



THE GUARDIAN

Winter has arrived with plenty of snow here at the seminary. Our December is a short month, from the standpoint of classes, with Christmas vacation coming up. Nevertheless, we seek to spend these few weeks in a prayerful and sacrificial manner, as we look forward to Christmas.

Here at Saint Joseph's Seminary we have several Advent customs. Each seminarian writes out a list of chosen penances to perform in preparation for Christmas. We turn these in to Father for approval at the beginning of

various Advent hymns, which express our joyful expectation of the coming celebration of our Savior's birth at Bethlehem.

Well, we finally are getting the full amount of milk from our cow Matilda. It took a while to wean Birgitta, the new calf, from her mother, but that has now been accomplished. Every day there are 2 or 3 seminarians assigned to get up early to milk and feed the cows at 6:00 am. They repeat the same drill right after supper at 6:00 pm. It is a sacrifice that we are willing to make, considering the

December Calendar

- 1 – Jorge's 18th birthday
- 2 – Mid-quarter
- 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception BVM; no classes
- 13 – John's 17th birthday
- 16 – Christmas Vacation begins after classes

What Can We Do?

by Joseph Strain, gr. 12

The name Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus*, which means *coming*. During this time, we are required by Holy Mother Church to prepare for the coming of Christ. We prepare by practicing works of penances. We can also help other people prepare by encouraging them as well as practicing our own works of penances.

What did the early Church do to prepare for Christmas? In The Liturgical Year Abbot Gueranger shows that early Catholics practiced, as it were, a Lent but less severe as to the regulations to be observed. Eventually, around the year 567, there came about a law which required monks to fast from the beginning of December until Christmas. Later that fast extended to all other Church members. It became a forty day fast that was known as St. Martin's Lent since it began on his feastday. In 582, the Mass for the Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent were to be said by priests during St. Martin's Lent.

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The seminarians made a lot of pies for their fall fund-raiser.

Advent.

We also have a sacrifice bowl, which contains slips of paper. On each folded slip of paper is a sacrifice that we will perform that day. We each choose at random one of these sacrifices before the breakfast meal.

We also light the Advent wreath daily. There is one in the church to light before Mass, and there is one in the dining room that we light before the evening meal. We also sing

reward of all the fresh milk it provides.

As we look forward to our annual Christmas vacation, we pray that you will all have a good Advent and that you will experience a most joyful Christmas season with your families. What a blessing to have the true Faith and to live the various liturgical seasons properly!

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What Can We Do?

Over time, these requirements were relaxed. The forty day fast was reduced to four weeks, thus giving us our four weeks of Advent. This began around the ninth century. St. Charles Borromeo, however, did not want laxity to spread; he wanted at least to see the people practicing the spirit of the ancient times.

It is as far back as the ninth and tenth centuries that the four weeks of Advent are observed, with Christmas falling in the fourth week or on the Sunday after. But how can we best prepare ourselves during this time? We see how important it was in former times to prepare well for this feast, even though the laws were not as strict as those of Lent. Let us practice extra mortifications and do our best to prepare spiritually for the great day on which the Savior of the world came to us as an infant in Bethlehem.

No Strangers Here!

by Jonathan Lehen, gr. 11

Three months have already gone by for this year at the seminary. As such, we all are well acquainted with each other and no one is a “stranger” anymore. This being my third year, however, it has been different to get to know each other – not because there are new minor seminarians, but because three major seminarians have come to the seminary. But since, as I have said, three months have gone by, I know them very well, and there is no question about who is who. With this in mind, I would like to tell you who these three major seminarians are and what they are doing here.

Frater Mary Aloysius, one of them, used to be a minor seminarian a few years ago. Now he is currently a subdeacon. He has quite a few duties around here, and one of them is teaching our theology class. He also helps with cooking meals and other chores.

Frater Alphonsus Maria, another of the three, was also formerly a minor seminarian, and now he currently has the Minor Orders of porter and lector. He does quite a few things around here, making sure everything is done well. He plans the meals for the week, writes out the shopping list, and does all sorts of healthy food-related things and cooking. Choir is the class he teaches us, and he also teaches English at the high school. He is quite a

good substitute for Father Philip regarding music, but we still miss Father Philip.

Now we come to the last of the three, Frater Martin Marie. He was not previously a minor seminarian here, but he is advancing toward the priesthood. Just recently in October, his name was changed from “Brother” to “Frater” because he was tonsured. It was a little hard to get used to calling him “Frater,” but for the most part, we are now used to it.

Frater Martin teaches us P.E. He is the perfect person for that class, I think, because he really motivates us to get going on a lap or something of that nature... especially me. Other than that, he helps cook. He is always happy and carefree. He, more often than not, lightens the load by saying something funny or the like.

So, now you know why they are here. They help with many things around here, as I mentioned, and keep us all afloat, so to speak. We also have fun times together as well. I could have probably said a lot more, but I hope this was informative to you, and there should be no more strangers here that you do not know.

The Importance of Orderliness

by John Biehl, gr. 11

If one follows the practice of orderliness, routine, and repetition, the seemingly long and difficult days seem to warp by like jets in the sky, and the many responsibilities that one must take on, fall into a beautiful and productive harmonization. Such is the life

of a minor seminarian at St. Joseph’s Minor Seminary, and I think it’s safe to say that my fellow seminarians and I are getting the hang of it (maybe not the waking-up-early part but, I’m getting there).

One can imagine the erratic scene of 12 boys left alone without any laws to follow, and can deduce that it wouldn’t

be pretty. Orderliness produces harmony which then in turn results in prosperity and peace. St. Fernando III, once the king of Spain in the 13th century, managed to restore order in his country, expand his kingdom, and eradicate the Moors – all in his 53-year life span. None of this would have been possible without orderliness.

It was required that St. Fernando restore his kingdom to one that followed both natural and divine laws. If this wasn’t accomplished, the saint would be completing his re-conquest of Catholic lands while his own people back

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A recent Saturday chore involved cleaning up slash from logging around the seminary.



One of the seminarians enjoys baking as a hobby.



Henry did a great job in his first effort in pumpkin carving.



An important fall job is cleaning the leaves out of the gutter along the north side of the seminary.



The seminarians had another grave to dig for a recent burial at our cemetery.



Two seminarians work on dishes in the parish hall kitchen at their breakfast fund-raiser.



Winter has arrived in northern Idaho.

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The Importance of Orderliness

at home revolted. Orderliness is simply a necessary component to success. However, havoc, as opposed to orderliness, has been the culprit of every tragedy and misfortune in the world.

The greatest empire in history, the Roman Empire, fell due to uncertainty and lack of order. Even today, the pseudo-church of Francis Bergoglio was founded on the complete destruction of tradition and uniformity. As we can all see, orderliness has numerous benefits, and its absence has an infinite amount of negative consequences. Thus, we can understand the undoubtedly-true cliché: “Orderliness is next to Godliness.”

Chilly Activity!

by Marcel Mansfield, gr. 10

The snow starts pouring, and it starts to get chilly in December. Despite the weather, here at Saint Joseph Minor Seminary, recreation is as active as ever. When it first started to snow, the seminarians were all rearing to get out and dive into the snow and have some fun. We had some intense snowball fights in front of the seminary, went sledding down hills, and had a great time wrestling in the powdery snow.

During this weather we go to the gym for recreation, like playing basketball and dodge ball, and on some weekends we get to play night games in the gym! Though the weather is freezing, and there’s snow on the ground, we still do a lot of our recreation outside – like having a really fun time tackling each other at the park playing football, or playing a bunch of games on the black top near the gym.

Sometimes we go into the woods for recreation, using the trees as cover to play intense games of paint ball and air soft! Or on very cold nights, we sit around the campfire in the woods, snacking and playing fun games, like mafia and telephone. A lot of the time we recreate in the seminary, where we spend most of our time playing pool and ping-

pong, or playing different types of board games, or even battling for the piano at the five-minute breaks after classes. Or sometimes just relaxing on the soft couches after a long day’s work. Time goes by really fast, because there’s always something to do here at the minor seminary. And whether it’s the little things like recreation, we offer it all up for the greater glory of God.

Step By Step

In a few days our major seminarians will begin the long drive to Omaha. There they will join the other seminarians for the ordination ceremony on December 12th. Frater Mary Aloysius will be ordained a deacon, while Frater Alphonsus Maria will receive the remaining two minor orders.

Helping them prepare for these most important steps reminds me of my own path to the priesthood – the



Beginning on the feast of Christ the King and throughout November the Sacred Heart statue was prominently displayed in the front of the church

excitement of receiving each new order. Holy Mother Church, in her wisdom, realizes the value of not conferring the holy priesthood all at once. Rather, there are seven orders – seven steps to surmount on the journey to the summit.

We ask your prayers for all our seminarians – major and minor – that they will become holy priests, so badly needed in today’s world. We wish you all a most grace-filled and blessed Advent and Christmas season, and we promise a remembrance in our daily prayers. May the Divine Infant bless you at this Christmas and in the New Year.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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