cutting grass this past month.*



*Setting out in the canoes on Lake Pend Oreille.*



*There are at least a dozen lakes of different sizes within easy driving distance of the seminary.*



*Rynan and Thomas explore the lake in one of the canoes.*



*We had a cabin to use for our camping trip at Priest Lake.*

## The end of the beginning

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line and everyone gives a sigh of relief. However, we realize that our race was only a small section of our life and the real test awaits stretched out before us. This race will end at an unknown time, in a place where eternity begins!

## The Heart in the tabernacle

Quite often our annual Corpus Christi procession occurs after the conclusion of the school year, and hence, many seminarians miss out. This year, with the early Easter, our Corpus Christi outdoor procession will take place on the first Sunday of June, with all the seminarians serving.

We are blessed here at the minor seminary in having beautiful outdoor grounds, which are most conducive to a solemn outdoor procession. During the Corpus Christi procession the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance is carried around the property, as the faithful sing hymns. We then stop at the two outdoor altars for benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. It is a truly awe-inspiring sight to see the monstrance lifted aloft in blessing as the faithful kneel about, surrounded by the mountains and trees.

During June we also call to mind the important devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These devotions, however (namely, that of the Blessed Sacrament and that of the Sacred Heart) are really one and the same, for they have as their purpose to honor the sacred Person of our divine Redeemer. Let us reflect, as we kneel in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, upon His Sacred Heart, beating there in the tabernacle, filled with love for us. And let us recall that the object of devotion to the Sacred Heart is twofold: to grow in love for Our Lord and to make reparation to Him for the many sins by which He is so cruelly offended. May He be pleased to accept graciously our loving efforts to console His tender Heart.

Again, I thank you for your support. Please also pray for vocations to the priesthood — for more young men to offer their lives to God, to become other Christs in order to offer the Holy Sacrifice and to bring God to men. May our seminarians become holy and pleasing to God, and may their numbers increase! And may God bless each of you and your loved ones.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

## St. Joseph Seminary presents 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Boys' Summer Camp

**July 14–20, 2013**

Catholic boys and young men, ages 9–16, are welcome to come and enjoy a Traditional Catholic summer camp under the guidance of priests and seminarians. Spiritual activities include:

- Daily Mass and Sacraments
- Daily Rosary and prayers in common
- Practical spiritual talks
- Opportunities for spiritual advice from priests and seminarians

Our camp is located in the hills of northern Idaho at St. Joseph Seminary. Wilderness adventures abound in the surrounding forest, lakes and rivers. Activities include:

- Sports
- Disc golf/Dodgeball/Capture the flag
- Mountain hiking
- Waterskiing/tubing
- Evening campfire

Early-bird registration by June 15 is \$150; registration after that date is \$200.

For further information, please call Rosalinda Salgado at St. Joseph Seminary, phone (208) 687-8443.

*(Dads who are able to attend are encouraged to do so as it is a great help and makes for a very enjoyable week; Dads do not pay the \$200 fee.)*

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