



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2021

The past month has gone by like a whirlwind. On the first Sunday of Advent we chanted Vespers, which is the first time we have chanted Sunday Vespers. During Lent we will do so every Sunday.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception was a wonderful day. We helped to sing a High Mass to honor Our Lady's greatest privilege. That required some extra choir practice so that we could learn some new hymns to Our Lady. Then, in the afternoon, we went bowling and then got some ice cream. It was a great day in the midst of our Advent season.

It wasn't long after that when we started packing our things to go home for the Christmas vacation. When we return in January, well-rested and ready to get back to our studies, we will especially be looking forward to ski trips. Before we left for Christmas there was a good amount of snowfall, so the skiing should be great this year.

We hope that you are all enjoying a wonderful Christmas season and that you will continue to pray for us and for our seminary. May God bless you!

A Shortcut to Heaven: True Devotion to Mary

by *Lionel Gamache, gr. 12*

This is a beautiful and important subject that will maybe have great impact if you don't yet know about it. Habitually, we know by theories but also with experience that we cannot save ourselves without Mary. Real love of Mary is a sign of salvation, especially when we realize that heretics would do anything except

wearing a Rosary. But I want to talk about the one only perfect devotion to be Christ-like.

The name of this devotion is True Devotion to Mary, which can be summarized in one concise statement: to Jesus through Mary. This love was promoted by a French priest of the eighteenth century, Saint Louis Marie of Montfort. He said: "The more we honor the Blessed Virgin, the more we honor Jesus Christ, because we honor Mary only that we may the more perfectly honor Jesus, since we go to her as the way by which we are to find the end we are seeking, which is Jesus."

So what really is this devotion? Let's make some distinctions to make this explanation more understandable. There are many types of slavery: there is the slavery of nature like the relation of complete dependence of human nature

toward its Creator. The slavery of constraint is one of the devil that should not exist, and on the top there is the one that makes saints, the slavery of will, in which we become entirely Jesus' slave out of love. This is one of the best ways to free ourselves by Mary from sin's slavery. Saying it briefly, all we do is accomplished by Mary, with Mary, in Mary and for this lovely Mother, because we consecrate and give our

January Calendar

- 4 – Classes resume at the normal times
- 5 – Blessing of Epiphany water
- 6 – Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord; High Mass
- 18 – Begin Church Unity Octave
- 20 – Priests' visit to the seminary
- 21 – End of the Second Quarter
- 22 – Ski Day



In health class Mrs. Migala has been teaching us about First Aid, including how to help a heart attack victim

body, our soul and all merits of the past, present and future. We are not going to make our way in life by ourselves, but we will be guided by this most experienced mother. To say it in another way, all is in her heavenly hands.

Why should we love our mother in that way? First, this is the easiest, the shortest, securest, perfect road to

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A Shortcut to Heaven: True Devotion to Mary

attain heaven. I will explain it by an analogy of St. Louis de Montfort. There are two sculptors; one likes to mold and he is the most experienced. The result is obvious—in a short time the mold is done and has no defect. In the other way, an artisan decided to make a sculpture on his own. All he knows is how to carve the statue. I personally already made my mind on which one is the best. I hope you understood that we all are the good-willed but inexperienced sculptor and that Mary is the expert who can lead us to Christ instead of being our own master.

There are also wonderful effects. We are going to share in Mary's faith, love and beneficial trustworthy confidence. Mary can make of our prayers a real glory to God.

Is there a possibility to do what I described? Yes there is. This is simple. Learn more about this devotion and fulfill it by making the preparation and the final consecration itself. You can find a book with all the prayers and readings, which take about 20 minutes a day for exactly 33 days.

Saint Thomas Aquinas said that our salvation requires that we will it, so get the means to obtain it. This is the goal of this devotion, to become more holy and Christ-like. This devotion will lead us to Jesus and heaven by His gentle mother. If you do it, that will be one of the most important days of your life.

There are some qualities everybody should practice with the devotion to Mary. I hope we all want to give generously to Mary. Our devotion should be constant, holy, disinterested and also tender.

In conclusion, since it is so efficient and important in the life of somebody, the devil will do everything to make you ignore it or make you believe that it is not for you. Mary knows our miseries, troubles and intentions and understands them, since she also is a human being. How could she not be touched by somebody who gives himself totally to her? Better than reading this poor article, you could read [True Devotion to Mary](#) by Saint de Montfort, so much deeper in understanding and burning love. Also, don't forget to tell your confessor about it. He will be able to guide you surely with the help of the indispensable grace.

Not a Footprint to be Seen

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 11

“You look pretty good in jeans,” I said innocently to Father Philip walking out into the bright Sunday afternoon sun. The words died in my throat, remembering that Father had been awake since 4:30, offered two Masses, one of which was a High Mass, and had been left scraps to eat for breakfast. It was an ill-timed and stupid statement. A cloud passed over the sun and the whole scene became very tense and quiet. All I, and the others present, could do now was to watch, wait and prepare for a crippling comeback. Silence continued to stifle the clear autumn air. An inquisitive and worried look crept up to his already cocked brow, he was ready to return a counter fire....

“Thanks.” And with that we began our journey. Beyond the edge of our property of familiar trails and woods we would venture. We would boldly go where no seminarian had gone before—to Rathdrum Mountain, also known as Rathdrum Bald (which we put into the

Latin—*Mons Calvus*).

You appreciate Tolkien's great poem “The road goes ever on and on, down from the door where it began” if ever you have experienced a long trail-blazing hike. This particular hike would indeed have been worthy of legend if we would have accomplished our mission. Our mission was to leave from the Seminary at twelve o'clock and within two hours be at the top of the mountain, enjoy the amazing view and then head back, giving us enough time to cook dinner before five o'clock Rosary.

Seemed simple enough.

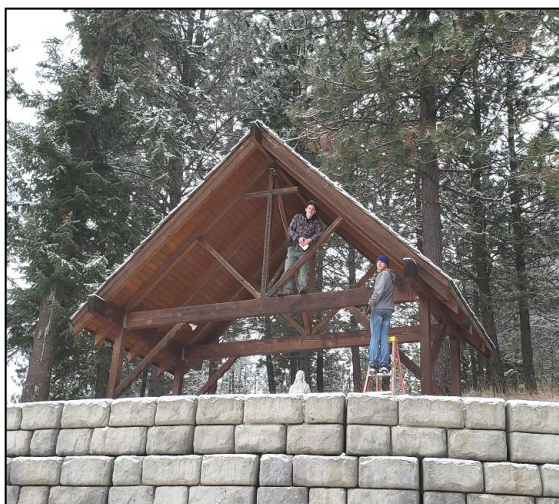
However, we spectacularly

underestimated the distance. We had decided the week previous that climbing the mountain's left shoulder would be the quickest route to reach the top. But by the time we had scaled only halfway up the mountain's shoulder, it had already been two-and-a-half hours of leg-breaking labor. It took us an astounding two hours just to get to the base of the mountain and another half hour just to climb a quarter of it. A little discouraged we turned around, encouraged however that we would, one day, have to return and complete our mission.



The seminarians stopped by the graveyard at the Cataldo mission to pray for the faithful departed.

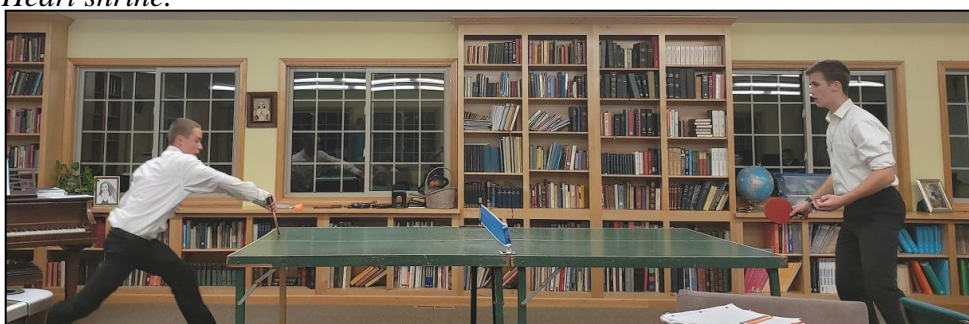
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Two seminarians helped to put up the Christmas decorations at our Sacred Heart shrine.



Thanks to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Drewsen, we enjoyed a splendid Thanksgiving Dinner.



The annual ping-pong tournament included some intense competition.



Andrew is obvious pleased with his bowling performance.



During our Thanksgiving Break we visited the Sacred Heart Mission church, built by the Jesuit Missionaries and the Coeur d'Alene Indians



On November 27th some of the seminarians joined parishioners in the enrollment in the Miraculous Medal.

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Not a Footprint to be Seen

Our path led us down desolate valleys, through dense forests, over clear running springs and finally up the chard and burnt face of Calvus itself. Every hardy seminarian did not waver but stayed the course. To walk side by side like brothers through the thick and thin for each other was a spiritually uplifting and binding experience.

To end on a good word, perhaps the most enjoyable and memorable part of the entire trip was after we had just come down into a low valley, unusually bright with snow crystals that had frozen the night before, when turning a corner we saw a certain seminarian so overjoyed (or mentally unsound) that he was jumping around throwing snow high in the air while singing "Let it go!" Afterwards, all of us a bit disturbed ran after him to beat him up. In the end we forgave him under the pretense of having younger sisters. But we all got a good laugh, even Fr. Philip.

A Fun Class

by Arlin Wertish, gr. 8

Do you like football, basketball, or dodge ball? If you do, you'll like P.E. We seminarians join the high-schoolers in P.E. class. Lately, it has been dodge ball in the gym; but on Mondays, Coach Vincent Prado comes up here and coaches us in basketball. At the beginning of the year we played football, which made for some epic games.

We still play football sometimes as long as there is no snow or it is not too cold. There are enough people with the high-school boys and seminarians playing to even have an offensive and defensive line. On Fridays, we sometimes go to the park for football. That is when I become very happy, because football is my favorite sport.

On Mondays we play basketball with Coach Prado. There are a lot of drills and I think it is very fun. We do drills on different things, like lay-ups and chest passes. We are all getting much better at basketball. And when P.E. is done, which is 3:00, the high-schoolers leave, but we seminarians stay to play more basketball.

Now most of the time for P.E. we play dodge ball. It is fun, even though it may include getting hit in the face. I have learned how to throw the ball pretty hard and catch the balls thrown at me. Well, I hope all of you reading this article enjoy sports or at least reading about how much we enjoy them.

Time and Eternity

As we end one year and begin another, it is only logical (at least for those who are striving to save their souls) to think about the value of time. God allots to each of us a small portion of this precious gift. We must use it wisely to secure our everlasting happiness.

Sadly, there are many poor souls in this world who squander this gift. When they come to the end of their lives, they bitterly regret their foolishness and earnestly desire a few more minutes in which to repent and amend. But alas, for them, time is no more. Let us not be among their number!



The seminarians performed at the Christmas program under the direction of Father Philip.

How much time is left for us in this life, in which to secure heaven? Will we see the end of this New Year, or will it be our last? God alone knows. What we do know is that we have the present time. Let us not put off our resolutions for the future, but begin now earnestly to work out our salvation.

May God bless each of you in this New Year with His grace and blessings! Let us pray for one another, for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. Please also continue to pray for our young men, that they will cooperate with grace and fulfill God's holy will in their lives. Be assured of our prayers for you and our gratitude for your support.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI