



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2024

Several weeks ago we had our final day of school on Friday, June 7th. Within a few days, all the seminarians had returned home for the summer. The last couple of days were interesting, in that the seminarians wanted to spend as much time together as possible, before parting for the summer. They truly had formed strong bonds of friendship, as members of a spiritual family. They are determined to keep in touch with one another via email in the summer and going forward.

shed. Yet that is part of life and growing up – to advance to new challenges in the pursuit of one’s vocation.

For us staff members, of course, things have also changed. The seminary is much quieter than it had been for the previous nine months! This gave us the opportunity to have our annual retreat – a requirement of Canon Law for all religious. We welcomed close to a dozen priests, clerics and brothers to the seminary for the three-day retreat last week.

year. As you can see, even during the summer we keep busy doing God’s work!

We are most grateful for your support. Please continue to keep our seminary in your prayers. Let us all pray for more vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. May God bless you and your families, and may you have a relaxing, enjoyable summer!

In the service of Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph
Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

A Little Reminder of Necessity

by Marcel Mansfield, gr. 12

Heaven, the eternal resting place of everlasting happiness and joy, is the place for which we were made to dwell with Our Divine Creator and to be eternally united with Him. Although reaching this paradise should be the main priority of our lives in fulfilling God’s holy will, it is nevertheless forgotten in most, if not all, the hearts of ordinary souls throughout the modern world. In a world with so many distractions and temptations that are constantly trying to lead our mind away from what is truly important, how are we going to attain the everlasting joys of heaven? Undoubtedly, the strongest and simplest answer to that question would be – Mary.

Having a strong and tender devotion to Our Heavenly Mother is such an essential aspect in our journey towards eternity that it would be

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Frater Alphonsus makes profession of perpetual vows, before receiving Holy Communion.

One of the things we spoke about before their departure is the reality of separations. There are times when one must move on in his life. Sometimes it is painful to close one chapter of our lives, as we open a new one. For those who graduated, the departure was a fond farewell to the seminary that has been their home for several years. For others, it was a temporary parting until the next school year. But for all of them, it wasn’t easy to say goodbye, and I dare say a few tears were

The following day we rejoiced in the ceremony of vows, as His Excellency received the final profession of Frater Alphonsus Maria and the profession of vows for three years of Brother Mary Fidelis. Many of the members of the religious congregation were present to share this happy occasion in their lives and in the life of our congregation.

Now our focus will be on preparing for the upcoming Boys Camp, and soon after that, the upcoming school

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nearly impossible to reach our heavenly home without it. As a mother cares for her little child in order for it to grow in strength, so also will Our Blessed Mother watch and care for us, both spiritually and physically, to grow in strength and love in our battle for eternity. How do we grow in our devotion to Mary? One of the best ways of growing in our love for Mary is through the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Here at Saint Joseph Minor Seminary, we have many opportunities throughout the day to give praise and honor to Mary by reciting a series of daily prayers known as the *Little Office of the Immaculate Conception*. It is a great way for growing and giving honor to the Queen of heaven, and it is said by the minor seminarians every morning, afternoon, and evening. Praying the Little Office is a great way to start off the morning with a mindset ready to face the challenges of the day for the glory of Mary; to act as a reminder of the progress we are making and as a means of renewing our strength at Noon; and to close the day with the thought of all the gifts and graces which we have received through the hands of Our Lady in the evening.

Especially now, this being summer vacation, praying the Little Office is a great way to keep an organized prayer schedule and helps to give the spiritual strength we need to carry out our daily duties. In our struggles and constantly throughout the day, let us fly to the protection of Our Heavenly Mother, so that by her loving care and guidance, She may lead us to our heavenly home.



On the feast of the Queenship four of our seminarians made the act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.



This year's class of five seniors was the largest graduating class we have ever had.



During the month of May the school children took turns bringing flowers to Our Lady's shrine.



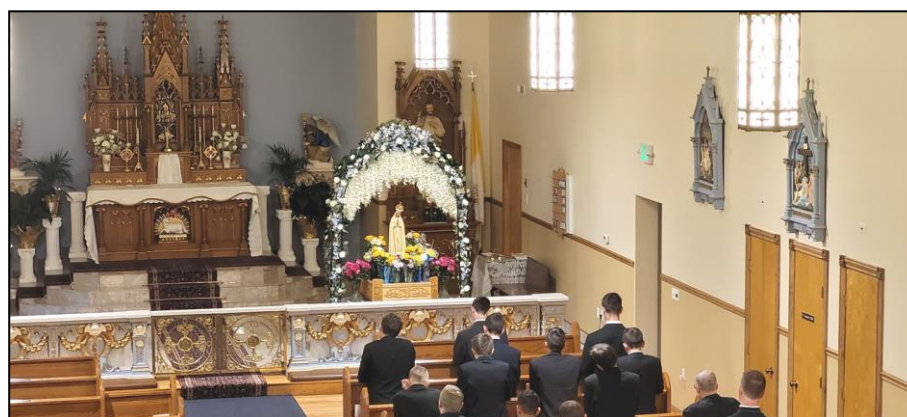
The annual Corpus Christi procession is a highlight in the liturgical year.



Children dressed in white strew flower petals on the path during the Corpus Christi procession.



Jonathan's family drove out from Minnesota to attend his graduation.



During the month of May the seminarians joined in the daily public Rosary at the church, honoring our heavenly Mother and Queen.



Work continues on the planned new convent, which will allow for expansion of our seminary.



On the feast of the Queenship, Fr. Gabriel offered a solemn High Mass, sung by the seminarians.



The Credo is sung during the Feast of the Queenship.



Frater Alphonsus conducts the singing by the seminarians in the choir loft of our church.



Matthew receives his diploma from His Excellency at the graduation ceremony.



The school children prepare for the school program on the last day of school.

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.

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