



THE GUARDIAN

Over the past month we have concluded Holy Week and enjoyed a vacation during Easter week. Those who live in the area went home with their families for the week, while the rest of us stayed here and relaxed during this break from classes. We also spent several days on a trip, going to the Pacific coast in western Washington.

We also observed on the third weekend of April the annual Forty Hours adoration. We all were involved in singing and serving for the opening and closing ceremonies. We also took turns making holy hours throughout the first night of the adoration. There is something truly special about spending an hour with Our Lord during the stillness of the night.

Now it is the month of May, and we have many activities at the seminary. We have our own May shrine, with

May is also the month for our annual spring camping trip. It usually occurs a short time before the end of school, so it is the final opportunity for all of us to be together before the seniors graduate. Graduation is somewhat bittersweet as the seniors leave and the rest of us wonder what the next year will be like without them. We hope there will be new seminarians and that we will get along with them as well as we have all gotten along this year. We have truly become like a family and will be sure to enjoy this last month of school together. Thanks for reading our newsletter, and please keep our seminary in your prayers.

The Month She Loves

by Jonathan Lehnen, gr. 12

Flowers have just begun to grow and are making God's earth look beautiful. It is that time of year

May Calendar	
1	– Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker; High Mass and devotions; mid-quarter
6-8	– Rogation processions
9	– Ascension Thursday; Holyday of Obligation (no classes)
20-22	– Annual spring camping trip
27	– Memorial Day; Queenship Procession
30	– Feast of Corpus Christi; High Mass
31	– Feast of the Queenship BVM; High Mass; renewal of Holy Slavery

favorite month: May.

May is the month of our Blessed Mother. During this month, we should have a more special devotion to her. She is our Queen, deserving of honor, and it is because of this that we ought to set aside this month thinking more about our Mother in heaven. She was given to us as our Mother by Jesus Himself. How ungrateful we would be if we passed by this month without thinking any more of her than we do any other month. This is her month of the year. Would it not be proper to at least give some flowers to her at her shrine during May?

Here at the seminary, we do a few special things in honor of Mary. Instead of praying our Rosary in the seminary chapel at five o'clock, we go to the church at seven o'clock and pray it there, making it more convenient for more parishioners to join us in the Rosary. (It is also livestreamed daily.)

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The school children joined the seminarians and clergy for the Greater Litanies

different seminarians assigned each day to provide a bouquet of flowers. We will also join in the daily public Rosary and devotions at the church.

already. Yet those flowers do more than just make the earth beautiful. They decorate the many shrines of Mary throughout the world during her

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The Month She Loves

We also crown our Lady every day before each Mass, singing a hymn in her honor. On May 13th, we have an evening fifteen-decade Rosary procession, honoring the first apparition of our Lady at Fatima. At the end of the month, on the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May 31st), a High Mass is offered in her honor. It is also the day on which we renew our Act of Total Consecration to Mary, if one has already made the Act.

These are just some simple things we do here in honor of Mary during May. Everyone ought to do at least one thing special during this month in her honor, because she deserves it. She is the Mother of God, and our Mother too. If we never honor her in some special way, how can we expect her to give us anything special in return?

The Sculptor of Souls *by John Biehl, gr. 12*

The soul – your ticket to immortality, the greatest design and designed by the Greatest, the only creation capable of loving, adoring, and even sheltering its own Creator, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and Omega, and the Height of Perfection – is your most valuable possession. So what everyday component of life can be so powerful, so influential, and so dominant that it can completely warp God’s so-called greatest creation? I, for one, found the answer, clear and plain as day, here at St. Joseph’s Minor Seminary.

Environment, surroundings, or influences – whatever term you prefer, are the answer to this crucial question. These are the everyday aspects of life that play a major role in determining your eternal destination and have the strength to sculpt and to mold souls. The people you surround yourself with, who you converse with, and even where you live, are all soul-sculpting tools. The question

is: whose tools are they? God’s or Satan’s? The community you live in can either be the cause of your downfall or your means to attaining salvation. Want some proof? Look around you; in fact, you can use me as an example.

When I came to the Seminary, I had never experienced what it was like to have good Catholic friends. Especially because of the age we live in, it’s hard to find them. Once I got past the initial stage of home-sickness, I remember being slightly shocked that maturity existed in boys my age, that there were in fact teenagers who didn’t curse, respected their superiors, and most of all loved God. I now know that I struck gold in the land of disappointment by joining the Minor Seminary.

I’ve been so fortunate to be surrounded by decent examples, to have Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament just a few feet away from me, to have daily Mass and frequent sacraments, and to have a reasonable daily schedule that kept me in check. Not to mention the fact that I’ve never had closer friends than the 12 other seminarians that I live, eat, and talk with every day. I know I have thrived here, and am eternally grateful to God for this place – I just wish I would have come sooner.

There you have it, a testimony first-hand from a graduating senior at St. Joseph’s Minor Seminary. I hope this account has shown you how much your environment can affect your soul. More importantly however, I hope this article strongly encourages any boy from 8th to 12th grade contemplating the priesthood to consider joining Saint Joseph’s Minor Seminary. Just take the risk, make the jump; trust me, it’s worth it.

The Last Adventure of My Youth

by David Stone, Gr. 12

Over my two years here people have been asking me: How has your time been over at the seminary? And now that these years are almost over, I can say that it has been an adventure. And when I finish this year I would have finished my last young adventure. School will change you either for better or for worse. You either are prepared for life or you’re not. The choice falls on you.

In August of 2022 I started my journey, made some new friends and over time the schedule wasn’t too difficult to follow. But then, half way through that year I was thinking about leaving at the end of the school year. I had mixed thoughts, thinking that it would be nice to graduate with my friends at Mount Saint Michael, my previous school for 10 years. The seminary wasn’t what I had expected. But then, after long consideration, prayer, and consultation with my spiritual

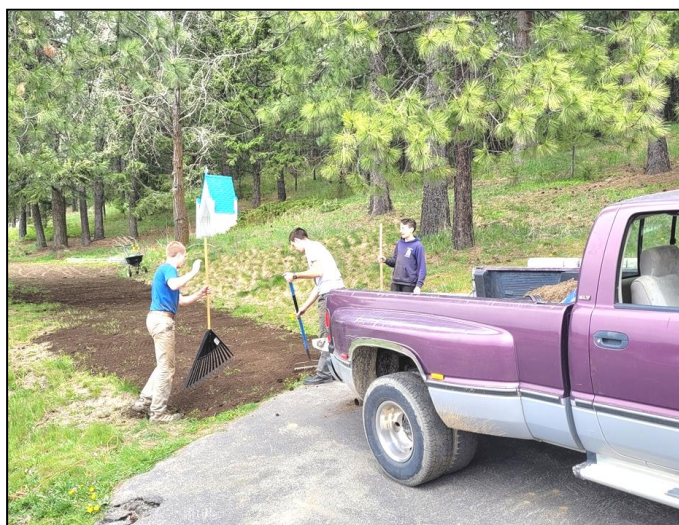
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*The deacon chants the Gospel
at the High Mass on Holy Thursday.*



The seminarians had some fun at the beach in Ocean Shores during Easter Week.



There are many of outdoor chores to keep the seminarians busy at this time of year.



Our local precinct officer gave a presentation on local politics to the government class.



Venerating the Cross on Good Friday.



Warmer weather means outdoor sports, such as volleyball in the field next to the gym.



Behold the Wood of the Cross! (Ceremonies on Good Friday).

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The Last Adventure of My Youth

director, I decided to stay. The year continued on pretty smoothly. We ended up playing both football and basketball with students from the Mount. Visiting home was easy too, since the locals are able to visit every two or three weeks. The month of May came and we went camping, which was a good send-off. Then June came and the first year of this adventure ended.

Year Two started almost the same day as the previous year. Some left who were there and five people started their journey. The responsibility to lead grew. Along with all the other seniors, I had to stand up and lead my classmates. The year went alright. Sure there were crosses but what can we do with them but keep carrying them. Then around the time I started to type this article something hit me. This place isn't just what I expected but more than I could have possibly hoped for. This year didn't just prepare me for the priesthood, but for facing the evils of the world just in case the priesthood is not my calling.

So to answer the question one last time: My years here have been a journey, a journey that I know I didn't cherish as much as I could have and as much as I ought to. But what I can say is that I enjoyed this journey. And as I look back, I hope that I have profited from the last adventure of my youth.

A Beautiful Month

May is the month of processions at the seminary. Throughout the summer months, from May through September, we have a Rosary procession on the 13th of the month, during which we recite the 15 decades of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. We also have our annual Queenship procession on Memorial Day. This procession honors Our Blessed Mother under the title of her Queenship, which is the titular feast of our religious Congregation and our parish. By having the procession on Memorial Day, a larger number of parishioners are able to attend, which would not be the case on a weekday. Of course, we will have a High Mass on May 31st, the feast of the Queenship.

In addition to these Rosary processions in honor of Our Lady, we also have the liturgical processions of the Minor Litanies on the Rogation Days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Thursday.) As we process around the property, the seminarians join the clergy in



Blessing the New Fire at the Easter Vigil

chanting the Litany of the Saints. We then conclude the prayers in the church, followed by a sung Mass of Rogation. Since this ceremony is a liturgical ceremony, prescribed by the Church, it has a greater efficacy than do our private prayers. The seminarians are privileged to be able to participate in this ceremony and use their voices to praise God and ask for His blessings.

There are many other activities at the seminary during May, since it is the final full month of the school year. Throughout the month we prepare for the act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, as prescribed by Saint Louis Marie de Montfort. This year, four of the seminarians are preparing to make this consecration for the first time, while the others who have already made the consecration are preparing to renew it.

So it is a busy time of year, with all the activities that come at the end of the school year. I have mentioned before that our routine here—both as far as the daily routine and the annual routine—hasn't changed much. Sure, there is a bit of tweaking here and there, but for the most part, each year passes as have those that preceded it. Many seminarians comment, especially toward the end of the year, on how quickly the time passes. When you are busy, especially with God's work, the time just flies by.

We thank you for being a part of our life here at the seminary. Your prayers and support mean a great deal to all of us. Please continue to pray for vocations and for priests. What could be more important than well-formed priests? You can be assured of God's blessing and reward for your support. May He deign to bless you and your families.

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.

St. Joseph Seminary 15384 N. Church Rd. Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650