



# THE GUARDIAN

**M**arch, for the Minor Seminary, has and always will be an action-packed month. It is the ‘transition’ month from winter to spring, and all the seminarians sense it. We are visibly energized and refueled by the increasingly sunny and jovial weather, the feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph, but more importantly by the promise of our approaching Redemption on Good Friday and our Redeemer’s resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The first day of March consisted of a St. David’s Day seafood dinner at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish, hosted by the talented cooks Mr. and Mrs. Drewsen. Leading up to the Irish Talent Show on the 15<sup>th</sup>, the performing Seminarians made sure to rehearse their acts and performances to honor the patron saint of Ireland. Almost immediately following this feast was that of Saint Joseph, the

Guardian of Mary, and obviously the beloved patron of our minor seminary. It was because of this feast that we had no school and got to play baseball at the park. Thank you Saint Joseph!

And what a way to finish the month of March! Easter Sunday, the most joyous and august day of the year, lands on March 31<sup>st</sup>, which also happens to be Matthew’s birthday. (And for the pranksters out there, the day immediately following Easter will be quite amusing....) We are all sincerely grateful for your support and prayers for the minor seminary, because the fact is, this place is simply a blessing.

### A Few Feet from God

*by Marcel Mansfield, gr. 11*

**I**f you have a dear friend who loves you and has made many sacrifices on account of your welfare, would you not love that dear friend in return

and desire to be near him in order to return the same affection?

Unfortunately, friends of this world tend to be unreliable in their affection and leave you to doubt whether they really care, as they leave you in your most difficult and trying hours.

## April Calendar

- 3 – Anthony’s birthday
- 8 – Classes resume
- 15 – Begin annual pool tournament
- 19-21 – Annual Forty Hours Adoration
- 25 – Procession of the Greater Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery

There is One, however, Whose everlasting heart burns with a love for you far above any earthly creature, and Who will never cease to love you. Sadly, this Friend is ignored.

Stranded alone on the deserted altar, Our Lord waits patiently behind the bars of His infinite love for a person, a single soul, a friend, anyone to pour His infinite love and charity on, as well as to keep Him company in the loneliest hours. Enduring and suffering the greatest torments and pains imaginable for us, the King of Kings has proved time and time again His infinite longing for His dear children to come to Him that He might enlighten and strengthen them with His consoling words. If only there was a time, an hour, in which we could keep our forgotten Savior company, a time to be free from the distractions of the day and to speak to Our Lord with our whole heart face to face.

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*Before the Solemn High Mass on Saint Joseph’s Day, Father blessed the St. Joseph cords which the seminarians had made.*

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## **A Few Feet from God**

Such is the devotion of the Holy Hour. Occurring in the late hours of the night (usually between 9:00 pm and 8:00 am), the Holy Hour, being already self-explanatory, is an hour during an All Night Vigil in which you can communicate and spend time alone with Our Lord, truly present in the Holy Eucharist. Here at the minor seminary, All Night Adorations take place several times during the year, especially during Lent. Seminarians take turns in keeping Our Lord company throughout this night of exposition. We are truly privileged with this opportunity to be so close to Him and to pour out our deepest thoughts within His holy presence.

Since we are so caught up with the affairs of the day, we almost always forget the One who has suffered so much on our behalf. As in the Holy Hour, let us strive to keep in the presence of Christ, our one true Friend, and listen and speak to Him in our hearts.

## **An Adventure with One of Christ's Ministers** *by Anthony Strain, gr. 11*

**O**n occasion priests have to go on missions. This past week (as of writing this article), some minor seminarians went on mission with Fr. Gabriel. We drove to Missoula, Montana, to assist at the ceremonies of a funeral Mass. Fr. Gabriel was the celebrant with Jorge and jolly Brendan (as Mr. Keaveney calls him) as Acolytes. The remaining three of us sang the funeral.

We left the Seminary around 6:50 pm on Passion Sunday evening. As we were driving to Missoula we listened to a very good speech given by Bishop Sheen on how to give a speech. I think that it was very good, but I fell asleep about halfway through it. When we arrived in Missoula it was about 10:50 pm., but at the Seminary it would have been 9:50 pm, due to the time change. Father Gabriel had rented a couple rooms in a motel for the night.

On Monday we woke up at 7:00 am to get ready to leave the motel. We arrived at the funeral home around 8:30 am. This left us about two hours before the funeral began. While we waited some of us practiced singing for the funeral. At about 10:00 we said the Rosary, and Father prepared for Mass. All went well for the Mass, but towards the Consecration we heard two elderly women talking in the back. We heard one distinctly say, "This is ridiculous," but the other woman said that this was shorter than most other funeral ceremonies. This gave us a good laugh afterwards.

We left Missoula at about 12:00 pm. On the way back we listened to another talk about a priest from World War II. Unfortunately, I don't remember his name, and I fell asleep again at the beginning of the talk. From what I heard I

think it was a very good talk. We arrived back at the seminary at about 2:40 pm.

This is one of many different trips that Father Gabriel has made, for others to receive the sacraments. As of this writing he has gone to Canada on mission, and Father Aloysius just left for Lewiston. So I ask that you pray for our priests who go on mission and the other priests of CMRI; but especially, right now, please pray for the repose of the soul of the man, whose funeral we had, named Gary.



*The blessing of palms initiates the beautiful liturgical ceremonies of Palm Sunday and Holy Week.*

## **The Lantern of the Tabernacle**

*by Jorge Cruz, gr. 12*

**B**ehold Bethlehem! Behold how Mary stood close to the crib. Watch as her eyes, consumed in love's sleep, contemplate the Word Made Flesh. Oh, what beautiful words she whispered, what soliloquies of unrestrained love. Yet she shed many tears, as she foresaw that he would be loved but little.

Also behold Calvary, how she held Him in her arms. She rocked Him back and forth, as she remembered the joys of Nazareth. Mary stood erect by the cross, motionless with divine grief. Now He had come back to her, just as He had arrived here on this earth, naked and alone. We can imagine her say, "My Love, you are here with me now; my beautiful Son, I am here." Oh, what bitterness and pain filled her heart! Love brought forth the God-man into this world, and Love has taken Him away.

But there is a place where Bethlehem and Calvary intersect – the tabernacle. Mary keeps close to the crib of the tabernacle, where God becomes food for man. She speaks to Him the same words; she sings the same songs. Love, love, oh Mary, stills consumes you and sorrow still afflicts you. When you see Him so alone, you stand erect close to Him. "My Love, You are here with me now. My beautiful Son, I am here. I will not abandon You."

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*Guest lecturer Mr. Dan Prado had the full attention of all the seminarians.*



*A March sunset reflected the beauty of God's creation with its various colors.*



*The seminarians dressed the part for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day.*



*We honored Brother Thomas Marie with a cake on his feastday in early March.*



*There has been plenty of work to be done on the grounds this spring.*



*The violet-covered statues provide a stark beauty to our daily prayers during Passiontide.*

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### The Lantern of the Tabernacle

Oh, Mary, what a déjà vu. His friends are all scattered and only the coldness of Good Friday can be felt. Where are those friends? Where are those disciples? Where are those who promised eternal love to your Son? Nowhere.

But you are there Mary, and you hold Him tight and speak verses of love. Oh, if only they knew. If only they knew He is theirs, and only theirs. The Eucharist is *our* mystery. For He became man for us, and He becomes food for us. Oh, Mary, what madness can love cause, that even the living God became mad with love. You, Mary, become the eternal lantern of that abandoned Lover of the tabernacle, until love consumes all things.

Let us come near to you like the poor Shepherds of Bethlehem, or like the repentant Longinus of Calvary, with tears in our eyes and pity for the God-man and His mother. Stretch Him out to us. Tell us not to be afraid and to come close. As we hold Him, let us lament for having found love so late.

### The Season of New Life

Who doesn't enjoy spring? After the cold and snow of winter, warmer weather and longer days are a



*The altar boys receive their palms first before the remaining parishioners.*

welcome relief. The robins return and begin their work of building nests; the crocuses, daffodils, tulips and other perennials poke out of the ground and show their verdure; the deciduous trees begin to leaf out once again.

The welcome return of spring is an important reminder to us of the beauty of the spiritual life. It is most



*Our Palm Sunday procession had to be shortened this year, due to the inclement weather.*

appropriate for us who live in the northern hemisphere that Easter comes in the spring. For the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord is truly the harbinger of new life and a fresh start.

Penance is that wonderful sacrament whereby the sinner returns to the life of grace. Through a good confession, God's mercy gives the repentant sinner another opportunity to rise from the dead and live and grow in sanctifying grace. Do we appreciate this sacrament as we ought? Do we make a frequent use of this sacrament of divine mercy?

Yet Penance is not only a sacrament whereby the sinner can rise again and start afresh, it is also a unique means of grace through which the penitent obtains the sacramental grace needed to amend his life and resist temptation. This, for us, must be the true meaning of Easter—rising to a new life of grace, practicing solid virtue, and forsaking sin forever. The feast of the Resurrection, then, is really about rejecting sin and the world, and following our loving Savior, through true amendment of life.

We pray that you all enjoy a blessed Paschal season. We all have much for which to be grateful. Let us live always in the spirit of joyful gratitude to God, for His many blessings. At the seminary we pray daily for you, our benefactors. We are most grateful for your support.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

*The Guardian* is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This Newsletter is free upon request.