



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. I, No. 4

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 1999

In late October some of the seminarians accompanied Fr. Benedict on an overnight trip to Great Falls, Montana. The purpose of the trip was two-fold: to provide Mass for the parishioners of St. James the Greater Mission and to collect a large number of books for our library. The trip provided an opportunity for some sightseeing, a visit to the Charles Russell Museum, and also, many extra rosaries. We had car problems on the return trip and therefore decided to pray a continual rosary with each seminarian taking his turn to pray the rosary. Thanks to our extra rosaries, we returned safely with a rented trailer loaded with thousands of books, donated to our seminary by a generous benefactor.

November brought All Souls' Day, with its Requiem High Mass and visits to the cemetery and the chapel to pray for the faithful departed. November also brought rain. Lots of rain. The temperatures have been warmer than normal during the month, and now the seminarians are looking forward to snow — and basketball season. Basketball practices have begun. Our small team will begin competition in the next few weeks. We'll tell you about that in our next newsletter.

December is the month of the Divine Infant. We all look forward to Christmas vacation, but before that comes we have to concentrate on making a good Advent. So here at the seminary, each seminarian will choose some penances to perform. We will daily light our Advent wreath and pass around the sacrifice bowl, praying that our Divine Redeemer will

find our hearts a welcome place for His coming this Christmas.

How's the food?

by Kevin Cox, gr. 10

People often ask us: "How's the food up there at the seminary?" I have only one reply to this question: Fantastic! Since the beginning of the year, Mrs. Carpenter has cooked delicious food for every meal. Still, she probably doesn't get enough credit. Sure, she is thanked by every well-mannered seminarian and by the occasional guest. But I think our families and friends should know a bit more about her.

Mrs. Carpenter came here as a result of a request that Father made in a couple of parish bulletins for a cook for the seminary. When she heard from a friend in Spokane that a cook was needed,

Donna Carpenter and her husband Bruce generously responded by offering their services. The Carpenters moved to Idaho from Georgia in August, just in time for the school year. We thank St. Joseph for inspiring them to offer their services to our seminary.

Mrs. Carpenter has experience. She cooked in her parents' Italian restaurant in Florida for five years before getting married. She not only cooks delicious meals, but she also makes bread, keeps the kitchen clean and teaches Home Economics. In Home Ec I have learned such things as how to make pumpkin pie from scratch, how to bake bread, and even how to shine brass. Needless to say, Mrs. Carpenter is a wonderful cook and teacher, and we all appreciate her expertise.



Mrs. Carpenter prepares another delicious meal at the seminary.

Advent

by Phil Dunphy, gr. 9

Advent is a time which we spend in preparation for the coming of the Redeemer. The four weeks represent the four thousand years before the birth of the Savior. We should do penance during this time to prepare ourselves worthily for Christmas and the coming of Christ into our hearts. At the same time Our Lord reminds us of the Second Advent — His second coming as our judge.

God promised the human race a Redeemer after the sin of Adam and Eve. The spirit of penance we have during Advent is to prepare ourselves for His mercy and the fullness of His grace that we will receive on Christmas.

The Advent season should also remind us of Our Lord's Second Coming. In the Gospel for the First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives His disciples the signs that will precede His coming. The sun shall be darkened, the moon shall not give its light, etc. Although Advent reminds us of the General Judgment at the end of the world, we should always be ready for our own personal judgment at the time of death. Our Lord is quoted by St. Matthew as saying: "Watch ye, therefore, because you know not at what hour your Lord will come." Advent is a time for penance and also a time of joy for His coming into our hearts at Christmas. It also reminds us of the Second Coming, for which we should always be ready.

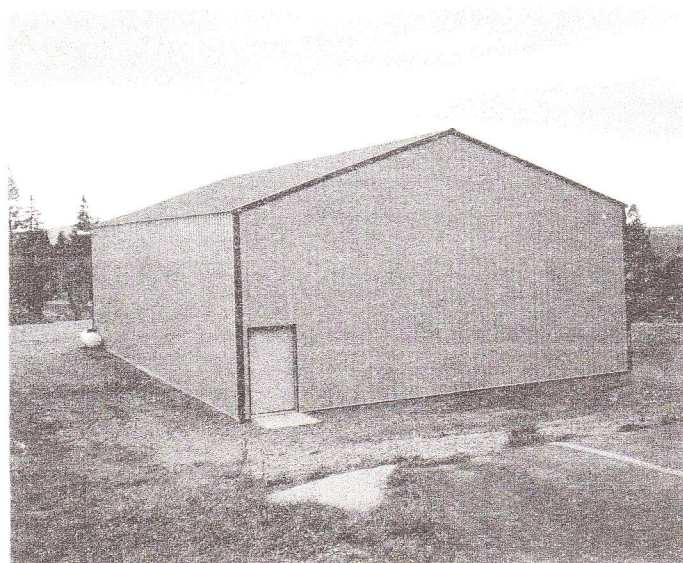
Physical education

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 9

P.E. What high school student could possibly dislike P.E.? The seminarians love P.E.! Although our gym building is a modest 60' by 40' structure, it works out great for basketball and volleyball, the seminarians' favorite pastimes. Practically every day at one time or another, you will find the seminarians practicing for basketball season, playing volleyball, or just shooting hoops.

Our daily P.E. period is precious to us, and we use every second of it. Literally! It starts at 10:50 a.m., after Math. When the bell rings, we race to our rooms and change, then head on down to the gym. We start off with stretches and calisthenics. Squats, jumping jacks, push-ups, and other such workouts are performed. Then we play basketball, football or volleyball for the remainder of the period. (Fr. Benedict sometimes joins us for volleyball.)

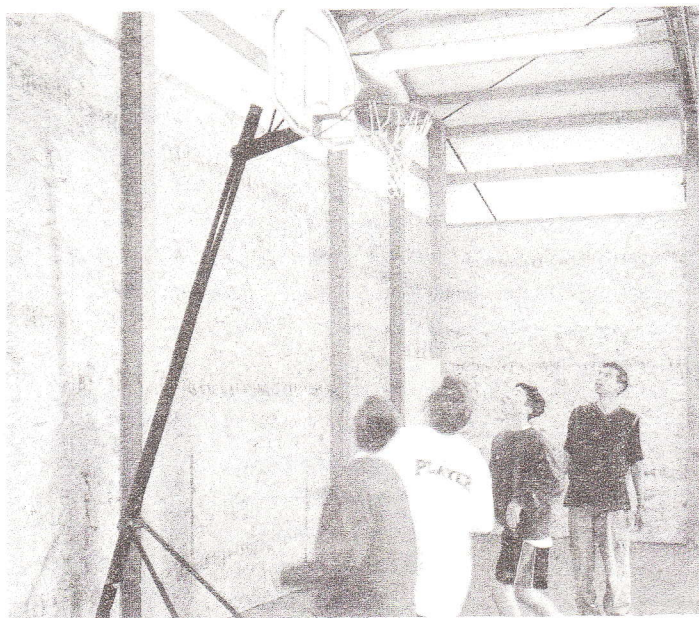
On Wednesday the seminarians are joined by the eighth-grade boys from Sr. Shannon's class for an extended P.E. period. This day is the best of all because, instead of the usual 6 players, we have the opportunity to play a real game, 5-on-5. During our little scrimmages, we learn the rules of the game, the *do's* and *don'ts*. We become better and learn the value of team play and sportsmanship.



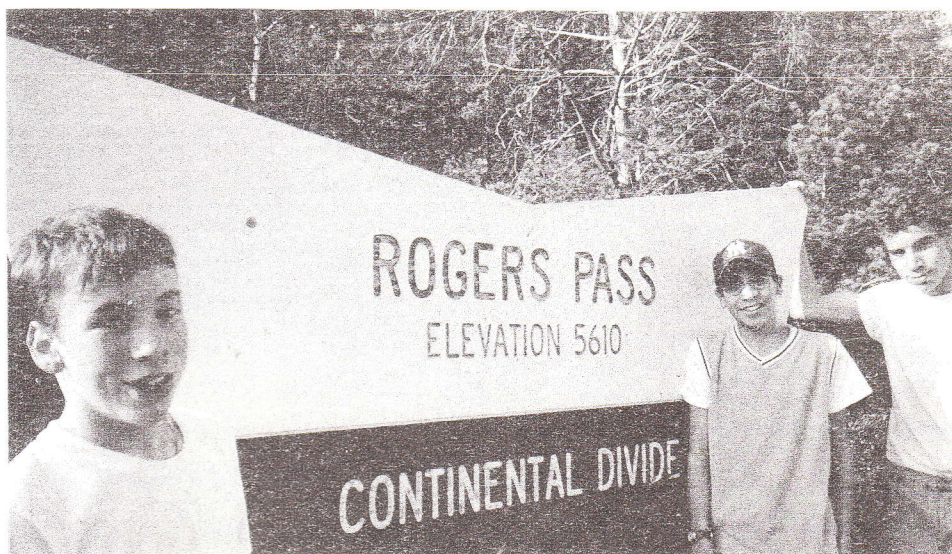
A view of the outside of the gymnasium.



The seminarians and eighth-grade boys play a spirited game of volleyball in the gym.



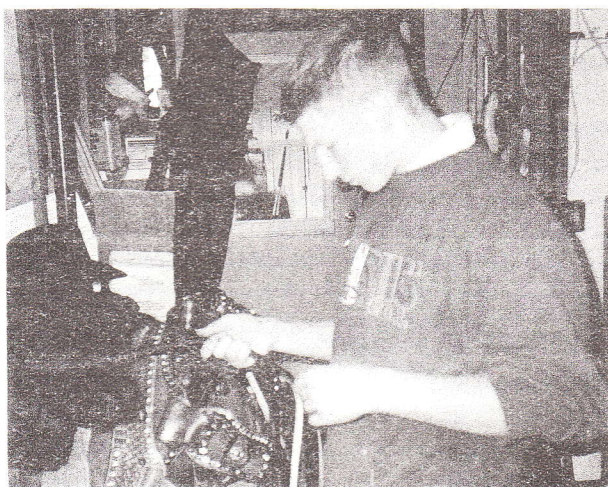
Another favorite sport of the seminarians is basketball.



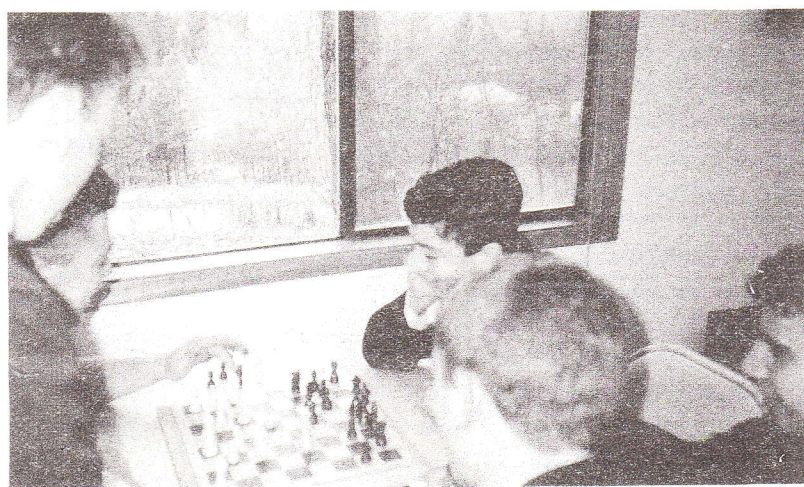
Several seminarians at Rogers Pass in Montana.



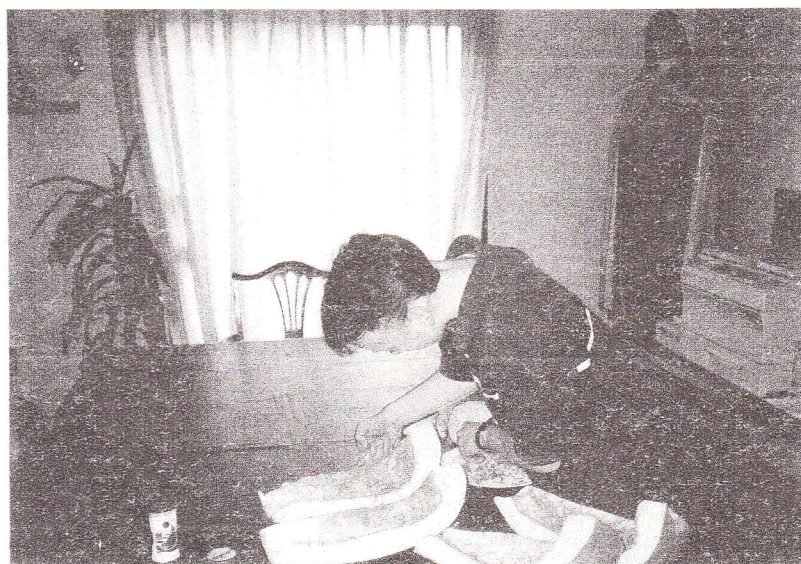
The seminarians enjoy a game of volleyball in the gym.



Fulton braids leather for a whip.



Francis and Philip play a game of chess.



Kevin prepares to cook raw pumpkin for pumpkin pie.



Kevin proudly presents freshly-baked pumpkin pie.

The Little Office of the Immaculate Conception

by Fr. Benedict, CMRI

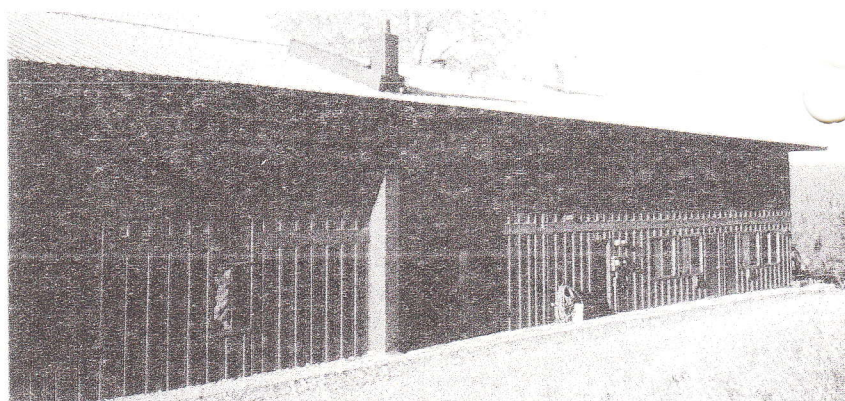
The special devotions to saints which we foster at the seminary are the devotions to Our Lady and to St. Joseph. While there are many titles of Our Lady, the one we especially honor is the Immaculate Conception. The seminarians recite daily the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception, a beautiful tribute to Our Lady, a devotion which is also practiced by the members of our Third Order.

This "office" imitates the Divine Office recited by priests, in that it has seven parts. The parts, or "hours," are distributed throughout the day, recalling the words of Psalm 118: "Seven times a day have I sung Thy praises." No one knows for sure who composed this beautiful office, but we do find in the life of the Jesuit lay-brother St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, that the saint wrote out and distributed copies of the office to seminarians and others.

The Little Office of the Immaculate Conception is filled with the praises of Our Lady's spotless purity. Citing many types of Our Lady from the Old Testament, the poetic hymns of each hour remind us that Our Blessed Mother's spotless purity was foretold in various ways in the Old Testament. This office takes but 10 or 12 minutes to pray, making it an ideal devotion for young men in a minor seminary. Recalling daily Mary's Immaculate Conception will naturally lead them to also pray to her for that purity, which is so essential a virtue for one who aspires to the priesthood.

Closing thoughts

Our novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculate Conception begins on November 29. Another novena begins on December 16, in preparation for Christmas. Our benefactors will have a special remembrance in these novenas. In addition, a triduum of Masses will be offered at the seminary on December 23, 24 and 25 for our benefactors and for all whose names are submitted. If you would like to have any special intentions remembered in the Christmas novena and in these Masses, please be sure to send them in, using the enclosed card.



A view from the north side of the seminary.

Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

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.

We are happy to pray for you and your intentions. Not only are these prayers our way of showing our gratitude for your support, they remind the seminarians that the role of priesthood is one of intercession before God for the faithful. Thus our prayers serve as part of the preparation for ascending, one day, the altar of God.

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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