



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2021

We have had a busy month of May, which included an outing to Palouse Falls in Washington State, followed by the annual camping trip to Priest Lake. This year's camping trip was superb. The weather was on the cool side, especially in the mornings, but that didn't bother us. We began each of the three days with Holy Mass with the beauty of God's creation for the church. The days were filled with fun activities. Thanks to Father Philip for organizing a great camping trip.

Next week is our final week of school. There will be various activities to mark the end of school, and we will sing a High Mass for the feast of Corpus Christi. Then, after graduation, we will be off to our homes for the much-anticipated summer vacation. But before we know it, we will be back again for another school year (except for Jesse and Lionel, who will graduate on Saturday). Until then, may you have an enjoyable, safe and blessed summer!

Three Keys to Success

by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 11

The hot summer weeks will be filled with days of relaxation, swimming, fishing, baseball, and many other sports that might be enjoyed by the young seminarian. Whether it be sitting in the shade of a great oak tree, savoring the sweet taste of an iced tea, playing a peaceful game of bean bags

with your friends, or mowing the emerald grass on a hot Saturday afternoon, we should always keep in mind our Creator. Yes, summer is vacation, but not a vacation away from God.

There are three things that are essential to have a good and holy



Our new stained glass window in the choir loft at the church.

summer: a prayer schedule, staying busy, and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A prayer schedule would be our morning and night prayers along with our daily rosary. It can be hard to remember these things if you try to do them by yourself, but with a group it is a lot easier to remember.

Here at the seminary we have a prayer schedule and after a while it becomes a habit to roll out of bed and say the morning offering. Enjoying a few extra hours of sleep during the summer (as I like to do) is fine, but we should try to make it to morning Mass at least one day during the week other than Sunday. As for avoiding

June Calendar

- 1 – Thiet's 17th birthday
- 2 – School outing to Farragut State Park
- 3 – Feast of Corpus Christi; High Mass
- 4 – School program; awards ceremony; end of school
- 5 – Senior Graduation and confirmation
- 6 – Corpus Christi procession
- 13 – Our Lady of Fatima procession
- 23-26 – Annual Religious Retreat
- 27 – Vows ceremony at Mount Saint Michael

idleness, you could get a job depending on your age and circumstances, or go to church and help out with mowing the grass or cleaning the chapel. Maybe you could hang out with your friends, join a ball team or read a book. It is key to stay busy because "idleness is the devil's work shop."

Devotion to Our Lady is always necessary for a Catholic boy, but especially during summer. Our Blessed Mother will help us to stay pure and humble. It is not hard and is a good practice to bless the top of each hour with a Hail Mary. It will help us to keep Jesus and Mary in our thoughts and on our lips. This little prayer will also help us to better understand God's Will. St. Alphonsus

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Three Keys to Success

Liguori says that “God is not wont to speak to those who do not speak to Him.” It was easy for us sodalists to remember our apostolic action because our watches beeped every hour. If we can remember these things we will undoubtedly have a good and holy summer.

Stars, Slingshots, and Homemade Jerkey

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 11

A slight breeze swept the thin-shod clouds across the black cosmos of the night sky. Ursa Major shone bright over the church with its big dipper pointing to Polaris, shining brightest. The hazed streak of the Milky Way could be seen suspended over the garden where a seminarian was desperately covering himself with a pile of leaves. The quiet sleeping heavens stirred uncomfortably. At a building corner two seminarians crouched trying to decipher the desperate sign-language of a fellow, hiding behind a tree. Meanwhile the enemy, walking along the stern of the same building, suspects his quarry ahead. Silently, the hunter approaches the corner where his oblivious victims still remain clueless. Suddenly, a fourth unknown party springs out of his hiding place just in time to save the two cornered convicts who were now running in the opposite direction in full haste. It was a cool autumn night full of

activity, and that game of Ghost in the Graveyard still remains a fond memory of our common seminary life.

For those like myself who enjoy the outdoors here are a few of the best points, or as a great poet once said, “Here are the pancakes.” We live on a mountain of one hundred acres of mainly forests but also open grass. An intricate labyrinth of paths and deer trails give a seminarian apt opportunity for long walks and also for hunting. Our trees mainly consist of pine and fir trees with the occasional pocket of maple and cedar groves, giving a beautiful landscape in both snowy winter and colorful autumn seasons. As far as wildlife is concerned,

we have an abundance of noisy birds in spring and disturbing crows in fall. We also have deer, turkey, pheasant, grouse, raccoons, coyotes and, my personal favorite, rabbits. Now the fore-mentioned deer, turkey and rabbit have all met their way to the dinner table, and I hope will continue to do so.

You are probably wondering why I gave this article such a title. Among the many things a boy loves to do, at least in my opinion, is to make his own rudimentary slingshot, spear, crossbow or walking stick. Now I wish I could explain to you how and with what to make these above items but, alas, I have run out of words. However, two books that I highly recommend for the construction of such contrivances are the Handy Book for Boys and The Dangerous book for Boys. Every boy should own a copy of each of these books. Now as far as homemade



The students and teachers of Mary Immaculate Queen School posed for their annual school photo.

jerky, get the best cut of meat you can get your hands on, and make a simple brine such as can be found in the book Deer Burger and with either a dehydrator or a simple box fan, place your meat between two house furnace filters and let dry for ten hours.

Now the Minor Seminary has indeed very much to offer such as stars, slingshots and homemade jerky, but its greatest offer is to forge a man, by repetition of good habits, into a perfect Christian and soldier of Jesus Christ.



And they're off! Some of the seminarians participated in the annual school jog-a-thon.



On a Saturday during May the seminarians helped Father Philip get the garden planted.



The seminarians took turns crowning the statue of Our Lady at the church during May.



The seminarians enjoyed a day trip to Palouse Falls.



Anthony leads the Rogation procession, as the seminarians help Father Philip in chanting the Litany of the Saints.



Roasting marshmallows and singing songs around the campfire were a memorable part of the camping trip.

An Outline of Saint Joseph Seminary

by *Lionel Gamache, gr. 12*

“Seek and you shall find.” Here again, this word of Our Lord is true. This is how it happened: my father, praying to Saint Joseph, providentially found a minor seminary named Saint Joseph Seminary and C.M.R.I. We are a French Canadian family from Quebec, totally ignorant of the congregation and its organization throughout the American continent. With the help of grace and the parish secretary, I was able to have a place among those to whom the grace was given. Coming from a different place and speaking another natal tongue, I will describe my experience here.

The first thing we saw were the pictures on the Internet. How different is in reality the place itself; a little mountain with a Church at the top is a dreamed place. A picture says a lot but this is only a second in the active life flowing during all seasons.

The life at the seminary is organized with the common human needs, such as eating, studying and recreating, both intellectual and physical. The requirements for high school graduation are all satisfied. But these activities and the schedule are simply the frame for an aspiration more than great—our life with our Savior Jesus and our Mother Mary. I am simply discovering to love those who gave their lives to us.

You, parents, live each day for the welfare of your heirs, wanting, I suppose, the best development for your children soon to become men. You send them to this school of life to form them to answer the vocation for which God called them, either to be a much needed priest or to become the best father for his family. All of this to bring us to eternal love and happiness. Something I learned here is that we have to live a goal to attain.

The Joys of Camping

Have you heard the joke about camping? Camping is when you spend a lot of money to live like a homeless person! Be that as it may, seminarians love to go camping. In past years I have taken the boys camping, but I am grateful that there are younger priests who can do that now.

When the seminarians go camping toward the end of the school year—and Priest Lake has been the designated location for the past several years—they fulfill their regular prayer schedule and have daily Mass. When I have gone with them in past years, my thoughts always go back

to those intrepid missionaries, such as Father De Smet, who forsook the creature comforts we are so accustomed to, and journeyed into the wilderness to find and save the souls of the native Americans. What zeal for souls they had!

In our case, a typical camping trip lasts but a few days, but there is something about being close to nature that appeals to us. Here in northern Idaho there are vast evergreen forests that direct one’s thoughts to the Creator of such beauty. So even though I didn’t join the seminarians this time, I certainly won’t rule out going next year.



Our annual camping trip included hiking, fishing, campfires, and, in general, enjoying the beauty of God’s creation.

We hope that you supporters of our seminary will have a most enjoyable summer, centered in your families and in our holy Catholic Faith. We have so much to thank God for, and these times of relaxation are just one more opportunity to direct our thoughts to the good God, who has blessed us so abundantly, especially with the gift of faith. Please continue to remember our boys in your prayers, and pray also that the Lord will send more laborers into His harvest. May He continue to bless our seminary, and may He bless you and your families. Thanks for your support!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI