



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2024

Right after we sent out the last issue of The Guardian, we went to Lake Coeur d'Alene for a wonderful 3-day outing. Thanks to the kindness of a parish family, we were allowed the use of a beautiful home on the lake. Activities included plenty of water sports, especially swimming, as well as indoor games and activities. Of course, there was also daily Mass

behind his boat. All in all, the outing was perfect.

Since then, we have been immersed in our studies and daily routine. The new seminarians did not take long at all to adjust to the seminary, and everyone is doing well. In a couple weeks we will be attending the annual Fatima Conference. Some of us will have the privilege of serving for the



On September 13 we prayed the 15 decades in procession, in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

and the regular routine of prayers, such as Rosary, office and spiritual reading.

What made this outing particularly enjoyable was the presence of seminary graduates, who were able to join us before departing for the novitiate in Colorado. Father Philip was also able to spend some time with us, and he led the most spectacular game of Mafia that we have ever played. Also, thanks to Mr. Harris, we were able to enjoy tubing and skiing

bishop's Pontifical High Mass, and we will also attend the lectures and the candlelight procession.

So, as you can see, there is always plenty of activity here at the seminary. But we remind ourselves that the most important part of attending the minor seminary is growing spiritually and doing our daily duty of study. We are all trying to do our best in our classes, and we especially appreciate your prayers for us and interest in our seminary. We hope you enjoy reading our articles. May God bless you.

October Calendar

- 3 – Frater Martin Marie's feastday
- 7 – Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM
- 10-11 – Fatima Conference
- 11 – Divine Maternity BVM; Pontifical High Mass; Candlelight procession
- 16 – Mr. Gerard Keaveney's feastday
- 27 – Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 28 – Brother Mary Jude's feastday; Henry's 17th birthday
- 30 – Final day of the First Quarter

Our Lady's Request

by Henry Bryson Tucker, gr. 11

“The more a soul is consecrated to Mary,” says St. Louis Marie de Montfort, “the more it will be consecrated to Jesus Christ.” In 1712 St. Louis de Montfort wrote a book titled True Devotion To Mary. As he predicted, it was lost for over 100 years until it was discovered in the year 1842. In this book is outlined the ways of perfect devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary

This book by St. Louis de Montfort is filled with information about devotion to Mary, but one section that caught my eye was the interior and exterior practices of devotion. He

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Our Lady's Request

explains the example of the Most Holy Rosary and that the rosary is the perfect combination of both mental and vocal prayer. Vocal prayer is when we pray out loud to Our Lord and Our Lady, and mental prayer is when we meditate on the 15 mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ and His holy mother. In the rosary you find the prayers of the Our Father and the Hail Mary (along with others). The Our Father came from Our Lord Himself when the Apostles asked Him how to pray; the Hail Mary came from the Archangel Gabriel when greeting Our Lady.

In Our Lady's appearances in Fatima Portugal in 1917, she said many times to pray the rosary. She said to continue to pray the rosary each day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. She said to pray the rosary for peace in the world and to end the war (World War I). If Our Lady herself tells us to pray the rosary every day, why do many Catholics still put it off simply because they "don't have time" or "are too tired"?

We minor seminarians make it our duty to pray the rosary at 5:00 each evening. The Church appointed October 7th to be the feast of The Most Holy Rosary of The Blessed Virgin Mary, and the whole month of October to be dedicated to the rosary. So by the request of Our Lady, let us pray the rosary each day, especially during this month dedicated to doing this holy practice.

You Know, I Like It Here

by Diego Diaz, gr. 8

Initially, when I came to the minor seminary, I was very homesick and felt pretty bad. When all of the seminarians started arriving at the seminary, however, I felt like I was home again. All of the seminarians are as if I had big brothers, which is new because I am the oldest in my family. In my opinion, the seminarians are very well formed Catholic young men I can look up to, and I do look up to all of them. (They just don't know it.) I can trust them; I can tell them my thoughts, my doubts, and they will always try to answer to the best of their ability.

The seminary for me in general is a beautiful place. It is very organized and all of the seminarians, brothers and priests make their best efforts to make the seminary look more beautiful than it already is every day. God showers the seminary with a lot (and I mean a lot) of daily blessings like: you guessed it! The sacraments, the priests, the

brothers and all of the parishioners. All of the people and things I just listed are all the machinery and oil that make the seminary what it is today, and they will keep making it better and better every day, every month, every year. (Okay, you get the point.) How many blessings God bestows upon the seminary!

The rule of the seminary is, in my opinion, one of the



Friday and Saturday evenings are good opportunities for group activities, such as a fun game of "Salad Bowl."

best parts of the whole seminary, because I have never lived by a rule before, and I love the discipline and obedience it demands. It makes me feel like I was giving up more to God than I have ever before. One of the hardest but one of the most beautiful rules for the seminary for me is probably the rule of GRAND SILENCE. How hard it was for me to keep my mouth shut! Although I think I have gotten better at zipping my mouth and to think twice before I even say anything, sometimes in the morning a "good morning" will slip and my fellow seminarians, out of charity, will say, "Diego, be quiet, it's grand silence!"

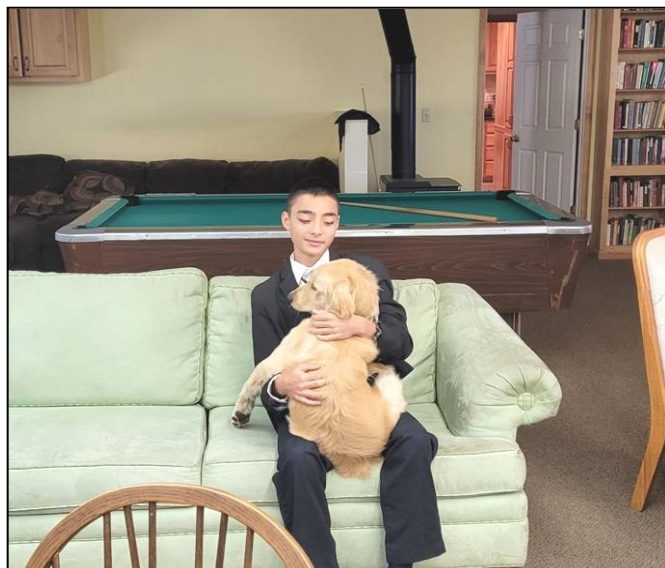
In conclusion, the seminary is a wonderful place to be in, one of the places I would not be at without my sponsors, to whom I give millions of thanks, with all of the help you could possibly need to improve your spiritual life, grow in virtue and strive with more zeal to lead a good Catholic life, become a saint and get your eternal goal in life, heaven. VIVA CRISTO REY!!!



Brother Simon Marie organized the seminarians to process the plums into jam, syrup and plum sauce.



Everyone enjoyed boat rides and tubing on the lake.



Our dog Felix enjoys attention from the seminarians, especially since he must patiently wait while they are at class.



Even our smallest plum tree was loaded with fruit this year.



Thanks to a kind-hearted neighbor, we were allowed to use his two jet skis.



Autumn chores have included raking the vineyard. Soon we will harvest the grapes.



Recently the concrete was poured for the foundation of our new convent.

A Defense Against Worldliness

by Alexei Ibanez, gr. 10

In this day and age it can be hard trying not to follow the ways of the world, constantly watching every new movie that has been credited as a ‘good’ movie or going with the trends and fashions of the day so as not to stick out and make others uncomfortable. Although this is a harder course of action, we must stand strong in the face of such actions and immorality. To quote the words of Our Lord: “Take up your cross and follow Me.” So therefore we must remain persistent in our endeavor to honor Him here on earth, even if that means we must stand out.

We must also remember that the way we talk, dress, and conduct ourselves make an impression on the people we meet and converse with. If we talk, dress, and act like the world there will be no change in the people who are of the world. But if we conduct ourselves in a truly Catholic manner and endeavor to be a light in these dark times, we will most definitely help those lost souls whose only goals are those of the material realm.

Combating worldliness is something that we must always strive to do. Some things that help with this are, for example, having increased temperance with internet usage, reading more spiritual literature, and separating ourselves from the popular culture of the day. Asking God for His help in these endeavors is especially important as we can do nothing without His help.

Praying the Litany of Humility is another great way of detaching from the world. When we detach from the world we find that we are more at peace, our spiritual life is filled with zeal, and God rejoices in us. In his *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis Marie de Montfort clearly explains that consecrating ourselves to Our Lady is one of the foremost ways to expel the spirit of the world. He says: “The first part of the preparation should be employed in casting off the spirit of the world, which is contrary to that of Jesus Christ.” He goes on to say that the spirit of the world consists in the denial of the supreme dominion of God.

Finally, knowing all of these things, we must continue to withdraw from the world, practicing the virtues of humility and temperance, honoring God, and asking for the intercessions of the saints, especially that of St. Louis De Montfort.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

Month of the Rosary

One of the most important spiritual exercises for us at the seminary is the daily recitation of the holy rosary. It is particularly important that these young men become imbued with a love for the rosary and a conviction of its importance. We would be failing in our duty of forming them if, when they leave the seminary, they failed to maintain the habit of reciting the daily rosary.

During October we recite our daily rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. This practice was mandated by His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, who, recognizing the great evils of modern times, published at least a dozen encyclicals just on the rosary. Of course, we also have the request of Our Lady at Fatima. As Sr. Lucia, who had seen and spoken with Our Blessed Mother, stated in 1957: “There is no problem that cannot be solved by the recitation of the Rosary.” She further insisted that God has granted, through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, unique graces in these times, through its recitation.

Catholic families should especially be faithful to the family rosary. There are so many evils that target the family today. The graces obtained through the faithful and devout recitation of the rosary will help the members of the family to persevere. This practice will also lead to vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. It is unthinkable that, knowing what we know today, any Catholic family would not adopt the practice of the daily family rosary.

We thank you for your support. We pray daily at the seminary for all our benefactors, and we especially pray that God will bless your families. Our children are the future of the Church. Nothing could be more important than the proper formation of the children that God has entrusted to your care. Ask Our Blessed Mother, through her rosary, to assist you in that delicate role.

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.

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