

THE GUARDIAN

Vol. IV, No. 11

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2003

The seminarians departed for their summer vacation several weeks ago, and the seminary has taken on a quiet, retreat atmosphere. A handful of men came for our annual summer men's retreat last week. July will be a time for some rest and relaxation and, of course, preparations for next year. The following articles were written by the seminarians during our final week of school.

A look back

by Philip Dunphy, graduate

As this year draws to a close, in this my final year, I'm starting to realize that time really does fly by. It seems like just yesterday when I was here with the very first group of seminarians. All the camping trips we had, all the basketball seasons, and a million other things I doubt I'll ever forget. But just as with any other senior, I'm glad to move on and take all the lessons learned and put them into practice.

Above all, when I think of the past four years, I think of all the blessings I received at the seminary. Unlike many Catholics around our country, we have Mass here every day, and we live under the same roof as God, Who even during class is only a few feet away. Then, of course, I couldn't adequately thank Father, Mr. Duff and all the teachers I've had. Then I must thank Mrs. Carpenter for all her excellent cooking and Mrs. Salgado for her cooking and help as our secretary. Also, my parents and family deserve a lot of thanks. I hope all of you will keep me in your prayers and continue to support the seminary.

Patriotism and liberty

by Stephen Brodman, gr. 10

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be ruled by a king, dictator, or other ruler instead of being ruled by yourselves? Well, if you think about it, you probably would feel that you're rather lucky to be living in a free country — a semi-free country, at least. I say semi-free because every year it seems that some new law banning something good, like guns, is passed. I'm not saying that we should be giving criminals guns; I'm saying that good people should have guns for self-protection and hunting or even for target-practice.

It is good to have some new laws passed though. For example, we pray there will one day be a ban on all abortion practices. Abortion has taken the lives of millions of the unborn. In a Catholic society abortion would be treated as the criminal act that it is.

If we think back to how we gained independence from England, we should be very grateful to men like George Washington who stood up for our country and for freedom, especially freedom of religion. Our country would

not be what it is today had we not gained our independence from England. When you have a free country and you are able to live according to your conscience, it gives you much pride to think that your forefathers fought to free this country so that it could be what it is today.

With Independence Day coming up, we should contemplate how lucky we are to have the freedoms we enjoy. We should thank God for what we have today. Let us also pray for the conversion of our beloved country to truly Catholic principles.

Summer

by Seth Reed, gr. 9

On June 6 the seminary closes for the summer. We are all excited to get away from school for awhile, as everyone needs a break. Most of us are going to get jobs so we can have some spending money for next year. The main thing is to keep busy and stay out of trouble. For many, it's a time for work; for others it's a time for vacation. And just as Father said, we must keep a good prayer life during the summer. We hope to have a good vacation and hope you enjoy your summer as well.



St. Joseph Seminary staff and students.

It's already here

by Michael LeStage, gr. 10

The end of the year is finally here, and we all have anticipated it, as I'm sure you well know. For quite some time, we have been counting down the days until summer vacation arrives. Although at the beginning of the year it seemed as though it would never end, it actually crept up quite fast, now that I think about it.

It is important to end the year on a good note, and that is what we have been trying to do in these past few days, both spiritually and academically. We have been taking finals in all our subjects, and everyone hopes to have pulled them off with good grades so as to end the year well.

Recently, Mr. Duff talked to us about putting closure to everything we do in life. To assure a job well done, that is what we intend to do with this year.

One more time

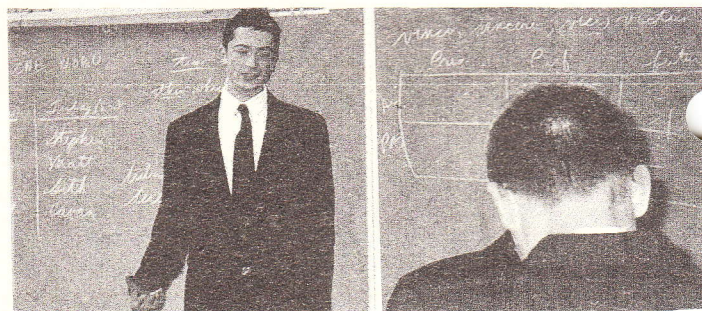
by Phil Dunphy, graduate

For the fourth year in a row, the seminary's end of the year trip was to Seattle. Along the way we visited a petrified forest along the Columbia River. Then we headed off to the home of the Rodriguez family, who charitably housed us for the fourth year in a row.

The following morning we first had Mass at St. Mary's Church in Tacoma, and then we returned to the Rodriguez home for breakfast, before we left for St. Edward State Park. This park formerly was the site for both a minor seminary and also a major seminary for the Seattle Archdiocese. But after the changes of Vatican II, there weren't enough vocations, and they were forced to sell the huge estate. Eventually, the state bought it and turned it into a state park.

This sight was impressive because of the enormous size of these buildings. It makes you think of how these facilities were once thriving with vocations and Catholic enthusiasm. Now the former minor seminary is a park, while a small college uses the major seminary building. Yet the stop was well worth it as we toured the grounds and visited the beautiful chapel of the former major seminary building.

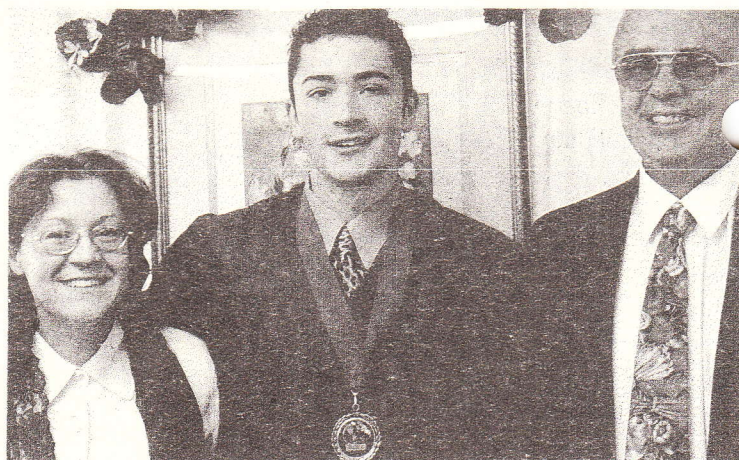
Immediately following this we found ourselves at Safeco Field, the home of the Seattle Mariners. Here we enjoyed a great baseball game against the Kansas City Royals. We were joined at the game by a couple of Royals fans who had accompanied us on this trip. They were visiting the seminary from Omaha, but they were disappointed when our Mariners beat their team 5-1. After the game it was straight home because we had school the next day, and so ended another great trip. We are all thankful to Mr. Duff and Father for taking us again on another nice trip. We all had a great time, and it was a good way to close out the year.



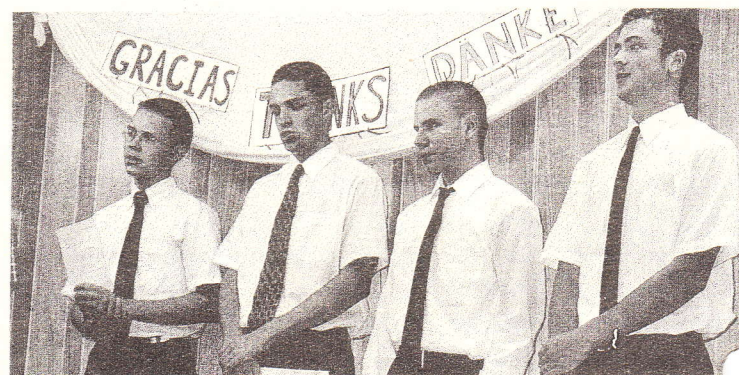
Phil addresses his fellow seminarians on the last day of school, bidding farewell to the seminary.



Phil received the cum laude medal of honor for achieving the honor roll during all four years at the seminary. Here he addresses the parish after the graduation ceremony.



Philip Dunphy's parents have every right to be proud of his accomplishments during his years at St. Joseph's.



Patriotic songs are always included in our final musical program in June.



During our Queenship procession there is a pause for prayers at Our Lady's outdoor shrine.



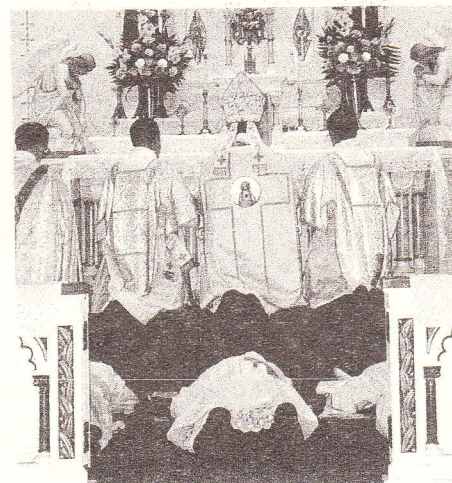
During the recitation of the Little Crown, the parishioners place flowers at Our Lady's feet.



Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI, of Akron, Ohio, was one of the priests ordained May 31 in Omaha.



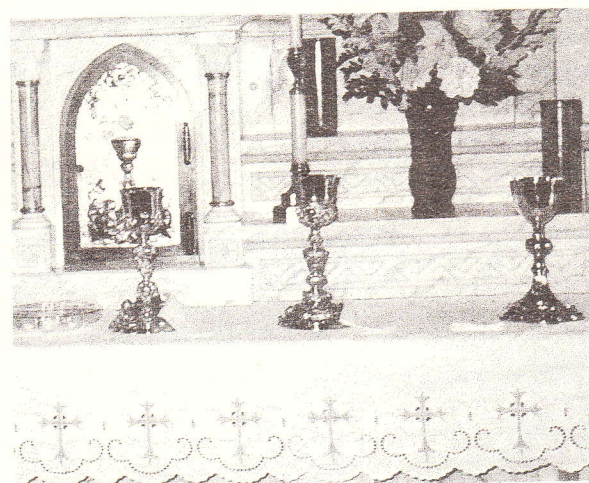
Fr. Trough was all smiles after his ordination to the priesthood.



The ordinandi prostrate during the Litany of the Saints, imploring God's blessings before receiving priestly ordination.



Fr. Benedict Hughes joins his brother-priests in assisting at the ceremony of ordination.



The chalices of the newly ordained priests were used in the ordination ceremony.

“Come apart and rest awhile”

With these words Our Divine Lord invited His apostles to retire for a time from their active works for a retreat. In fact, not only did Jesus begin His public life with a lengthy retreat, but we read of numerous occasions in which He retired from the crowds to commune with His heavenly Father. Finally, a fortnight before His Passion, Jesus “*went into a country near the desert, unto a city that is called Ephrem, and there He abode with His disciples*” (St. John 11:54). We ought to follow this example of Our Lord by making an occasional retreat.

For priests and religious, the practice of an annual retreat has always formed part of our spiritual activities. Any religious will tell you that he relishes the opportunity to set all else aside for a few days and concentrate on prayer, meditation, reading, reflection and examination of conscience. During retreat we reflect upon “the one thing necessary,” and that is the salvation of our immortal souls. Spiritual truths take on a new meaning as we reflect upon them without the distractions of our normal cares. Would that our lives could be one long retreat!

Lay people, as well, should make a retreat every few years. Here at the seminary we have offered men this opportunity in an annual summer retreat. Such a retreat not only provides me the opportunity of retreat, but it allows a group of men to experience the blessings of a closed retreat. Last year’s retreat filled the seminary with retreatants from as far away as Ohio. This year, our numbers were not as great, but we welcomed an enthusiastic group to the seminary. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity, when possible, to make a retreat that you might further your salvation.

The summer vacation and retreat allow me to recharge my batteries, to spiritually and physically rebuild my energies in preparation for the coming school year. By past experience, I know that September will be here all too soon. For now, it is time to attend to my own spiritual needs and to enjoy the break. May you all have a restful and enjoyable summer. As always, please keep the success of our seminary in your prayers. We heartily thank you for your support.

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.



The outdoor procession of Rogation, this year in late May, is a beautiful liturgical prayer for God’s blessings upon us.



Our grade school band members entertained everyone at the annual end-of-the-year program and awards ceremony.

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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