



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2022

The beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week came off without a hitch, after which the seminarians all left for the Easter vacation. Three seminarians went to Minnesota and four went with Father Philip to Omaha. The other seminarians went with their families in the area. Now we are all back, refreshed and ready to complete the final few weeks of the school year.

The month of May is always busy at the seminary. First, it is Our Lady's month. There are daily devotions in honor of Our Blessed Mother, culminating with our Queenship procession and renewal of Total Consecration to Mary at the end of the month. In between, there are various other feastdays and liturgical ceremonies.

We also look forward to our annual spring camping trip. In the past we have gone to Priest Lake, but we will have to wait to see what Father Philip has in mind for this year. One thing is

for sure—we will have a lot of fun in this annual adventure.

Let us all honor our heavenly Queen this month. We should all have a May shrine and put there fresh flowers on a regular basis. (Here at the seminary there is someone assigned to do this each day.) Above all, let us honor our dear Mother with our prayers and by making the effort to imitate her wonderful virtues.

## The Pope of the Most Holy Rosary

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 12

Antonio Ghislieri was born into a poor family in Bosco, a town of northern Italy, on January 17, 1504. He was a humble shepherd until he joined a Dominican friary at the age of fourteen, where he received a good education, discipline and direction in the way of piety, taking the name Michele (Michael). He was ordained

May Calendar	
1	– Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker
6	– mid-quarter
23-25	– Rogation processions
26	– Ascension Thursday; no classes; Father Philip's feastday
26-28	– Annual camping trip
30	– Memorial Day; annual Queenship procession

to the priesthood in Genoa at the age of 24 and was sent to Pavia to be the master of novices and occasionally prior of different houses. He also lectured for sixteen years. He strove to advance towards perfection by the practice of monastic virtues and was undoubtedly an astounding example for all. The saint fasted, did penance and spent hours of the night in prayer, contemplation and meditation.

In 1556, he was consecrated Bishop of Sutri by Cardinal Giovanni Saraceni during the reign of Pope Paul IV. He was known as a great preacher and was particularly outspoken against heresy during the time of the Protestant Reformation. In truth, his zeal against heresy was so great that he was made an inquisitor general for all Christendom. The saint was transferred to Mondovi, where he made many reforms and restored the purity of faith, sadly diminished by constant warfare during the time of moral laxity. He was frequently called to Rome and carried out all ecclesiastical affairs with great zeal.



On April 25<sup>th</sup> we had the procession of the Greater Litanies.

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## The Pope of the Most Holy Rosary

He defeated Emperor Maximilian II's project to abolish the celibacy of the priesthood and offered an overwhelming disapproval to admit Ferdinand de Medici, a thirteen year old boy into the Sacred College for political interests.

Despite his pleading, after the death of Pope Pius IV, he was elected pope as the whole Church rejoiced. The holy pope, known as Pope Pius V, began his pontificate by giving great alms to the poor and needy, and continuing to practice the virtues he had shown as a monk and a bishop. His sanctity and fervor did not diminish in spite of abundant labors in his office. He



*After much work in extending the garden, it is now ready for spring planting.*

would spend two hours every day on bended knees in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. He visited hospitals and stood by the sick at their bedsides near the hour of death. He washed the feet of the poor, clothed the naked, and embraced the rejected lepers. He was very strict in banishing vices, degeneracy and scandals among the clergy and raising the standard of morality with the help of his beloved friend St. Charles Borromeo. The pope enforced the strict observance of the discipline of the Council of Trent and reformed the Cistercian Order. He constantly struggled against the Protestants and the invading Turks. Pope Pius V also excommunicated Queen Elizabeth for heresy and supported the cause of Mary Stuart.

Near the end of his life, he worked tirelessly to unite Christendom to fight against the Turkish Mohammedans. During the battle of Lepanto he ordered the churches of Rome to be opened for prayer day and night and encouraged the faithful to ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin to deliver them from the Islamic terror. Upon news of the victory of Lepanto, he burst into tears. In memory of this triumph, the pope added "Help of Christians" to the Litany of Loreto. This saint died on May 1, 1572. His dying words were, "O Lord, increase

my sufferings and patience." After leading a life of rare virtues, exceptional sanctity and perfection, Pope Saint Pius V went to his heavenly reward.

## A Project of Work

*by Arlin Wertish, gr. 10*

When the months of March, April, and May come around, we seminarians are practically ready to live outside. We're ready to play football, volleyball, kickball and as many other sports as you can think of. But there is always something in the way, such as work.

Much of our time here at the seminary is spent working. Our garden is our main job right now. The garden is split into two sections—an upper section supported by a retaining wall with steps leading to the lower section. The garden is surrounded by wired fencing with a gate so that deer and rabbits can't get in. It totally doesn't matter about the fact that the deer can probably jump over the fence anyway.

The garden has taken up most of our Saturdays. The work has consisted of digging trenches, tilling, leveling the field, and shoveling Matilda's manure. We have dug about twenty trenches and have filled them with manure, making the soil nice and fertile. (The manure was really tangled and hard from winter, I'll have you know.) I thought I should just briefly mention how hard Thiet, Andrew, Anthony, Jonathan, and I worked on that manure.

We have big plans for the garden this year. We have planted seeds that are now growing in the seminary apartment. We're going to have lots of tomatoes and peppers this year, with which to make good salsa. I'm personally hoping that we'll plant cucumbers to make pickles. Well, that is what we seminarians have been spending much of our time doing lately.

## The Forgotten Kingdom

*by William Davis, gr. 11*

Few people, I think, realize the great debt of gratitude we owe to an empire that modern history has tried to forget. It held back the tide of Islam from entering Eastern Europe for nearly 800 years. Time and again it diverted pagan barbarian hordes from sweeping into the Catholic Europe we love so much. Perhaps you already know of what I speak. This empire is, in fact, the Eastern Roman Empire, more commonly known as the Byzantine Empire.

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*The seminarians held the cross for the veneration of the faithful.*



*Father incenses the missal at the Mass of the Easter Vigil.*



*The devotion of Stations of the Cross was an important part of Lenten observance.*



*Behold the Wood of the Cross, on which hung the Savior of the World!*



*Seminarians served for all the ceremonies throughout Holy Week, such as the procession of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday.*



*The blessing of the new baptismal water is one of the more solemn parts of the Easter Vigil.*



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## The Forgotten Kingdom

During its height, the Roman Empire stretched from Western Spain to Eastern Turkey, from North Africa to Britain. It was becoming evident by the time of Emperor Diocletian, who reigned from 284 to 306, that the empire was simply too massive to continue as one entity. The solution to this problem was the division of the Roman world into two parts. Diocletian took the eastern half as his own with his capital in Nicaea. After Diocletian and a civil war came Constantine the Great, who eventually controlled all of the Roman Empire. Humility was evidently not his strong suit, and the capital he chose for himself he named Constantinople. He rebuilt the small fishing town of Byzantium, which is located just barely on the European



*The seminarians presented Father Philip with a surprise gift... a chef hat.*

side of modern day Turkey, and made it into a fabulous city. This was where the Byzantine Empire found its roots.

Eventually, the empire was overrun by barbarians and torn apart by civil war. By 476, the last figurehead emperor of the shadow that was once Rome was deposed by Odoacer, a barbarian king. All that now remained was the empire in the east, a new Roman empire whose capital was practically in Asia Minor. But this fragment of the old regime was not extinguished. It would wax strong only to wane again almost to oblivion. It would be the redoubtable bulwark that supported all of Eastern Europe against the pagan hordes and the Islam war-machine, until at last, in 1453, abandoned by all those who should have helped it, it

would be conquered and crushed.

Byzantium was the mother country of many heroic but underappreciated men, from Belisarius, who never lost a battle even against staggering odds, to Emperor Leo the Isaurian, who rescued Constantinople and Eastern Europe from the first major Muslim invasion out of the desert sands. From Emperor Justinian who almost restored the ancient glory of Rome, to Emperor Basil who saved the Byzantine dream from hordes of Bulgars. And the list goes on. I would, if I could, write much longer on this unfortunately forgotten kingdom, but since I cannot, I will leave you with this: If ever you have time you don't know what to do with, find some materials on the Byzantine Empire, and perhaps you will find reasons to give gratitude to this tragic and heroic realm.

## Perseverance to the End

As we approach the conclusion of the school year, it seems that time speeds up. There are so many activities taking place, that it is hard to fit everything in. On top of the various activities is the fact that everyone is fatigued. Both students and teachers eagerly await the end of school.

As teachers, we often remind our students to persevere, to “hang in” there. It would be easy to slack off and throw in the towel, so to speak. This fact—the fatigue, the many activities, the academic work to be completed—reminds us of the far greater feat of perseverance to the end in our spiritual life.

One saintly abbot, as he lay dying, was asked by the monks for a parting bit of advice. He simply quoted Our Lord: “He who perseveres to the end shall be saved.” Perseverance is an essential blessing that we must all implore in prayer. Saint Alphonsus Maria Liguori says that perseverance to the end is “the grace of graces.” We can only obtain it by praying for it, and by persevering day by day in our daily efforts to love and serve God.

So the task for a student, as he approaches the end of the academic year, mirrors the task we all have in life. As such, it is a good and useful experience for a student to continue diligently to the end of the year in his tasks. Soon the year will end, and soon too, our life will come to an end. Will we persevere to the end?

We again thank you for your support and prayers. We especially wish all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day this month. Let us all especially honor our loving, heavenly mother, our Life, our Sweetness, and our Hope!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*