



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2003

How quickly passes the time. Already we are entering the final full month of the school year. We will have one week of school in June, culminating in Phil Dunphy's graduation on June 7. We hope to spend well our final six weeks of the school year.

After the beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week we enjoyed a week of vacation. At the seminary, our spring break always coincides with Easter, and so we refer to it as the Easter vacation. As we return from this relaxing break, we now look forward to the month of May. As in the past we will observe various devotional practices in honor of Our Lady. We decorate an altar in her honor, take turns providing a bouquet of flowers for her shrine, and assist in the daily parish Rosary, which is prayed each evening of the month. We hope that our daily May devotions will increase our love and devotion to our heavenly Queen.

May is also the time when we have the annual end-of-the year trip to the Seattle area. Of course we are excited about this trip and will write about it in our next issue of the newsletter. We pray that you all have a wonderful May, and that Our Blessed Mother will be fittingly honored by all of us, her children.

Chanting of the Passion

by Matt Dunphy, gr. 11

On Tuesday of Holy Week, we had the chanting of the Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark. Two priests and a deacon sang the parts of the Passion: Fr. Benedict, Fr. Casimir and Rev. Mr. Trough.

The longest part of the singing is that of the narrator (*Chronista*), and it was

chanted by Fr. Casimir Puskorius, the pastor of Mt. St. Michael. The part of Our Lord (*Christus*) was chanted by Fr. Benedict. Rev. Mr. Trough chanted the part known as the Synagogue (*Synagoga*), which includes the quotations of anyone other than Our Lord. These include the parts where the mob of people spoke, and that is when we joined in. Mr. Duff was there to help us sing and, as he put it: "What a good mob we were."

The chanting of the Passion is a very beautiful ceremony that took about 25 minutes. This was the first time in quite awhile that the Passion was chanted here at our church of Mary Immaculate Queen. (Last year we joined in the singing of the Passion at Mt. St. Michael.) We are grateful to Fr. Casimir and Rev. Mr. Trough for coming to our church so that we could have the Passion chanted here. It is something we all thought was inspiring, and we hope to join in this ceremony again in the future.

Spring into action

by Michael LeStage, gr. 10

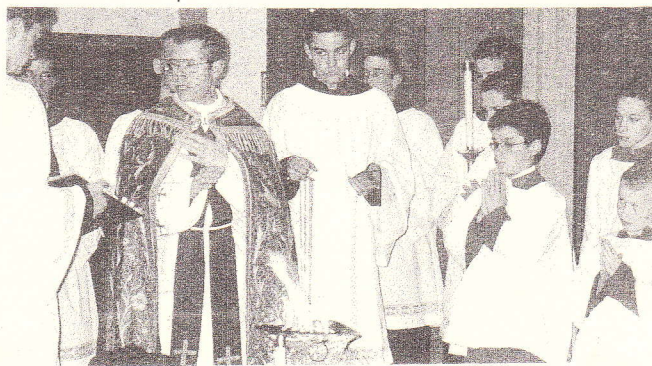
As we are creeping up on the middle of the fourth quarter, we are quickly wrapping up the year. May 7, to be exact, is the mid-quarter, and after that we have only one month of school left. This means that now is the time to really strive to get the best grades we can, before it's too late.

May calendar

- 1 — Feast of St. Joseph; High Mass and outing
- 7 — Mid-quarter
- 5-16 — Annual Pool Tournament
- 18 — May procession
- 21 — Monthly Votive Mass of St. Joseph for seminary benefactors
- 21-22 — Annual Seattle trip
- 26 — Memorial Day; no classes
- 28 — Rogation procession
- 29 — Ascension Day (holyday of obligation)
- 31 — Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Ordinations in Omaha

I think we all agree that this is the hardest time of year to stay focused. Why? Well, because of the many distractions. For example, the various spring activities, the warm weather, and the up-coming end of the school year. It's

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Father blesses the New Fire during Easter Vigil.

Action

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quite easy to give your attention to things other than school during this time of year, as I'm sure you know.

Now, as far as our classes are concerned, we are right on track, and in a few of them we are even ahead of schedule; nevertheless, we aren't done quite yet. The classes typically don't get easier as the year draws to an end — they tend to get harder because there's a lot to be finished. I hope we can all stay on track right to the end, because if we can do that, it will be a well-ended year at the seminary.

Checkmate!

by Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 9

Our annual Chess Tournament was a great success except for one thing: Matt and Phil played over and over again because of how many stalemates they had. The double-elimination tournament required that each contest be decided by the first player to beat his opponent twice (a best-of-three format). Finally, Matt and Phil finished and the winner moved on to the next round.

Ultimately, it was Michael and Robert in the championship match. They had close games, but finally Michael beat Robert and took first place, while Robert was second. I think that everyone had fun playing chess in the tournament, and I can say that we look forward to our chess tournament next year.

Christ's Passion, our Redemption

by Stephen Brodman, gr. 10

Christ's sufferings and sorrows actually began when He was born. Obediently, He led a secluded life with Mary and Joseph. In His thirtieth year Christ came out into the world and began to preach. The Pharisees, Scribes and other Jewish nobility were forever causing Him trouble and pains.

On Palm Sunday, Christ rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill the prophecies. The Jews carried and laid palms down in His path as He rode into Jerusalem. Perhaps they thought He was coming to claim His throne as an earthly King. On Maundy Thursday Christ and His disciples celebrated the feast of Passover and later went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was while He was praying that Judas Iscariot led the guards from the temple to capture and take Jesus before Annas and Caiphas. During all this time, Jesus was beaten, spat upon, and dragged upon the rough ground.

The next day Jesus was taken before Pilate where He was condemned to be scourged and crucified. According to private revelation, Jesus was scourged inhumanely for forty-five minutes, which would have killed Him twelve times over had His Divinity not intervened. After this torture He was crowned with thorns, mocked, and spat upon. A little later He was made to carry His Cross up Mount Calvary where He was to die. The

soldiers made it rough for Him on the way by whipping and pushing Him.

When Jesus finally reached the summit, His clothes were torn from Him, renewing the wounds from the scourging. He was laid on the Cross, and His arms and legs were stretched to reach the holes, which had been purposely spaced too far apart. Jesus spent three hours on the Cross in excruciating pain, in the sight of His Mother, before he expired. After all He suffered for us, we should never fall into serious sin again because all the sins we commit add to His and His Mother's pains.

God Bless America

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 12

"Peace I leave unto you, My peace I give unto you," is what Our Lord said to the twelve apostles. In the midst of America's war with Iraq all wish and pray for peace. Unfortunately, war is necessary at times for defensive purposes, security and peace. Although it is hard to see fully the motives behind war, we all have a duty to pray for our country, our leaders and the troops who put their lives in danger for the United States of America. This is what we all have been doing here at the seminary.

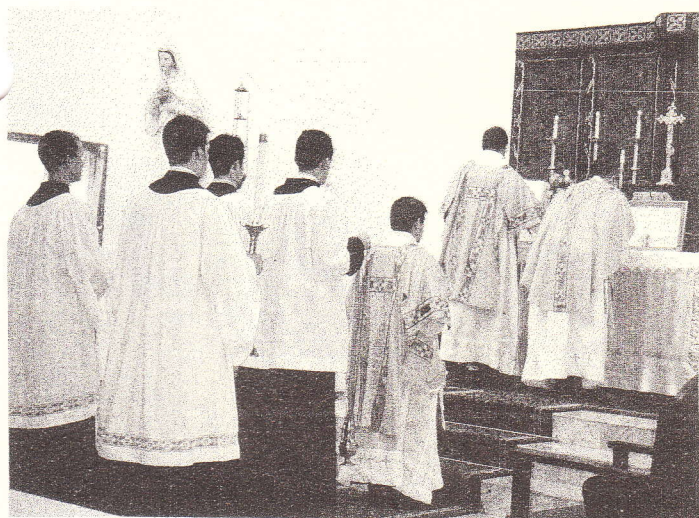
Since the war started in Iraq, we have been daily praying the Prayer for Peace after Mass. Most of us here at the seminary believe this war has been necessary, but there are those who are skeptical. All agree, however, that peace must be the ultimate goal and that war is always a last resort. For us members of the younger generation, for our country to be at war is a new experience — other than something we study in history. Mixed feelings come along with this new experience, as we recall Our Lady's words at Fatima: "War is a punishment for sin."

We have no idea of what it's like or the real terrors of war. Praying, hoping and supporting are the ways in which we can be involved. The truth about peace is that it only can happen when all men are giving the same homage to God. In the Prayer for Peace we say, "And from every tongue and people may one same voice arise to sing Thy praise by day and by night, to bless and extol Thee, O King of nations and sovereign Lord of all, O Prince of Peace, O deathless King of ages."

All here at the seminary hope for a quick end to this war, and it looks like that will be the case. Through prayer we fulfill our part in hopes for peace and by giving the due support to our troops. May God truly bless America!



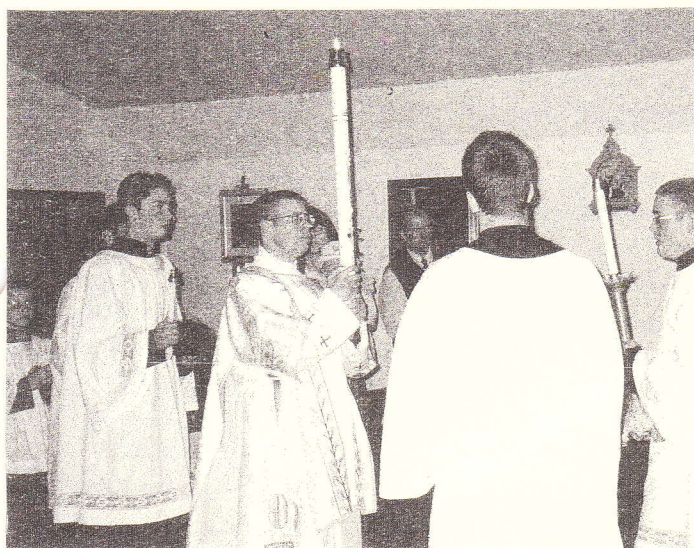
Our parish choir sings the Easter Mass beautifully!



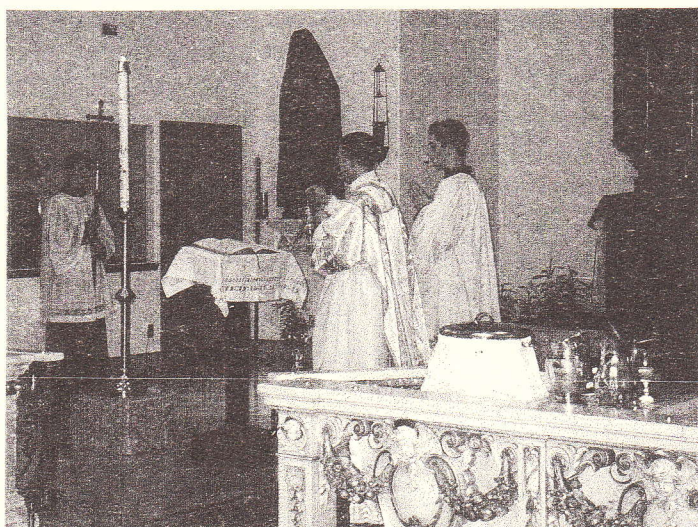
The seminarians serve at the Solemn High Mass offered on the Feast of St. Joseph.



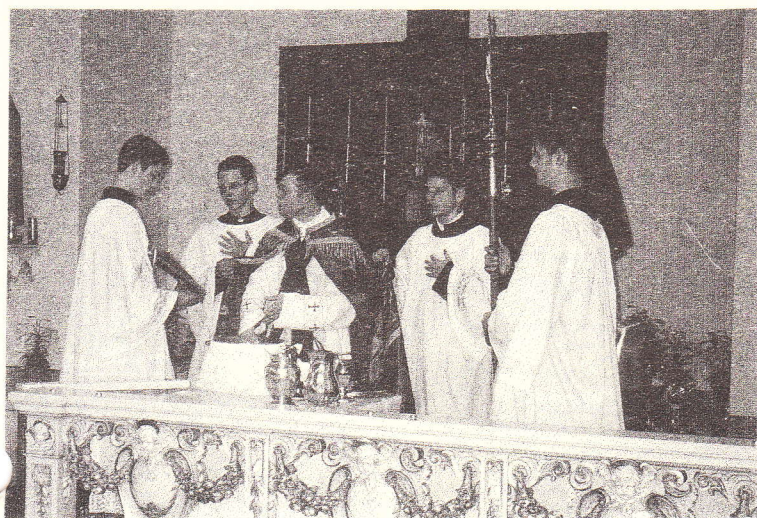
A short break in the weather allowed for an outdoor procession on Palm Sunday.



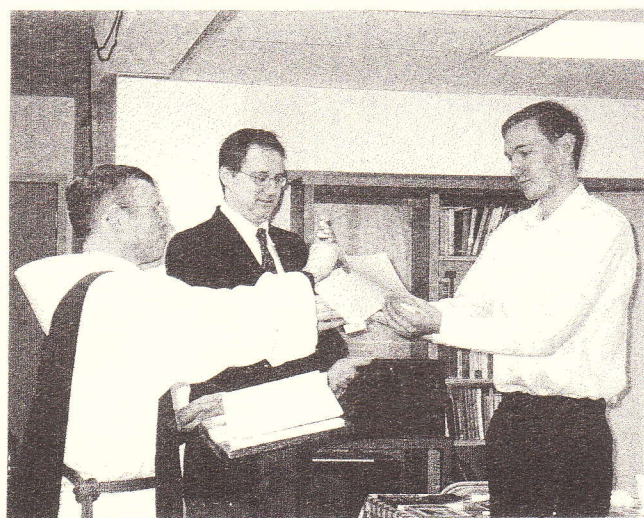
"LUMEN CHRISTI!"



The Paschal Candle is placed in the sanctuary where it will remain until Ascension Thursday.



The blessing of the baptismal water during the Easter Vigil signifies the dignity of this sacrament.



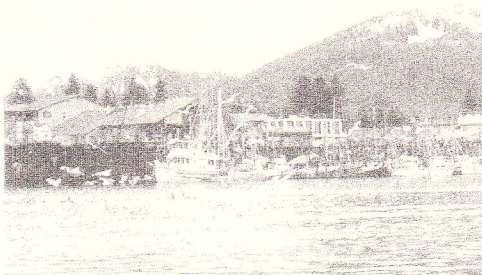
Sentinel team member Patrick Strain receives his award for sportsmanship in basketball.

Priestly travels

Holy Week was a most enjoyable and spiritually rewarding time for all of us at the seminary. As we performed the various ceremonies, I could not help but reflect on how blessed I am to have such good servers in the seminarians and a competent and dedicated choir. Holy Week, with its various special ceremonies can be a stressful time for a priest — so much so, that for some priests it is more of a cross than a delight. So I am grateful that I have the servers and choir that make the week so enjoyable and inspiring, something like a week-long retreat.

I was particularly proud of the seminarians. Our entire focus during the week was on the liturgy. Even at that, however, there is not a lot of practice time for the various ceremonies. Each of them, being unique, requires precision and care. Serving practices are, consequently, very important, but with everything else going on, there often is not the desired amount of time available for rehearsal. Of course there were some mistakes, but for the most part the ceremonies went smoothly and beautifully. As I mentioned, I am grateful for the competent assistance of our parish choir and servers, who made my job much easier.

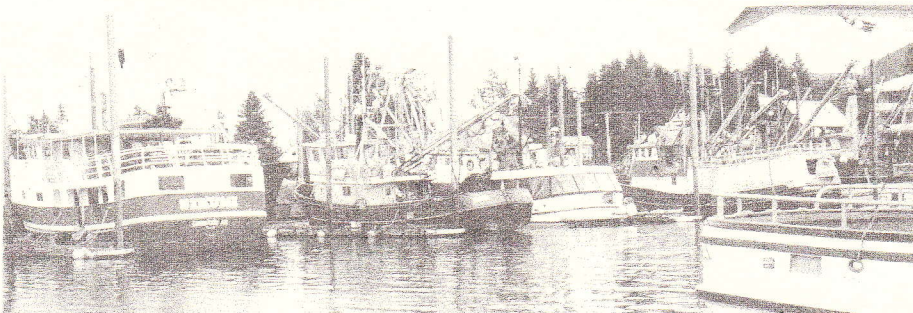
A priest, especially in our day, never really is on vacation. Even during our times of relative relaxation there are souls to save. So I find myself scheduling mission travel for these times of school vacation. Last week I traveled to southeast Alaska to provide the sacraments for a traditional Catholic family who have no Mass to attend. The heart of a priest cannot but empathize with the plight of a Catholic who seldom is able to assist at the Holy Sacrifice. That is a cross foreign to a priest. We take the Mass with us, you might say, wherever we go. It is indeed a very rare occasion when I am unable to offer Mass. For a priest there is no break in the chain of daily Mass (other than, of course, the last two days of Holy Week when a priest is forbidden to offer Mass.) And so you can see why a priest in



A snapshot of Petersburg, Alaska.



This bald eagle did not seem too leery of Father's camera.



Fishing boats line the harbor. In early June hundreds of boats will venture forth from Petersburg to fish for King Salmon.

our day feels compelled to travel, in order to bring the Mass to those who do not have it.

May Our Blessed Mother grant each of you choice graces during her special month. It is a time most dear to the heart of Catholic, for we are all children of Mary. Ever since Our dying Lord gave us His Mother from the Cross, all His true followers have loved and honored her as their spiritual Mother. He who does not have Mary for a Mother cannot have God for his Father, for "if there is in us any hope, any grace, any salutary gift, we know it comes to us through her" (St. Bernard).

Again, I thank each of you for your prayers and financial support. During May I will offer two Masses for our benefactors — the second due to the generous response from our Lenten Alms Drive. As always, you and your intentions are daily remembered in our prayers. Please continue to pray for the success of our seminary and for more vocations. May God reward you for your generosity, and may you have a blessed month of Mary.

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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