



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XXV No. 12 Issue #300

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2024

From the Rector:

Just last week we held our annual Camp Saint Joseph for boys. Once again the camp was well-attended, with a total of 91 persons in attendance, counting boys and staff members. Father Philip (who was in charge of the camp) and the Brothers had worked diligently for weeks planning and preparing for the camp. There is a lot more that goes into a successful youth camp than meets the eye.

There were many activities for the boys throughout the week. Some of these were games like capture the flag, dodgeball and airsoft. Of course,

riddles led them to the next clue and so on. The theme for the activity was the seven corporal works of mercy.

Needless to say, there was daily Mass, Rosary and morning and night prayers. We also had a Solemn High Mass on the feast of Saint James the Greater. The choir consisted mainly of seminarians and former seminarians, with a few other boys who had learned the music. The choristers had two lengthy practices, so the singing was well-prepared. Everything turned out beautifully, and it certainly was a great way to center the focus of the camp on the worship of God.

Now our focus is on preparing for

August Calendar	
9	– Feast of Saint John Vianney, patron of priests
13	– Outdoor Rosary procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima
15	– Holyday of Obligation
24-25	– Seminarians arrive; orientation
26	– First day of classes for the new school year
28-31	– Seminary camping trip to Lake Coeur d’Alene

seminarians there will be one other major change this year—a new dog. A dozen years ago I thought it would be good for the boys to have a seminary dog. We purchased a purebred chocolate lab in 2012 and named him Victor. This pet became a popular fixture at the seminary over the past dozen years, but in May he began to show his age. Finally, after several trips to the vet we learned that he had a cancerous tumor. His condition worsened, with a high fever that refused to abate. Eventually we had to put him down.

Pets can bring a lot of joy to our lives, especially for boys who are far away from home. So it wasn’t long before we adopted another dog—this one a purebred golden retriever—thanks to a donation from a parish family that breeds these dogs. Brother Anthony named him Felix, the Latin word for “happy.” He is still a



Our group photo on the last day of this year’s Camp Saint Joseph

there was the traditional day at the lake with swimming and canoeing, as well as evening campfires. Another activity was called The Great Race. This was a type of scavenger hunt, where teams had to race to various locations to get the clues. Solving the

the new school year, which will be here in less than a month. Our religious will be busy cleaning and arranging the seminary, and preparing the books needed for the classes. In addition to the three new

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

From the Rector

pup at four months old, so we will have to work on training him over the next few months. No doubt he will bring a lot of joy to future groups of seminarians.

The beginning of a new scholastic year is always a time of expectation and excitement. We look forward to our 26th year here at Saint Joseph Seminary and ask for your prayers for its success. We are most grateful for your support and promise a daily remembrance in our prayers!

Son Behold Thy Mother

by Jorge Cruz, graduate

Hermann Joseph confidently strolled to his favorite spot: the outdoor shrine of Our Lady, located outside his local church. Even on this bitterly cold winter day, he faithfully visited her. Standing there barefoot, he poured his heart out to his Mother. Like Pygmalion, he stood there captivated by the beauty of the most genuine representation of womanhood. The ground was covered in snow, and the icy air was biting. It was a harsh but invigorating winter. Just as the statue of Galatea came to life, Mary came to life. The statue's original beauty was surpassed by its truest form. Mary stood before him, with the sweetest smile, and extended her hands to present him with a pair of wooden shoes—a sign of her tender love for him.

When considering young Catholic men, it's important to question whether they possess the same fervor and commitment to their faith as their female counterparts. Many men seem to believe that devotion is better suited just to women or priests, and as a result, they often overlook their spiritual growth in favor of embracing modern trends and entertainment, such as sports. This leads them to settle for a lukewarm approach to their faith, content with attending Mass only on Sundays and Holy Days. Unfortunately, this lack of dedicated faith often results in the young men falling into various sins and imperfections, appearing as devout Catholics in public, but leading a different life in private. They become men of mediocrity, men who hesitate to seek God in the inner stillness of their souls.

There is a widely held belief that true devotion for a man requires undertaking **substantial** external endeavors. This often involves engaging in activities such as advocating for political or moral causes in the world. Conversely, many men believe that genuine devotion entails mastering the theology and philosophical underpinnings of everything, becoming armchair theologians devoid of wisdom and simplicity. In truth, true devotion lies in seeking the God that resides in the soul. It acknowledges one's absolute weakness and need for God. It pursues God in everyday life, follows His commands, and lives one's vocation solely

for the love of God. A true devoted man suffers all things for his God. A devout individual seeks to carve out precious moments for communion with God. During these moments, they share their burdens, aspirations, endeavors, and concerns for their family. They strive for virtues such as courage, humility, sincerity, generosity, integrity, modesty, purity, self-restraint, tranquility, and wisdom. Their goal is to remain humble without seeking validation from others and to cultivate compassion, magnanimity, and obedience while avoiding a desire for power or being overly particular. They take time for retreat, meditation, and spiritual refreshment in the nurturing waters of the heart of Jesus.

Hermann Joseph joined the Dominicans and led a deeply spiritual life. He was blessed with a mystical union with Mary and became a guiding figure, much like St. Joseph, to his fellow brethren, growing in wisdom and holiness. He was eventually canonized by Pope Pius XII. Like St. Hermann Joseph, let any young man who truly seeks holiness turn to Mary and cultivate a special devotion to her. Those who devote themselves to her will never be abandoned, even if they stumble countless times or fall into grave sins. They will find sanctuary, forgiveness, and salvation through her. Let us, as young men, draw inspiration from the devoted relationship between the youthful St. John and the Blessed Virgin Mary. He cherished her deeply, and she reciprocated his love. To him, she was a mother in every sense, and he dutifully served her until her passing, which brought him immense sorrow. As young men, let us aspire to emulate St. John's devotion and continue to honor and serve our mothers, who have been entrusted to us by Christ until we meet in heaven.



Solemn High Mass on the feast of Saint James was the high point of the week.



The day at the lake is always an important part of the Boys Camp.



Time for the Angelus before supper.



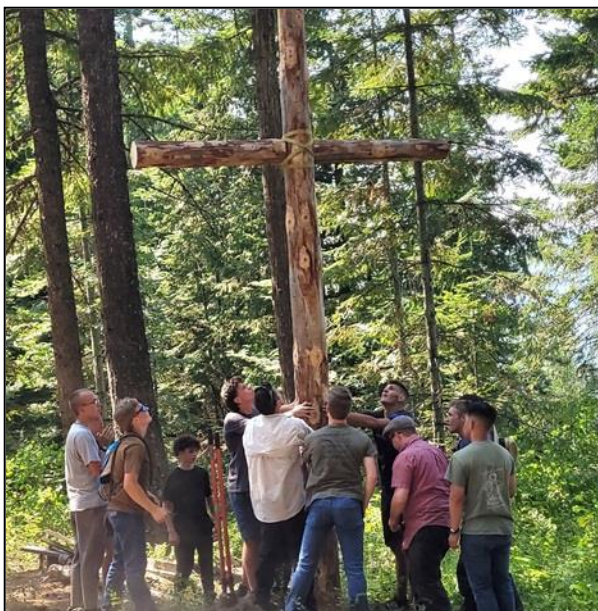
On the first full day of camp the boys attended Mass in the church.



Thomas Netzel directs the choir for the Solemn Mass, as Father Philip plays the organ.



Getting ready for another game of airsoft.



The campers erect a large cross at the campsite.



All the boys made new friends during Camp Saint Joseph.



The young men help Father Philip with serving during meals.



Father Benedict takes Felix on a walk through the campground.



Airsoft is a popular activity for all age levels.



Canoeing and swimming were the main activities at Round Lake.



During the Great Race teams competed against one another.



The boys pay close attention as Mr. Jackson gives lessons on self-defense.