



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

August, 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters of our Seminary,

The past month of July was highlighted by our annual Camp Saint Joseph. Once again, we had a great turnout of some 80 persons, including 4 priests, 1 deacon, 4 brothers, 10 additional counselors, and of course, dozens of boys, mainly from the Northwest. We even had camp attendees this year from Canada and Vietnam.

Each day began with morning prayers and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Of course, we prayed the daily Rosary and other prayers. Additional spiritual activities included singing and serving for a Solemn High Mass, daily spiritual talks, and the outdoor Stations of the Cross, culminating in the erection of a large cross at the Camp.

Otherwise, the days were packed with numerous recreational activi-

ties, as you can see by the photos in this issue. There were many games and wholesome competition, including two days at a nearby lake for swimming, fishing and canoeing. One of the favorite activities was called "the Great Race," a sort of scavenger hunt on the property. There were also evening campfires and numerous other activities to keep everyone busy. We are especially grateful to all the cooks, counselors and supporters who helped make this year's camp a great success.

Now that the Camp is in the rear-view mirror, we turn our attention to the business of preparing for the new school year. In addition to the necessary academic issues of arranging schedules, preparing classes and collecting or ordering books, there will be the material preparations of cleaning and preparing the rooms of the seminary,

shampooing carpets, polishing laminate floors, washing windows, etc. Before we get com-

August Calendar

3-8 – Summer vacation

9 – Feast of Saint John Marie Vianney, patron of priests

10-21 – Prepare the seminary for the new school year

22-23 – Seminarians arrive; orientation

24 – First day of classes

pletely involved in these tasks, however, we will take five days for a much-needed vacation in western Washington for our priests and brothers. There are seven of us religious here at the seminary (3 priests and 4 brothers), and it is important that we take time as spiritual brothers to maintain the bonds that unite us as members of a spiritual family.

We look forward to the commencement of our 28th year at the seminary, with the return of seminarians from last year in just a few short weeks, as well as the arrival of new members. We also thank you for your support of our work of educating young men for the priesthood. Please continue to keep this intention in your prayers! And may God bless you and your families.

In the service of Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph,

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The campers and counselors pray the Stations as they carry the cross to the campsite.



Volleyball was a popular game during the Camp.



Our Sacred Heart statue remains prominently displayed in the sanctuary during the month of the Precious Blood.



All the tables were occupied during meal time in the parish hall.



Father Philip offers Mass at the outdoor altar in the camp.



At Castel Sant Angelo there is a grand view of St. Peter's basilica, in the distance.



Bryson was able to identify (using the exact coordinates) the location where his great-grandfather came ashore on Omaha Beach in Normandy.



Father Martin offered Mass on the altar in Lisieux donated by Saint Therese's father.



Everyone pitches in to set up the tents on the first day of camp.



The main parking lot works well for a staging area for games and activities



When it started to rain, most people moved inside during parish picnic.



A scene from our parish picnic, held at the end of June.



Traveling by boat on one of the canals in Venice.



Our pilgrims pose for a group photo in front of the cathedral of Rouen (France).

Oh, the Places You'll Go!

by Henry Bryson Tucker, graduate

The title for this article may be the title of a Dr. Seuss book, but it perfectly describes our 2026 senior trip. This year, the Class of 2026 traveled to Europe. Apart from seeing non-religious places, such as Omaha Beach, and eating traditional food from each country, we also visited many churches. This was one of the most profound experiences we had while traveling through Europe. Especially in Rome, there seemed to be a Catholic church on every street, and in most of these, there were major relics. While in Rome, in one day we visited twenty-three different churches!

Our trip started in France. We went to multiple cities, including Rouen (to see the execution spot of St. Joan of Arc), Lisieux, Omaha Beach, and, of course, Paris. Lisieux was incredible as we saw the body of St Thérèse, her childhood home, and her childhood church, where Father Martin was able to offer Mass. One of my favorite churches was the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal in Paris. At this beautiful little church, we saw the incorrupt body of St Catherine Labouré and the chair on which Our Lady sat during her apparition to St. Catherine.

After France, we travelled to Italy, where we spent most of our trip. In Rome, we saw countless churches with innumerable relics, including the four major basilicas. Some of the major relics include the bodies of St. Peter, Pope St. Pius X, St. Paul, Pope St. Pius V, St. Philip Neri, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Robert Bellarmine, the heads of St. John the Baptist and St. Valentine, and the foot of St. Mary Magdalene. We also saw the chains of Saints Peter and Paul, the crib of Our Lord's Nativity, the pillar of the scourging, and the Holy Stairs on which Our Lord climbed to go to Pontius Pilate on Good Friday.

One day in Italy, we took a trip south to Mugnano, a city near Naples, to see the body of St. Philomena. Before we arrived in Mugnano, however, we saw the relics of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica at Monte Cassino. Mugnano was particularly special to me, as St. Philomena is my favorite saint. This Church contained the body of St. Philomena, an altar which broke in half but was miraculously fixed by St. Philomena, and the tiles found on her tomb in the catacombs. Pax Tecum Philomena is written on these tiles, meaning "Peace be to you, Philomena."

After our time in Italy, we traveled north to Germany. Our time in Germany was short, about a day and a half, but we still managed to see a lot. We saw Marienplatz, a central square in Munich dedicated to Our Lady. It has a towering pillar with a statue of Our Lady at the top. Also, we saw many churches that have the German Baroque and Rococo architectural styles. Germany was a highlight of the trip for me. The food was amazing, but the churches were even more amazing.



At Mont Saint Michel in Normandy

The trip was incredible, and everyone who went can agree that it was one of the best times we've ever had. We didn't travel to Europe solely for sightseeing, but rather as a pilgrimage. Seeing the places where saints once walked and where many of their bodies still lie was inspirational. Going to countless beautiful churches was unforgettable. These churches have been pilgrimage destinations for hundreds of years. This trip really reminded me of the beauty of the Church, and it is perfectly described by the words of St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen: "O Catholic Faith, how solid, how strong you are! How deeply rooted, how firmly founded on solid rock! Heaven and earth will pass away, but you can never pass away." I thank all our generous benefactors who really made this trip possible!

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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