



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. II, No. 8

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2001

On the second weekend of March we had our annual retreat. Fr. Dominic Radecki, CMRI, the pastor of Queen of Angels Church in California, came here to conduct the retreat. This was a time of spiritual blessings for all of us, and we pray that the fruits of the retreat will remain with us in the days and months ahead.

On the following Sunday, the seminarians sponsored a parish breakfast as a fundraiser. This was followed by a parish talent show, in which we contributed several songs. Last Sunday we sang a High Mass for Laetare Sunday, the first time we have sung a High Mass on a Sunday. Right now we are preparing for Third Quarter exams and looking forward to Easter and our Spring Break.

## A time of grace

by Isaac Martin, gr. 10

The seminarians would all like to thank Fr. Dominic Radecki for giving us the second Lenten Retreat of St. Joseph Seminary. All of us greatly benefited from the various conferences. This retreat helped us to search in our souls to discern our vocation and the state of our spiritual life.

Now that we have thanked Father, let me tell the rest of you what our retreat consisted of. It started on Friday, March 9, at 5:30 p.m. and ended on Sunday, March 11, at 1:45 p.m. The retreat consisted of five major conferences or sermons, spiritual counsel, spiritual reading, prayers, and silence. We also had an all-night Vigil of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday night. Early the next morning we

had benediction and Mass. Later, we were told to write our own reflections on a given Station of the Cross. We then went into the church, with each seminarian taking a turn to lead his assigned station.

The retreat was not as difficult as it might sound to some. Adequate time for recreation was provided each day. On the final day after the retreat concluded, Father gave us a magic show, which even stumped us. We thank Father for this and all the troubles he went through to give the retreat. I recommend a retreat to any person who may need a boost in his spiritual life.

## That's a lot of books to read

by Louis Picard, gr. 9

At the seminary there is a list of books that we are assigned to read over the course of the year. Since our schedule for the day is very packed throughout the day, we do not have a lot of time to read. Thus, before night prayers the schedule calls for 15 minutes of spiritual reading (between 9:15 and 9:30 p.m.). We use this time to read our assigned books.

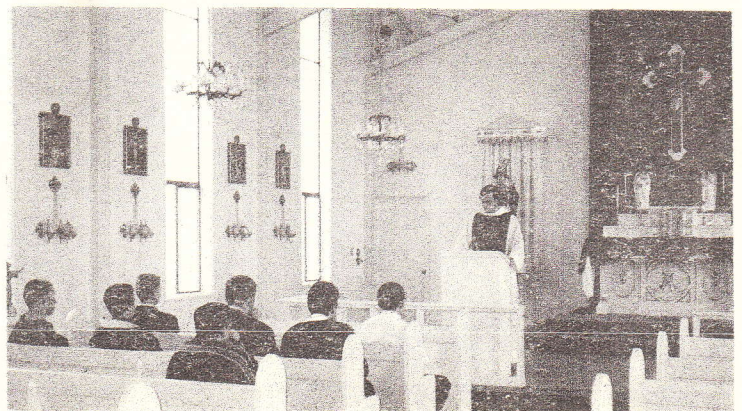
At the end of a day of school and studies, we have evening recreation and then spiritual reading. This

## April calendar

- 2 - 6 — Conclusion of Chess Tournament
- 8 — Palm Sunday
- 12 — Holy Thursday ceremonies and Holy Hour
- 13 — Good Friday Liturgy
- 14 — Spring vacation begins
- 23 — Classes resume
- 25 — Procession of the Greater Litanies
- 27 - 29 — Forty Hours' Devotions

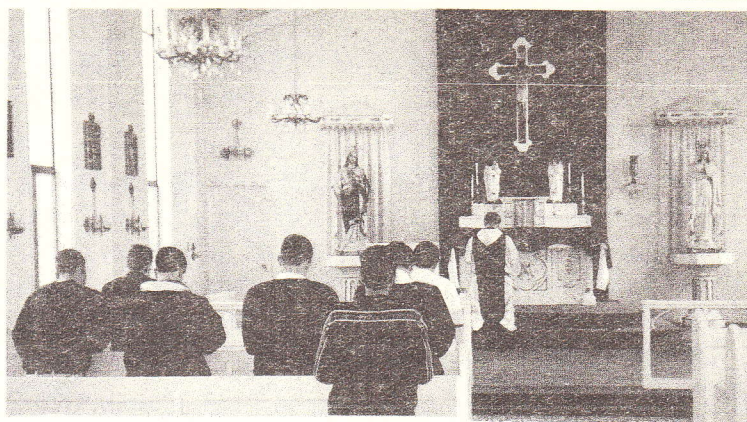
way, all the distractions of the day are forgotten and we can concentrate our thoughts on the spiritual book we are reading. In this way, the night prayers we say have a lot more meaning because our thoughts are recollected. Some other advantages are that it helps you read faster and builds your vocabulary. It is also good for your mind and, of course, it helps with your spiritual life.

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Fr. Dominic Radecki conducts the Lenten Retreat.





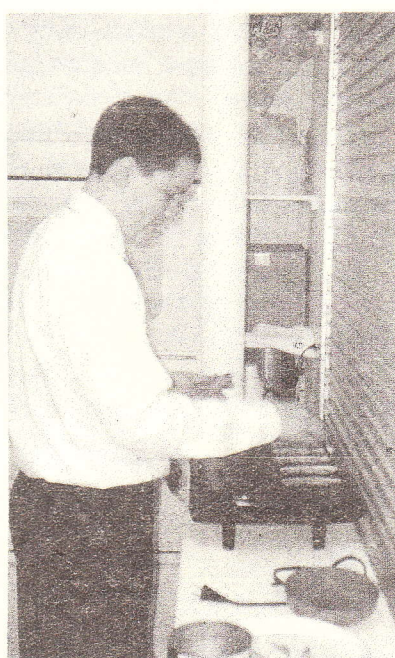
*Fr. Dominic Radecki joins some of the seminarians for Vespers during the retreat.*



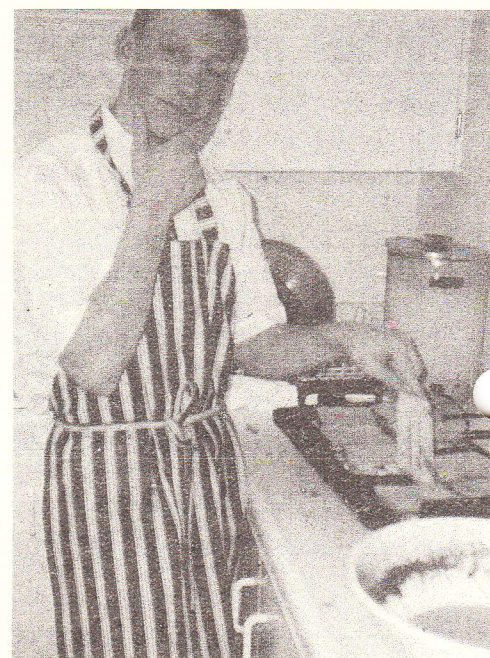
*Recitation of the Stations of the Cross during Lent.*



*Charlie displays the trophy of the ping-pong championship.*



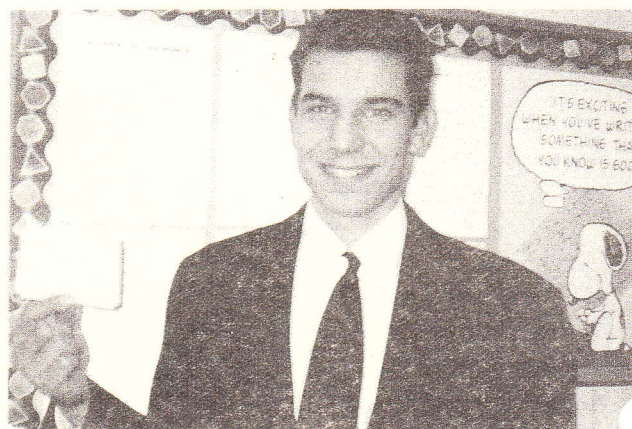
*Philip fries bacon for the seminarians' parish breakfast.*



*Fulton cooks French toast for the seminarians' parish breakfast.*



*Mr. Duff conducts the seminarians as they sing for the parish talent show.*



*Isaac obtained two homework passes for being Student of the Month in February.*



## Books to read

*continued from page 1*

Things can't get much worse than ending your day the wrong way, which could make things go bad the next day. So if you want to end your day with God in your thoughts, read a spiritual book to close out the day.

## How about a day off?

*by Fulton Abernathey, gr. 10*

As you all know, St. Joseph is our special patron. On his feastday, March 19, we are allowed to spend the day in special activities, without the regular routine of classes.

Since Mass was in the middle of the day for the benefit of the school children, we started our day with a delicious breakfast prepared by Mrs. Carpenter. We then had choir practice with Mr. Duff for an hour, after which we watched a basketball video, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. After this, there was a High Mass with incense, which was served by the seminarians while the grade school children sang. Following Holy Mass we had lunch and then proceeded to the park for an afternoon of recreation.

We are all very thankful to have had a day off school and we enjoyed it very much. But the most important thing about this day is that it is a time to remember our special patron St. Joseph.

## Net serve!

*by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10*

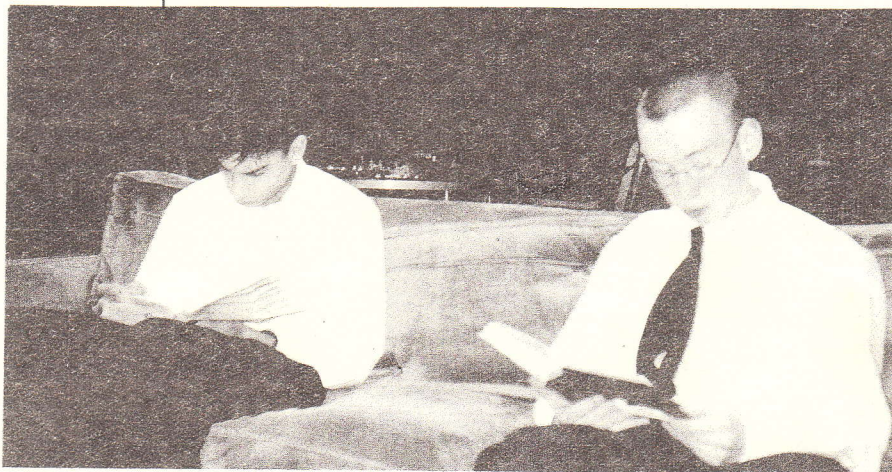
This year, our readers will recall, the seminary acquired a ping-pong table. We all play ping-pong, and play it often. Some of the seminarians have played so much that they have become really good players. So Father decided that we would have a ping-pong tournament — something we hope will be an annual event.

Fr. Benedict did all the necessary preparations of scheduling, which included two rounds of competition. Then the games began, with all but two of the seminarians participating. The first round of games was a "round robin" competition, in which every contestant played a series of three games against every other contestant. This was to determine how high of a "seed" you would place. The seeding was determined by win-loss record, and, if two participants tied, then by which player won between the two. If this still resulted in a tie, then ranking would be determined by margin of victory.

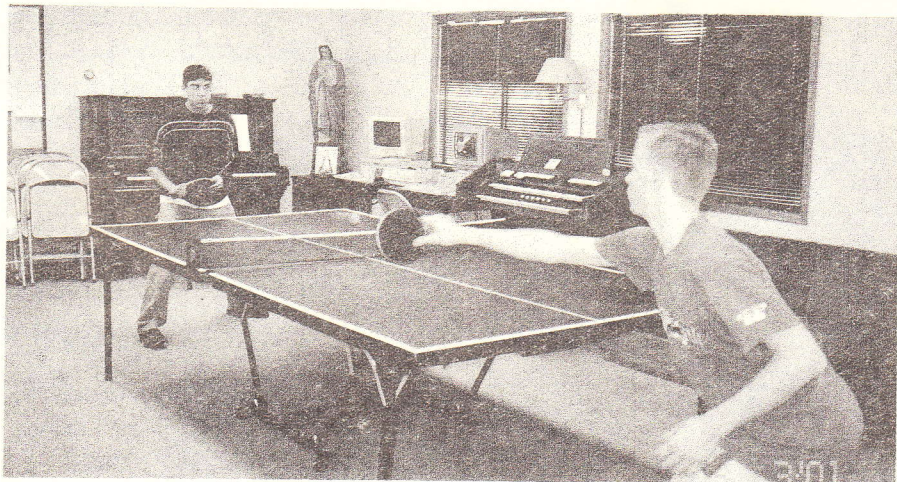
As the first series of games was completed, Louis and I earned the two highest seeds, myself achieving the first seed and Louis placing second. The round robin week was very intense since all the participating seminarians coveted the title of "Ping-Pong Champion."

During the second week, the various matches were played, until it finally boiled down to the Championship game: Seed 1 versus Seed 2. Both contestants played well, each choosing the right moment to make his slam or return. I won the first game, by a score of 28-26. In the second game our Canadian champion came out on top, 22-20. The third and final game was also very close, with slams galore. We even had a couple "slamming fights" returning slam for slam. In the end, however, I came out on top by a score of 21-19. As you can see, the final series of games was intense and hard-fought.

The reward for the winner was to have his name engraved on a placard on the front of our tournament trophy. In each succeeding year, the champion's name will be added to the trophy. Although more names will be added in future years, I will always have the satisfaction of being the first ping-pong champion of St. Joseph Seminary.



*Two of the seminarians are absorbed in their nightly spiritual reading.*



*Louis and Charlie battle it out for the ping-pong championship.*



## Wonderful pieces of paper

by Francis Abernathy, gr. 11

This year we have a wonderful new policy at St. Joseph Seminary. When a student gets 100 percent or better (with extra credit) on a test, he receives a homework pass for the class he did well in. This homework pass entitles him to omit one night's homework in that subject. Every once in awhile you might not be able to finish all your homework or forget that something is assigned, and that's when the pass comes in handy.

Father has also decided that the student that shows the most effort in his studies during the course of a month will be made "Student of the Month." At the end of each month, the teachers confer and then announce the winner of the award for the month just concluded. There are privileges to being declared Student of the Month. First, one's name is put up on the bulletin board on the list of those who received the award each month. But more importantly, Father hands the new Student of the Month two brand new homework passes for whatever subject he chooses.

The institution of homework passes and Student of the Month isn't just a break from homework but a good reason to try harder at school work. I don't know who will be the Student of the Month next time, but I sure hope it's me.

## Spring fever

Over the past few weeks the weather has turned pleasant, the snow has melted, the birds have returned, and the tulip and daffodil plants have begun to creep out of their winter beds. Spring is definitely here. Many mornings I am awakened before the alarm by the chirping of birds outside my window.

While this time of year lures us all outdoors, it is also the time when we reflect on Our Lord's Passion. At the seminary the various ceremonies of Holy Week are an important part of the formation of future priests. Holy Thursday and Good Friday, free days in other schools, are school days here. But we

## 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.

do not have regular classes on those days. Rather, the entire time is spent in preparing for the Liturgy, helping with the sacrificial work, and in other related activities. The idea is to help these young men develop a love for the Liturgy and knowledge of the ceremonies of Holy Week.

On Holy Saturday, those who are going home for their Easter break are permitted to leave, although most of the seminarians will be here in the area on Easter to assist in the ceremonies for that day. The Easter vacation will be a welcome break for all, a great opportunity to recharge our batteries and prepare for a good ending to the school year. We extend to all of you our wish for a most blessed feast of Our Lord's Resurrection.

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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