



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2022

Last month we mentioned our upcoming annual “camping trip” at Lake Coeur d’Alene at the start of the school year. This year we were pleasantly surprised to find out that we had three full days at the lake, instead of the original two days that had been planned. The weather was perfect and we all enjoyed those few days of fun. It is a great way to get acquainted as we begin a new school year.

Thus far our classes have been going well. We just recently obtained our mid-quarter grades, which provide a good

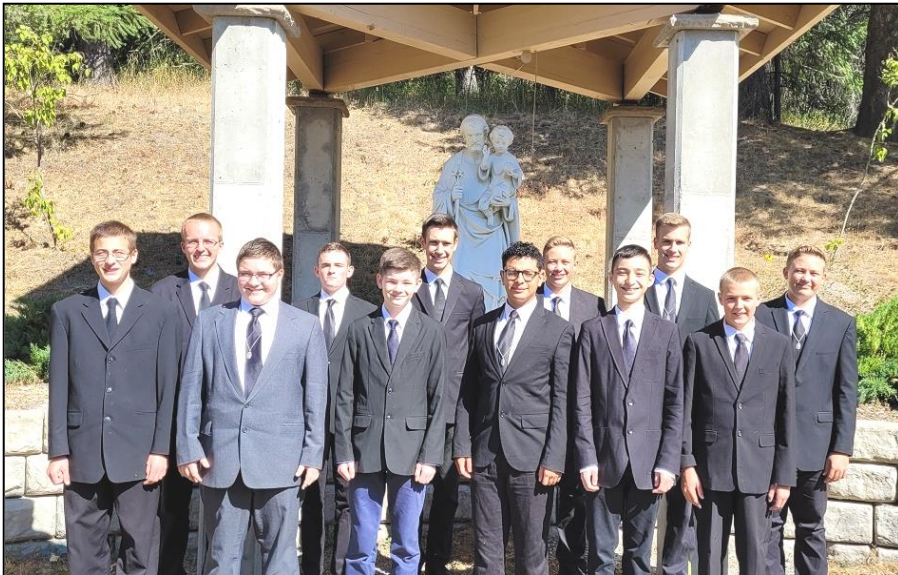
will be the grape harvest, followed by the apple harvest.

For recreation we are going to the park on Fridays and Sundays for football or soccer. We are also looking forward to some football games with the students from Mount Saint Michael.

October also means that we will attend at least part of the annual Fatima Conference at Mount Saint Michael. We especially enjoy meeting the priests who come and participating in the bishop’s Pontifical High Mass. The Conference guests will also come over

October Calendar

- 3 – Football game; Brother Martin Marie’s feastday
- 13 – Attend Fatima Conference events
- 14 – Bishop’s Mass and tonsure ceremony
- 16 – Mr. Gerard Keaveney’s feastday
- 20 – Football game
- 28 – End of the First Quarter; Henry’s birthday
- 30 – Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 31 – Start of Second Quarter



This year’s group includes five new seminarians from Arizona, Idaho, Utah and Washington, who join seven others returning from last year.

idea of how we are doing in our studies and what areas need improvement. We have one month left until the end of the First Quarter.

In addition to studies there have been plenty of chores and activities. Our garden has been providing an abundance of peppers, tomatoes and squash. We have also started harvesting plums and pears from our trees. Next

here to the City of Mary at one point, which will give us a chance to visit with them. So, as you can see, we are kept plenty busy at the seminary, always trying to cooperate with God’s grace and grow in the knowledge and love of our holy faith.

Earth’s Mightiest Heroes

by William Davis, gr. 12

In this day and age the world parades and celebrates its heroes. This we are right to do, but how often are the wrong people taken as saviors and heroes, people who ought not to be fully trusted and loved? Who are our “true” heroes?

The use of the term “hero” readily brings a couple things to mind. Perhaps the first thing that comes to mind are the men who have fought for our homes and given their lives defending those they love, and these men are to be admired. Or maybe you think of famous people in history who fought the wars or slew the dragons. Or maybe some of you even consider that the term denotes the superheroes that this modern world touts so much, your supermen who punch the bad guys and save the hostages. But how many thought about

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Earth's Mightiest Heroes

the men and women who healed the sick, or changed the hardened sinner's heart with a mere word, or even went for decades without a single meal? How many of us apply that illustrious term "hero" to the holy saints?

Truly, many of these men and women wrought miracles through God that your modern comic-book superheroes could only have ever dreamed about. They lived a life of trials and pain, suffering more than any soldier ever has. They accomplished more for the Church and the world than any classical hero could ever have hoped to do. Indeed, it can truly be said that the saints are "earth's mightiest heroes."

The people of all times have idolized and followed the example of their heroes. How unfortunate that in these modern times all of the contemporary "heroes" that the rest of the world would have us follow have no right to be on a pedestal. If we were to follow the advice of the children of the world, we would not have a single hero to look up to who didn't make the righteous man get the dry heaves. But most fortunately for us, we have a myriad of true heroes we can admire and follow.

We can parade the great wonder-workers of the world, with illustrious saints such as St Vincent Ferrer, St Catherine of Sienna, St Benedict, and thousands of others. If you truly stop and think, it soon becomes obvious that Catholicism must have some great power behind it in order to contain within its list of members such people as would make the mightiest superhero blush. Indeed, if we are to attain perfection, we must idolize and imitate our truest heroes: the saints.

Outing at the Lake

by David Stone, Jr., gr. 11

On August 29th we went to Lake Coeur d'Alene. The Schindler family let us borrow their lake cabin for four days. The first day we got there around two o'clock in the afternoon. Most of the boys went swimming, but since I couldn't swim I went fishing. John and Matthew swam across the lake and back.

On the second day and the following days we started the day with morning prayers and Mass. After breakfast and

Rosary we went to recreate. Henry and Ben joined me fishing. We had a little competition on who would catch the most fish. Also in the morning and into the afternoon I took some swimming lessons from Brother Martin. I can now very slowly dog-paddle with a life jacket on – you decide if that counts as swimming.

Also on that day Fr. Philip joined us along with Brother Sebastian. If you didn't want to go outside there was some stuff to do inside, which included card games, pool, board games, and many more indoor games. If you wanted to go swimming there were four ways of getting in. First, you could jump in off the dock. The second way is to go off the diving board. Many of the boys used it to throw a football to the person jumping off the diving board to see if they could catch it. The third way was to go off the 12-foot high dive, and let me tell you, even if you aren't afraid of heights

it is a lot scarier once you get up there. In the evening of the same day Mr. Harris brought his boat over so we could go tubing and water skiing. Fr. Benedict also went skiing, which takes a lot more skill than tubing.

On the third day after Mass we played and enjoyed the boat some more. I went

tubing with Brother Martin and Brother Thomas. It was one of the most fun things I have ever done. Henry, Ben and I caught mostly small fish. The big fish included a couple bass and catfish, but the most surprising catch was a foot-long perch. On the fourth and final day we went swimming and then after dinner we packed up and hit the road for home.

My Heart is Ready, O God, My Heart is Ready."

by Jorge Cruz., gr. 11

Obedience is the virtue that joins us closer to Christ and is well-pleasing to Him. Jesus, though being God, obeyed two of His creatures. Even after He left His mother's home, He was obedient to the eternal Father until death.

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Michael Dallen is laid to rest at Mount Calvary Cemetery above the seminary.



One of the seminarians attempts a flip off the diving board



Father Gregory chants the Gospel at the Solemn High Mass



Two weeks ago, we had our first funeral of the current school year, with the seminarians singing in the choir.



Three seminarians are seen here "tubing" at Lake Coeur d'Alene.



The procession returns to the church from the cemetery, after the graveside ceremony.

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My Heart is Ready, O God, My Heart is Ready

If we truly understood the beauty of this virtue, we would all want to submit even to the smallest ant, for humility is the mother of obedience. Obedience tests all virtue and without it, all our action would be done only for our own pleasure, because this virtue detaches us from our own will and sentiments.

Our will only seeks itself and does what it judges fit for itself. This is why obedience perfects and preserves virtue, even humility. "If virtue be a flower, obedience is the dew that keeps it fresh." There is nothing else that God wants of us but that our will be His. There is no safer way to perfection than that of obedience, because it is like a wall against illusion and self-love. "A little drop of simple obedience is worth a million times more than a whole vase full of the choicest contemplation," said Saint Mary Magdalen de Pazzi.

Once a holy nun was contemplating the Child Jesus, but her superior called her. She then quickly left Our Lord to serve her superior. Our Lord was so pleased with her, that when she came back, He had transformed into a boy of 12 years to show her how much she had grown by her act of obedience. When God sees a soul who practices this virtue, He sees His most beloved Son in them.

To obtain this virtue, let us think of our superiors, our equals and even our inferiors as Christ and fix our will to that of our superior. Second, if humility is the mother of obedience, charity is its father. If we meditate on our own nothingness we should be moved to be treated as a poor servant. But this realization is not enough if it's not moved by the spirit of charity. In wanting to be like Christ, who came to serve, we will want to do the will of the Eternal Father in our superiors. If this still doesn't move us to obedience, let us then imagine the child Jesus diligently obeying Our Lady in all tasks both big and small, important or unimportant. So, while we fix our gaze on the child Jesus, we will be moved to see how the Divine Word humbled himself by becoming man and obeying a simple handmaid. From this we will want nothing more than to become the servants of others.

How sweet is the consolation and sweetness that God gives to those who practice obedience. St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi once found a novice in great sorrow. The saint only said that if this novice could give herself to the practice of obedience, she would receive great sweetness and consolation. Now good reader, when you are bound to do

something, whether it be from a superior or a spiritual director, then say: "My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready."

No Substitute for Experience

At times I have been asked what helped me to be able to give sermons. My reply is that teaching boys served as a helpful preparation for the priesthood. Book learning is one thing, but experience is quite another, and teaching youth provided good experience. In fact, most of our priests taught a class or two at one point during their seminary training.

Certainly, we must be careful to not overload our



Our first Solemn High Mass was on the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady.

seminarians with tasks that would keep them from the all-important studies which are essential for a priest. Yet, for a seminarian to have just one class a day, teaching Latin, religion, or some other subject, can be a great help in his preparation for the priesthood. For a priest is also a teacher.

Now that we have several major seminarians here, each one has been assigned a class to teach. They still have plenty of time for study, yet these assignments can contribute greatly toward their preparation for the priesthood. If you are interested in learning who is teaching in our minor seminary, you can check out our website for that information (www.minorseminary.org).

Once again, I thank you for your support, your interest and your prayers. The work of forming future priests should be of the greatest interest to all Catholics, for it is well-formed and holy priests who will lead souls to God. Even one more priest is precious in the sight of God and a source of joy to all the faithful. Please continue to help us in this work! May God reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI