



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2021

From the Rector:

As we mail this issue of *The Guardian* for August, we are in the midst of the annual Camp Saint Joseph for boys. This year's edition is being attended by some 70 young men, with plenty of activities for boys of all ages. Most of the photos for this month's newsletter have been taken during the camp.

The past month has been unusually warm, beginning with the record-breaking triple-digit temperatures of late June. Although the heat moderated somewhat, it still remains hot and dry, conditions that make for high fire danger. Fortunately, we have had no wildfires in our area, but the smoke from other fires in the western states has occasionally traveled our way. All in all, the wildfire smoke has not been bad at all here in northern Idaho, as compared with other parts of

the country.

The very hot temperatures make for perfect conditions for swimming. A trip to Lake Pend Oreille has been part of the Boys' Camp for years and is always a popular event. So we decided to make a lake trip twice in this year's camp. Loading up the canoes, life jackets, water guns and other items takes time, but it is well worth it.

Of course, the spiritual aspects of the camp are of primary importance. With so many boys this year, they have been divided into two groups for Mass. One group attends the outdoor Mass at the camp site, while the other group attends Mass in the Church. The boys also recite the Rosary every morning before Mass, while one of the priests hears confessions. With six priests around, there is ample opportunity for confession.

The annual Boys' Camp is a lot of

fun, but it is also a lot of work! Several of the older boys came early to help with preparations.

After the camp is over there will be more work to get everything put away and cleaned up. Then, after a few days of rest, we will turn our sights

August Calendar

- 9 – Feast of Saint John Vianney, patron of priests
- 15 – Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady
- 22 – Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; seminarians arrive; orientation
- 23 – First day of classes for the new school year
- 28-31 – Annual outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene

to the coming school year. There will be two new seminarians this year, so we again anticipate a large group. Before we know it, the students will arrive, ready to begin another year of learning and growing.

Please remember us in your prayers, as we begin another year at the seminary. As usual, we will recite a novena in preparation for the feast of Our Lady's nativity, the first major feast of Our Blessed Mother in the school year. Although our main intention will be for the success of the school year, we are happy to add your intentions, which is why we have enclosed an intention card. Be assured that we daily remember our benefactors. May God reward you for your support of the work of formation of future priests!

In the service of Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Camp Saint Joseph opened with the customary Way of the Cross and erecting a large cross at the campsite.

The Greatest Aid

by Jonathan Lehnen, gr. 10

Prayer is one of the most necessary means to attain salvation. As such, we must pray, for prayer is our means of talking to God. If we use this extraordinary means of talking to God, He will hear our prayers and will help us in times of temptation.

Prayer is to the soul as water is to a plant. We need it. We must do it. If we never pray we will fall into sin and will never make it to heaven (or it will be near impossible to). But, if we do pray, it will lead us to spiritual, as well as physical benefits. It will help bring us closer to our goal and God will be pleased.

The one thing that often makes us cold to prayer is the distractions from our fallen human nature. We often think about worldly things, or we may have many temptations from the devil. But we can overcome these things by praying with reverence and humility, and trying to ignore them. God is not offended unless we willfully give in to distractions.

The best prayer we can give to God is when we cheerfully offer our sufferings to Him. In turn, God gives us many graces, for God is very pleased when we offer our sacrifices to Him. This will increase our merit in heaven as well.

When we ask for a certain favor, sometimes both fasting and prayer are required for an answer. But we must not despair if our prayer is not answered. Rather, we should have confidence in God, for He always hears our prayers and will never reject them, unless there is no devotion. They may not be answered the way we want, but the way He wills. God knows best, and, oftentimes, God's ways are not our ways. We should accept them the way God sends them.

In prayer, it is not only asking for a certain help, or a petition for something, but also it is giving glory to God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints. God is very pleased when we pray to Mary or the saints. Through

them we may obtain many favors, if we but pray. Prayer will be one of the best ways to bring us to Heaven if we but use it. By doing this we all, one day, will be united in heaven.

Use Your Time Well!

by Jesse Sand, graduate

Life is very short. Ask anyone and you will get the same answer. We don't have much time on this earth. We also don't know when our time will run out. Every second that passes, we advance closer to the end of our lives. Our death is the most important event of life. Then our time is up and we must give an account how we have used the time that God has so generously given us.

For many worldly people, death is an uncomfortable

topic. Many do not know what lies beyond. Many also are attached to the pleasures and possessions of the world. When their time draws near, past regrets will haunt them. Now there is little if any time to correct their past. How terrible is the death of an unprepared soul!

For us, death should be a pleasant, but sobering contemplation. For death is merely the beginning of eternal life. For the Just it

is the transition to the reward for all their past toil. Their conscience will be clear and they will not be troubled by their impending end. Imagine how comforting it must be, if one has been fortunate to receive the last sacraments before their death! How beautiful is the death of a Just soul!

Let us then be grateful that we have time now to change our lives for the better. Let us not procrastinate on our preparation for this most important moment of our lives. "Remember your last end and you shall not sin."



Volleyball was a popular game at the Boys' Camp.



Several boys came early for the Boys' Camp to help with preparation.



The gym building was also used for various games.



We adore Thee, O Christ, and we praise Thee, because by Thy holy cross, Thou hast redeemed the world!



Tents abound at the camp site.



A lot of fun during a day at the lake.

Saint Lucy

by Arlin Wertish, gr. 9

Lucy was born of noble, Christian parents in the year 283. Her father died when she was about five years of age, leaving Lucy and her mother Eutychia without a guardian. When Lucy was a young woman she consecrated herself to God.

Eutychia now had a bleeding disorder. Fearing that she would die, Eutychia, not knowing of Lucy's vow of virginity, promised Lucy to a young, wealthy pagan. But Lucy went to the tomb of St. Agatha, an early martyr, and prayed to her to cure her mother. Agatha appeared to Lucy and told her that Eutychia was cured. Eutychia then allowed Lucy to not marry the young pagan and permitted her to distribute her wealth.

Then Lucy's going-to-be husband, knowing that Lucy was a Christian, reported her to Paschasius, who ordered her to sacrifice to the gods. She boldly refused. Paschasius then ordered Lucy to be defiled in a brothel. When the soldiers tried to take her to the brothel, they found that they could not move her. They even hitched a team of oxen to her but to no avail. They then tried to burn her where she stood but she would not burn. Enraged one of the soldiers stabbed her through the throat, thus making Lucy a martyr.

Legend has it that Lucy's eyes were plucked out. One story says that she was taunting Paschasius about how Diocletian's reign would soon end. In anger he had her eyes plucked out. Another story says that she plucked them out herself because of a person who desired her for lust because of the beauty of her eyes.

May this great virgin and martyr intercede for us, that we might always be pure and faithful to Christ.



Each day at camp opens with Mass. Here the boys attend Mass in the church.

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

O my God, Thou art the God of wisdom and good counsel, Thou who rearest in my heart a sincere desire to please Thee alone and to direct myself in regard to my choice of a state of life, in conformity with Thy holy will in all things; by the intercession of the most holy Virgin, my Mother, and of my Patron Saints, grant me the grace to know that state of life which I ought to choose, and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Thy glory and increase it, work out my own salvation and deserve the heavenly reward which Thou has promised to those who do Thy holy will. Amen. (indulgence of 300 days, once a day).

Do You Have a Vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Latin, theology, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.