



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2001

Just a couple of weeks ago we returned from our Christmas vacation, having spent two weeks with our families. We all returned well rested, but not quite ready to get back to school. Oh well, it was nice while it lasted.

During our first week back at the seminary, we had our annual Christmas party. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter prepared steaks for us on their grill, which was their Christmas present to us. After supper we had our dessert, a chocolate torte, which Father had prepared, and then opened our gifts. One of the articles below explains about these gifts.

As this issue goes to press, we are preparing to leave for our first basketball tournament. During this season we will attend three tournaments, during which we will play the majority of our games. In our next issue we will tell you more about our basketball season, and the tournaments in particular.

Our aids to Heaven

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10

In the seminary we have many reminders of our goal in life. There are holy pictures and holy cards, but the most indelible reminders are the life-size statues of Our Lady, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Joseph and other saints. Not counting the four statues in our chapel, we have five large statues and one very large crucifix in the other rooms of the seminary, such as the classroom, living room, dining room and dormitory. There also are numerous smaller statues and holy pictures. These representations lift our minds and souls to God.

The statue of Our Lady always seems to be telling us that if we imitate her

virtues we shall share the Beatific Vision in Heaven with her. Mary gazes down at us seminarians with love and tenderness. Devotion and heart-felt gratitude are all we can offer to thank her for her constant intercession and maternal care.

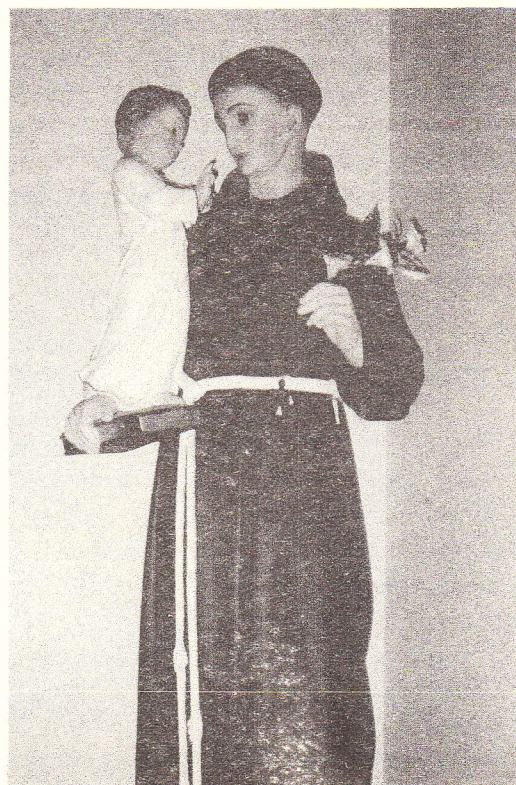
The Sacred Heart smiles down upon us, longing for the time when we will be with Him in eternal bliss. We are very blessed to have such a beautiful image of Jesus smile upon our work in class. If we begin to become disheartened because of a problem, all we need do is look up at Hope Himself. This beautiful statue serves as a focal point during our prayers before each class.

St. Joseph, lovingly gazing upon us from his newly refinished statue, has also very frequently interceded on our behalf. He fosters our endeavors and protects us from the snare of Satan's temptations. Every time there is a doubt or dispute whether a certain action glorifies or horrifies Our Heavenly Father, all we need do is look at the tender face of St. Joseph to clear that doubt. I'm convinced that every time an item is lost or something is amiss, we need only turn to St. Joseph for the solution.

We are all very grateful to Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph, as well as all the saints, for being our advocates in Heaven. Without them things would not go as smoothly as they have for the past couple years here at St. Joseph Seminary. May these daily visible reminders serve to enkindle our devotion and excite our gratitude.

February calendar

- 2 — Purification of Our Lady; blessing of candles and High Mass; no homework
- 3 — Basketball game
- 8 — Skiing outing
- 9-10 — Basketball Tournament in British Columbia
- 21 — Basketball game
- 23-24 — Basketball Tournament
- 27 — Mid-Quarter
- 28 — Ash Wednesday ceremonies; Lent begins



St. Anthony stands watch in the dormitory.

Christmas break

by Mark West, gr. 10

All of us at the seminary enjoy the wonderful things available to us here, such as daily Mass and the excellent education. These spiritual and academic benefits are truly appreciated. But there comes a time during the year when we need a break from the routine of waking up at 6:20 a.m., and when our brains are weary from the effort of learning Algebra equations and Latin verbs. And what time of year is this? Vacation time, of course!

I'm sure everyone managed to fit in as much loafing, sleeping, and fun at home as possible. The Abernathys, for example, got in a couple of skiing days in the plentiful snow. Many of the seminarians had the pleasure of a white Christmas: the Dunphy boys, Louis Picard from Canada, and the two Michiganders Isaac and Kevin. Charlie and Bob went to their homes in the Seattle area for the holiday, while, for me, it was quite a different matter at my California home. Although it didn't snow there, I did manage to play some basketball and go bike riding in the 70° weather.

But it wasn't "all play and no work" for some of us. Mr. Abernathy, with the help of Francis and Fulton permanently mounted the backboards in the gym. There will be no more accidents from running into the poles that formerly supported the backboards. We are very grateful to Mr. Abernathy for his hard work, because it makes for better practices, which in turn make for the much sought-after basketball victories.

Yes, Christmas vacation was a wonderful time because we all returned refreshed and ready to go. Those two weeks were just what everyone needed, because now it's not quite so hard to wake up at 6:20 a.m., and our brains are ready once again to be filled to the brim with Algebra equations and Latin verbs.

Christmas gifts

by Kevin Cox, gr. 11

The practice of choosing a *Kristkindl* is a Christmas custom derived from the German people. The word "Kristkindl" is German for Christ Child. According to this custom, the names of the members of a family or other group are placed in a bowl. Then each member chooses a name, being careful to not divulge the name he chose.

The person chosen becomes for you like the Christ Child. During the season of Advent you say prayers and do hidden acts of charity for that person. At the end of the season it is a tradition that

you provide a present for your Kristkindl, and as he opens it, he guesses who it was that chose his name.

Here at the seminary we followed this custom. During our Christmas break, each seminarian purchased an inexpensive gift for his Kristkindl, which was opened at our Christmas party upon our return. We all enjoyed this custom and expect to observe it again in future years.

We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas Season and a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Sixteen feet

by Louis Picard, gr. 9

He is really coming down the run fast. Wow, Fulton just flew 6 feet off the newly made jump! Charlie now decides to go and he clears 8 feet. All of a sudden, seminarians are trying to beat the record left and right, even if they risk a painful landing in the process.

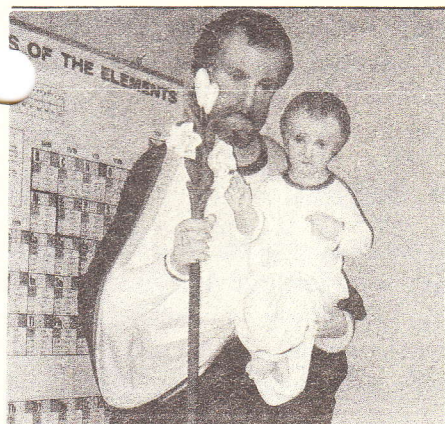
So Bob makes 10 feet; I make 12; and Charlie makes 14. That is the record until we hear "Oh, baby." "Wow, baby, here I come." Whoosh! Fulton flies off the jump and sets a brand new incredible 16 feet record. Even to this day, I don't think anyone can beat it. Tune in next month to hear about greater feats of daring.



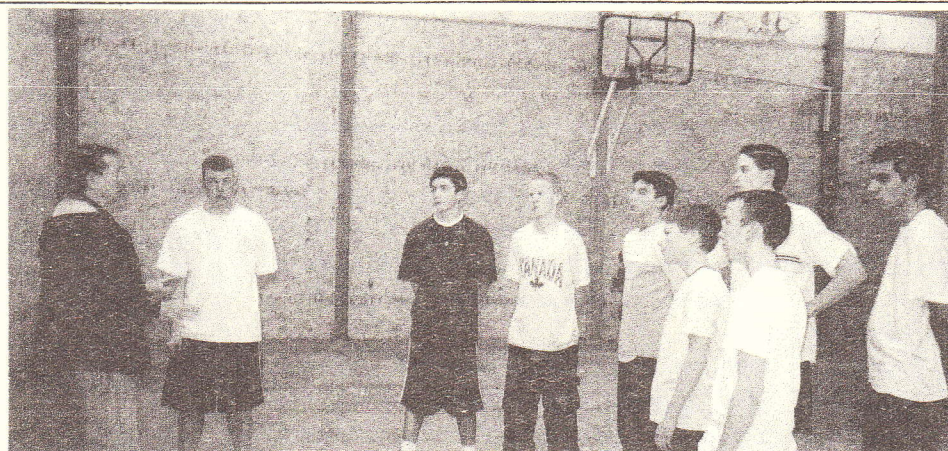
The seminarians enjoy taking runs down the sledding hill next to the seminary.



Caesar loves the snow.



A beautiful statue of St. Joseph graces our classroom.



Mr. Schindler gives a few pointers to the basketball team during practice.



Mr. Carpenter grilled steaks for our annual Christmas party.



Isaac and Francis eye the rib-eye steaks.



After opening presents all that remains is a pile of gift wrappings.



The parishioners enjoyed the seminarians' contributions to the Christmas program.

Basketball trips

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 11

Since we don't have a gym of our own that is big enough for games, practically every game is an away game, and so we have to travel. Some of the places we play at are pretty close but others are a few hours away. This means that twelve hyper-active, over-excited boys along with one or two adults and a lot of gym bags are stuffed into a van and remain like this for a few hours at a time.

Although we don't notice it, Father tells us that we tend to get pretty loud. There is some silence, though, because we always start the ride with the Holy Rosary. Sadly, the Rosary only lasts twenty minutes, and then the mayhem breaks out. You wouldn't believe it, but there is a lot to do in the back of a fifteen-passenger van. You can talk, tell jokes, sleep, or if you want, wrestle with Louis who is constantly involved in some kind of wrestling match. The problem is to convert all this energy into points on the basketball court. There just isn't any mathematical equation to do this.

I guess we all could sleep, but I, for one, go into hibernation when I sleep. I would probably stumble out of the van in a stupor. Maybe St. Joseph will help us with our dilemma. Next year we hope to be able to find a suitable gym in the vicinity

that we can use for games. Nonetheless, we are grateful for our new roomy van. After all, our basketball games just wouldn't be the same without the travel. In some ways, that is one of the best parts of basketball season.

A new semester begins

During this week, the students are taking their final semester exams. That means it is grade card time again. For me, that means a lot of work, since I have no secretary. By next year I hope to have a secretary for our seminary, but until then, there will continue to be a lot of late nights in front of the computer.

The beginning of the second semester next week also means that we will welcome a new teacher. Mr. Tim Duff, who recently moved to Spokane from Cincinnati, will teach part-time for the rest of the year. We hope to be able next year to welcome him as a regular staff member here at the seminary. We will tell you more about him in a future issue of our newsletter.

The month of St. Joseph, our seminary patron, fast approaches. We have enclosed a card for your intentions, if you wish to submit them. We will be happy to pray for these intentions during our annual novena and Masses to St. Joseph. Of course, you our benefactors are daily remembered in our prayers. We trust that our great patron will amply reward all you do for us.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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.

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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