



THE GUARDIAN

Our first day of school was last Monday, and we are already busy in following the daily routine at the seminary. On Sunday night Father gave us an orientation, passing out schedules and prayer books, and going over the rules. After some recreation we went into chapel for our first time at praying Night Prayers as a group with all seminarians present.

This past week we have been getting used to the routine and getting to know one another. We come from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Iowa and Idaho, and so far, everyone gets along great. Already, besides classes, we have been helping with picking plums in our orchard and stacking wood for the Sisters. So it's been a busy week.

Now we will soon be off to a "camping" trip, but since we will spend two days at a nice home on the lake, we won't be roughing it. The

voices in our group. Father Philip is our choir teacher this year. Right now, we are learning to sing the Vespers of Our Lady and then we will start preparing to sing High Masses. Everyone likes to sing.

As you can see, it is going to be a great year. We hope you enjoy reading our articles. Please remember also to pray for us, that we will profit from this great opportunity of a Catholic education in a unique school, the CMRI minor seminary.

New Faces

by William Davis, gr. 9

When I came back to the minor seminary from summer vacation I didn't know what to expect, because there was going to be a grand total of 9 minor seminarians. But any doubts were soon expelled from my mind. For although there were many

new people who decided to give the minor seminary a try, I knew most of them and even the ones that I didn't know were really good young men. So I do believe that we are blessed this year with

many probable vocations.

It is rigorous here to be sure (although probably not as rigorous as the major seminary), but it is a good way to find out if you have a calling to the priesthood, and besides,

September Calendar

- 2 – Labor Day outing; William Riley's 14th birthday
- 5 – Our secretary's birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's nativity; special observances
- 12 – Joseph's 14th birthday; chanted Vespers of Our Lady
- 24 – Feast of Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 27 – Mid-quarter

discipline is good for us. I believe that this has been the best decision I have made in my short life, and I hope that the others feel that way too. I don't think that I could have asked for better fellow seminarians.

This world is a scary place, and I am glad that it still has beacons of light left in it, the minor seminary being one of them. In my eyes the City of Mary is a safe haven, a beacon of hope, an island in a sea of woe. We all know that in the end God and Our Lady will triumph over the serpent. And who will be in the front lines in the strife? The priests and the Sisters and the lay Brothers. And that is what the minor seminary is for, to help boys discern their vocation and see if it is God's will that they join in the front lines in the struggle for the Faith.

So, the year treads by with slow inevitability of time, and I can only

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Ready for class!

weather is still quite warm, so the conditions should be ideal for some fun on the water.

We also have had our first choir practice, and we have a lot of good



Every day starts off with Holy Mass in our seminary chapel.



It didn't take long for the seminarians to start using the ping-pong table.



Ultimate Frisbee is a popular recreation after classes.



Getting ready for winter—the seminarians stack firewood for the Sisters on the deck outside the convent.



The students take in a class on the first day of school.



Gabriel and William Riley helped in the vineyard before school began.



Victor (right foreground) joined us for a group photo on the first day.



There are plenty of plums to pick this year.



This year's group of boys have had no problem in becoming friends.

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New Faces

hope that every year could be as good as this year is promising to be. I really hope that you all keep us in your prayers, because the devil for sure does not like the possibility of 9 new vocations and he will do everything in his power to stop them. So please pray for new vocations; pray for the staff that keep us in order; pray for the teachers here at the City of Mary, and please pray for the minor seminarians themselves. May we all find God's will, and fulfill it!

We're Back!

by Gabriel Riley, gr. 9

I am back from my well-enjoyed summer vacation, along with my brother William. Mr. Keaveney was in Wisconsin visiting his sister and brother-in-law. They had donated a truck and so we rode back to the seminary with him. The back seat was full of all the stuff we were bringing to the seminary. We stopped at a hotel every night, which was nice. We went swimming and watched a western movie. It was a pleasant trip.

All is well here at the seminary so far. This will be my second year here and my brother's first. I was amazed at the number of seminarians we have at the seminary this year. I was told ten seminarians were to settle here but one backed out at the last minute. Therefore, we have nine seminarians this year.

Today we had our very first day of school this year. It was exciting for me. I could not read the minds of the other seminarians, but they looked like they were okay until it came to physical education. Then they were excited. Father Benedict is going to take it easy on us for the first week of school and said he will add more work eventually.

Yesterday we went on a hike with Father Philip. It was a sunny day as we made our way through the woods searching for paths that were fun but hard to find. We had forgotten to bring water so we were parched as we tried to quickly get back to the seminary. It was hilarious watching some seminarians trying to get back.

That night we prayed night prayers for our first time together. This Thursday we are going to a house along Lake Coeur d'Alene. I am excited! We are going to play pool and go swimming in the lake. That is all for now—I am happy to be back.

All In God's Plan

One of the classes I teach is mathematics. An interesting branch of math is the study of probability, and so I always find various occurrences intriguing. For example, ask yourself what would be the probability of the following situation: We have two sets of brothers here in this seminary; both sets of brothers have the same names; in each case the older one is Gabriel and the younger one is William; the older brothers were born three days apart, and the younger ones a couple months apart; and to top it off, neither family knew the other when the boys were born, so there was no possibility of comparing notes on names. In other words, the chances of that happening are so slim as to be extremely unlikely.

Yet, in God's plan all things have been foreseen. There are no accidents. Likewise, each of us has been known to our Creator long before we were born—in fact, from all eternity. Not only has God known us intimately throughout our lives, but He also loves us with an infinite love. He cares for us in His loving providence, more than the best parents would care for their children, and He desires that we share heaven with Him for all eternity.

There are no accidents. All has been foreseen; all is arranged by Divine Providence. And in God's plan this new school year also has an important place. As the world goes on its way, from one news event to another, one activity to another, we seek to grow daily in the knowledge and love of God, hidden away in the hills of northern Idaho. We always tell the boys that they are forming here the character of who they will be for the rest of their lives. Whether they become priests or not, they are laying the foundation right now.

Each year of our lives is important, and it is most important that we concentrate on the here and now. We can't change the past, and we don't know how much time we will have in the future. What we do know is that God gives us the present, and we must all use it to the fullest, cooperating with God's help to grow in His grace and love. We have an important place in His plan, but it is up to us to attain it.

You supporters of our seminary also have a critical part to play in this work of formation. We are most grateful for your support and prayers, and for providing the Catholic families from which God will choose those whom He will call to His service. May God bless you and your families, and may we all seek to always do His holy will. Be assured of our gratitude and our prayers for you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI