



# THE GUARDIAN

**W**e have enjoyed our final month together for this school year. In early May the seniors had their class trip with Father Philip Marie and Brother Thomas Marie. Then, just last week, we had our annual May camping trip. Father Gabriel Maria organized an excellent location with comfortable cabins, and Frater Alphonsus Maria supervised the cooking. There was plenty of hiking, sightseeing, kayaking, and games to keep us busy.

In between all this activity we have had our daily May devotions, several processions, and Total Consecration prayers each day. In between we squeezed in our classes and final school work. The seniors delivered their “senior projects,” which they had

It goes without saying that we are looking forward to our summer vacation. But our departure for home will be bittersweet, as we spend these last few days together. In a couple days the seniors will graduate and depart the seminary, while the rest of us have one week remaining.

By all accounts it has been a wonderful school year. We have grown close in friendship like brothers. We have learned many new things and grown in our spiritual life. And now we are even looking forward to the new school year and the new seminarians that will join us. But before then, we intend to make the most of our summer, always remembering to keep to our resolutions. May God bless you all and

## June Calendar

- 1 – Senior graduation
- 2 – Corpus Christi procession; Marcel’s 17<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 7 – School program; awards ceremony; end of school
- 13 – Our Lady of Fatima procession
- 21 – Fr. Mary Aloysius’ feastday
- 23-26 – Annual Religious Retreat Retreat
- 26 – Vows ceremony for Brothers at the Seminary Seminary
- 27 – Vows ceremony for Sisters at Mount Saint Michael
- 30 – Parish Picnic

## An Exciting Excursion

by Matthew Mendieta, gr. 12

**A**s the year comes to an end there are many jobs to get done, but there are special things we get to do too. One of those activities is the senior class trip. This year we had five seniors, which is the most students the Minor Seminary has ever graduated in one year. The plan was to go to the West Coast. Some of us had not seen the ocean so now was the time.

We first stopped at a town called Leavenworth, Washington. This town was built in a European style and is surrounded by mountains, which made us feel as if we were in a town in Europe. We made sure to buy some souvenirs from this neat little town before we left.



*We recite the Rosary as we leave the church during the Queenship procession.*

worked so long on preparing. (We learned a lot by listening to their presentations and watching the Power Point slides they had prepared.) Now, as we send out this June issue of our newsletter, we have only a few tests and assignments remaining.

grant you a safe and enjoyable summer, free from the deceits of the devil! Thanks for reading our articles.

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## **An Exciting Excursion**

Next stop was Tacoma, Washington, where Fr. Anaya's parish is, and we stayed there for one night. Back on the road! A three-hour long drive took us to a town called Port Angeles, located in the northern area of the Olympic Peninsula, and we stayed there for three days.

While in Port Angeles we made sure to fill the days with activities and memories. One thing we did was explore the Olympic National Forest. It is a very interesting environment, because even though it is in northern Washington, it looks and feels like a tropical rainforest.

After we checked out of Port Angeles we started heading south to Oregon. We drove about five hours until we arrived in Portland. Going to Portland was a necessary stop because we wanted to see "The Grotto." This is a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows and is a very beautiful place.

Our next stop was a town in the southwestern corner of Oregon called Brookings, where we stayed for the remaining days of our trip. We made sure to see the ocean and get our feet wet. We also visited the redwoods in northern California.

After a weeklong trip we were all tired. It made us feel sad though, because at the beginning of the week, we told ourselves that we had plenty of time, but the end came all too fast. It gave us seniors a wake-up call. It just reminded us how fast time flies and how we must make the best of it. We all are very grateful to Fr. Benedict for letting us go, and thankful to all the donors who helped with the fundraisers, but we are especially thankful to Our Lady and Our Lord for keeping us safe during the trip.

The years at the seminary will always be a treasure in my heart and I am sad to leave, but am happy to have been here. I will always pray for those who supported the seminary, for they helped me in my journey. Thank you and may God bless you!

## **Much Ado About Nothing**

*by Brendan Raojohns, gr. 11*

**W**hat will I do during the summer? Temporally speaking, the plan is normally cut and dried, but what about spiritually speaking? In view of this question we must talk about avoiding the spiritual negligence, or doing nothing, that can happen during the summer. The solution to this problem and the keystone of the arch of salvation is simple: a rule of life.

All the saints had a rule of life. In this very month, we have St. Aloysius Gonzaga as a prime example of living a rule of life. During the time before he entered the Jesuits, St. Aloysius Gonzaga had a set rule of life. He spent one hour in prayer in the morning and two in the evening. He fasted three days of the week and ate sparsely on the remaining days. Starting at the age of seven, he said the

Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Seven Penitential Psalms on his knees. He kept his rule of life on his own. There was no outside motivational force requiring him to do so.

In our own life, we must follow his example of a rule of life. It does not have to be an exact replica, but to attempt his spirit would be very wise. For spiritual things, there is the rosary, along with morning and evening prayers. A set time for all things is one of the important features of a rule of life. Without one, you can procrastinate until it is very late and your fessitude is just too great. To nourish the soul, spiritual reading is a must, not to mention a trip during the week to Mass, if able of course.

"Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise." The temporal schedule must not be neglected either. Staying up very late is just so tempting, and ten more minutes of sleep is so nice. But we must firmly say *no*. And we must not stop there. All sorts of fun things should be limited, for if you can control yourself in these things, then you can become a saint.

The way to make your rule of life succeed is by self-discipline. Self-discipline was present in all the saints. Think how hard it is to wake up at midnight and pray for an hour. But St. Aloysius did it of his own free will, even in the bitter cold. What a glorious reward he received for it though in heaven. How happy we should be if we could conquer ourselves and reach heaven. Let us try to achieve a perfect self-discipline, to follow our rule of life exactly, and become saints this very summer.

## **Getting Older**

*by Jorge Cruz, Gr. 12*

**O**ne of humanity's greatest fears is the inability to control certain aspects of life, such as the process of growing up. I can't say that I think about this without feeling fear and melancholy. Looking back at the childhood I've left behind brings about a sense of nostalgia, while contemplating what I've become fills me with regret.

As for the future, it evokes feelings of fear. It is the thought that school, parents, and superiors kind of protected you from the real world. Now, as everything ends, you see the real world at hand, like jumping off a high dive. I regret and blame myself for a lot of things and wish that I had done things differently and spent more time on others. I could have, I should have, I might have become the night's phantoms.

The thought that I'm not the person I used to be, maybe for better or worse, makes me feel sick. Will I like who I will become, or am I to be always this way? What am I? Who am I? What has become of me? The thought of the future fills me with anxiety; whether I'll fail, whether I'll be successful, whether I'll reach my ideals. To let go seems quite hard.

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*Here is this year's group photo of seminarians and staff.*



*Each of the seminarian's had an opportunity to crown Our Lady's statue during the month of May.*



*Visiting the waterfalls was a favorite part of our camping trip.*



*Jorge delivers his senior project report, accompanied by a Power Point slide presentation.*



*And they're off! Our annual school jog-a-thon takes place during May.*



*A beautiful Water Fall during the senior trip.*

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## Getting Older

I want to have control over my past just as much as I want to control my future, but I can't change the past any more than I can dictate my future. Getting older means making peace with the past and accepting whatever the future holds. If you are too afraid, you might miss the opportunity to be happy. We become like caterpillars, afraid of whether we have done enough before entering the obscure and bleak, mysterious cocoon. We forget the magnificence that comes after metamorphosis. The past is past; we can only dry the tears and be grateful for the people we met, the people we lost, and the people who made us and broke us. We must be thankful for the wounds we created as well as the healing balm. When the future comes, we can use the knowledge of who we were.

Getting older means putting everything on a higher being that has created the passage of time. In times of fear and uncertainty, we can rely on hope – hope that we will discover

see myself losing or winning, falling, or getting up, losing battles, or being a victor, she will always be there; she will never abandon me. For I'm hers, and to her I shall always return, even as I'm getting older.

## The Commencement

Seniors... There is a vast difference between freshmen and seniors, with sophomores and juniors somewhere in between. The freshmen are new to everything at the start, and even late in the year are still looking to the upper-classmen for direction.

The seniors, on the other hand, set the tone. They can have a greater influence over their classmates, in some ways, than even the priests and teachers. For they are on the level of their younger fellow seminarians and provide an atmosphere, a spirit, that affects everyone. In short, the success or lack thereof of a school year hinges to a great degree on the leadership of the seniors.

Well, it has been a good year, and for that I commend the seniors. As you watch young men grow during the course of their high school career, it is interesting to see the maturation, the gradually increasing seriousness about life, the realization that the choices they make as they leave high school will have serious consequences for the rest of their lives.

You have often heard that graduation is called a "commencement" for good reason – it is not the end, but the beginning, the beginning of the rest of their lives. Through their prayer life, their spiritual reading, the annual retreat, and all the other graces available to them, these young men must

decide what they will do with their lives – whether they will give their lives to God to become a priest or religious, or whether they will serve Him in the lay state. To say that it is not an easy decision would be a gross understatement.

Yet they have struggled with that decision and determined the course they shall take. We need to continue to pray for them as they leave the seminary, for the devil never sleeps. Nevertheless, I can vouch for the fact that they have made a good end of the youthful stage of their lives, and a good beginning to their adult lives.

I pray that you will all experience a relaxing, joyful summer with your families, far from the enticements of a corrupt world. By so doing, we hope one day to enjoy, together with all the saints, the eternal joys of heaven. Thanks for your support!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*



*On the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month we pray the 15 decades of the Rosary in procession around the grounds*

our life's calling and fulfill our purpose, which is to know, love and serve God. When we are burdened by regrets from the past, we must maintain faith – faith in the power of God's love to forgive our sins, even when we struggle to forgive ourselves. When we worry about the future, we must strive to embody love – love, for it is through love that we were created and by our amount of love we will be judged.

When my life flashes before my eyes, I see the eyes of the woman who bore God, and I think to myself, "She's beautiful." When I look upon her, a subtle breeze of peace sets in. "You are mine, mine to me, until eternity," she whispers. I remember the first time I met her and chose her as my own, more like she chose me as her own. I'm assured that, even if I see myself making mistakes or being unsatisfactory, whether I