



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2021

After a beautiful Holy Week at the beginning of April, we seminarians enjoyed a week of vacation. Some seminarians went home, while the others went to the west coast and Olympic National Park. Now we are back in school, doing our best to remain focused on these 5 remaining weeks of school.

May is going to be a busy month. In addition to the many liturgical ceremonies and feastdays, there will be the annual spring camping trip in the middle of the month. As usual, we will go to Priest Lake for this annual excursion.

We also are preparing for the renewal of our Holy Slavery. Most seminarians have already made the consecration, while others are preparing to do so for the first time on May 31st, the feast of the Queenship. Let us all honor our heavenly Queen this month and pray for an increase of devotion to Mary, the mother of God and our own spiritual mother.

“Could you not watch one hour with Me?”

by William Davis, gr. 10

For the weekend of April 16th through 18th we had the Forty Hours devotion. This was the first time I had ever had the privilege of attending the Forty Hours, and it was an experience that I wish I could take part in more often. This devotion was originally established in Rome in order to prepare for Lent in a good, wholesome way. Once sanctioned by the Pope, the practice of Forty Hours quickly spread to the other dioceses of the world.

The Forty Hours devotion consists of beautiful ceremonies, including a Eucharistic procession and the Litany of the Saints on the opening day. These are followed by the watching of the faithful during the long hours in the presence of Jesus Christ exposed in the Sacrament of His love. We minor seminarians each had the privilege of watching three hours before the Blessed Sacrament.

The beautiful silence of the church during the long night spent in adoration by the faithful has an eloquence that is utterly beyond me to describe. This silence is not a normal, empty silence, but a silence that is filled with purpose and meaning that permeates all of the chapel with its presence. The chapel itself was mostly dark at night, when

May Calendar	
1	– Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker
5	– mid-quarter
11	– Rogation procession
13	– Ascension Thursday; no classes
26	– Feast of Saint Philip Neri: Father Philip’s feastday
31	– Feast of the Queenship BVM; annual procession; renewal of Holy Slavery

That feeling of spending time with Our Lord while the exterior darkness presses all around you gives testimony



Father Philip blesses the palms before the High Mass on Palm Sunday.

to the fact that we are like sheep, surrounded all about by wolves and darkness, and that the only way of saving our souls is by fleeing to our Good Shepherd and begging Him for help. And this is the

most of us seminarians had our hours, but the sanctuary was brilliantly lit up with a myriad of candles. And set in the midst of this heavenly conflagration of light lay the beautiful Monstrance containing the Object for which we were there.

purpose of the Forty Hours: it is a time when we beg for forgiveness, when we ask and plead for pardon for our many sins and the sins of the whole world. For, especially in these modern times, we need desperately the infinite mercy and kindness of our Divine Redeemer.

She Kicked the Bucket

by *Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 11*

This past month has kept us very busy. As you already know we got a jersey cow that we named Matilda. We weaned her calf Bobby in early April, so now we have been getting about three gallons of milk a day, and somehow we have been able to keep up with drinking it. Hopefully, we will be able to make butter and cheese soon.

Fr. Philip made up a milking schedule. He has assigned one of the upper-classmen to be in charge of two of the younger seminarians. Each group or crew has an assigned day for milking. On that day we have to get up at 5:20 am to milk, feed the animals, and then process the milk.

When I first started milking her it was kind of hard, especially with her kicking, but she seems to have gotten used to me. My crew and I are still a little inexperienced so it takes us about forty-five minutes to an hour to milk her out completely. We first have to brush her down so that no hair or dirt will get into the milk. We normally milk into a quart jar and then when it is full dump it into the big bucket. Sometimes we will milk into the big bucket so that we can use both of our hands and get done faster. We have to brush her down extra well and be very alert when we do this because she tries to step into the bucket.

One of the first times we used the bucket she stepped in. The two unfortunate seminarians were still in shock when she put her other foot in. They then had to lift her feet out and dump the milk. Sadly, we lost about a gallon and a half. After we are done milking, we have to make sure that both Bobby and Matilda have hay and water. We also have to give Bobby milk-replacer and calf pellets. While one of the two seminarians feeds them and cleans up the milk house the other goes back to the seminary and processes the milk. All he has to do is pour the milk through a filter into a big glass gallon jar. He then cools it by filling a big pot with cold water and then leaves it for about an hour. Then he dries it off and puts it in the refrigerator and the job is done.

Regina Coeli et Terrae

by *Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 11*

Ever since the fall of our first parents, Almighty God in His infinite mercy promised mankind a woman who would bring forth a Redeemer; who would surpass all creatures with her supreme beauty, purity, and perfect obedience to her Creator. This Blessed Lady would crush

the head of the vile serpent, and change the name of Eve. Moreover, she would be crowned gloriously in heaven and proclaimed blessed by all generations until the end of time.

It is certainly an undeniable truth that God destined Mary to be Mother of His Only-Begotten Son, who came into this world to redeem mankind. "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel" (Genesis 3:15). Through this proclamation, God chose Mary to be not only the Mother of God through her Divine Maternity, but also the mother of all men and the Queen of heaven and earth. To further prove that Mary is our queen we can recall the greeting of the Archangel Gabriel, the numerous miracles that took place in her apparitions throughout the world, and the messages which she gave to



All the seminarians take turns in milking.

the children at La Salette, Lourdes and Fatima. Through Mary, the Son of God was born into this world; through Mary, God has shown mercy to mankind; through Mary we are reconciled to God and found worthy before His throne at our Day of Judgment. Reigning as Queen of Heaven, she has never forsaken any soul who invoked her aid in the hour of temptation, agony and death; and continues to intercede in all our prayers to God.

In our modern time, it is surely a tragedy to see that many Protestants erroneously revoke the idea of honoring Our Blessed Mother and praying to her, emphasizing that honor should only be offered to God. Many further claim that it is idolatrous to honor her as the Queen of heaven. How can you possibly honor God as your father, without honoring and praying to his most beloved daughter, mother and faithful spouse? God loves her for she is the most perfect creature He has ever made and will not refuse our prayer through her powerful intercession. We cannot thank her enough, but seek to honor her through our praises and recitation of her daily rosary. Let us pray to have a strong devotion to Mary as Our Beloved Mother, and that many will also love and honor her as the Queen of heaven and earth.

One 'Dead' Seminarian

by *Gabriel Davis, gr. 11*

“The rain continued to beat against the car window. It had now been two hours since everyone had left to hike up the wooded mountain, leaving a seminarian alone in the car. All was peaceful in the car. The seminarian placidly looks out the window from reading his book, to suddenly see a massive boulder come crashing out of the

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The dam in nearby Post Falls provides a spectacular sight in the spring.



Fortunately, the rain held off during our annual Greater Litanies procession.



The unveiling of the cross on Good Friday is a dramatic ceremony, calling to mind the death of Jesus for us.



On a recent Saturday the seminarians learned how to install a split rail fence for our church property.



Five of our seminarians traveled to the rain forest in the Olympic National Park during Easter Week!

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One ‘Dead’ Seminarian

woods heading straight for the car. A moment and faint yelp later, the boulder hits the car sending it crashing down the mountainside with a confused seminarian.” Or so we joked, after having sent a couple rocks careening down the mountainside while hiking during our Easter vacation.

Although there is so much to write about, I will restrict myself to three highlights. Father had decided to stop the car after we had gotten well into the heart of the Olympic Forest, unable to drive through so much beauty. We had found a stream of little waterfalls that lead down to a crystal turquoise lake. Now the best part of that whole day was that every stone on the pebbled beach was a perfect skipping rock. It was a skipper’s paradise.

The next and perhaps most spectacular event, was our ocean climb. The moment we had set eyes on the two-hundred foot sea stack from the car we knew we had to climb it. We climbed, crawled, and even pulled ourselves to the top on vines and roots of trees. The top was an intricate maze of thick head-high hedges. We could hear the din of the ocean, but it incredibly took us fifteen minutes to find it.

After crawling out of a rabbit whole of vines, there it was clear and stretching as far as the eye could see. Straight down, the water and wind beat against the stone of the cliff, eager, it seemed, to throw us off the cliff’s edge. The sun shone brightly but the expectation of being trapped by the rising tide turned us back from the beautiful scene.

Every turn on our trip was breathtaking and beautiful. To the bright sunny greens of Tacoma to the dark Fangorn forests of the Olympics, you expected to see an Ent or Bigfoot behind every tree. In fact, while hiking through a thick rain in the mountains we heard a noise like three deep and guttural moans. The further up we went the louder it seemed to grow, as if provoked. Though it was likely an owl or bird, our imaginations saw it as an angry Sasquatch eager for his next meal.

To conclude, I thank all of our benefactors that made this trip possible, and especially Father Philip for making it fun

and safe, and especially for buying us junk food and letting us listen to Brian Reagan. Now don’t worry, no seminarian died on this trip as my title inferred. But let’s just say that one almost died after ‘accidentally’ eating Father’s breakfast!

Mary’s Month

Everyone will agree that the month of May is the most beautiful of months—the month of flowers, of springtime, of greenery. As such, it is a most fitting time to honor Mary, the most beautiful of God’s creatures. But how to honor Mary?

During May there are processions, crowning of Our Lady’s statue, daily rosaries and devotions, etc. But what especially gives meaning to our practices this month is the love we carry in our hearts for Mary, our sweet mother. As we place flowers



We had a Solemn High Mass for the feast of Saint Joseph.

Before her shrine, let us especially seek to cultivate in our hearts the flowers of virtue, which please her so much.

As devoted children of our heavenly mother, we must seek to become Mary-like, to reproduce in our lives her virtues. Saint Louis Marie de Montfort lists the ten principal virtues of Mary. It would be a good idea for each of us to choose one of these to particularly seek to acquire this month. In that way, our practices of devotion will not be merely temporary acts of piety but will have lasting results.

We pray that Our Lady will bless you and your loved ones. We are most grateful for your support of our seminary. Let us all continue to pray that Our Lord will send laborers into His harvest. And may these laborers be particularly devoted to Mary, the holy Mother of God and our own sweet mother!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI