



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2003

Dear Friends,

After the feasts of Corpus Christi, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the Precious Blood, the liturgy contains no major feasts of Our Lord (with the exception of the Transfiguration on August 6) until the feast of Christ the King at the end of October. Rather, the time after Pentecost allows us to concentrate more on the saints, those wonderful friends of God who are dear to every Catholic heart. During the summer we honor many wonderful saints, but one of particular interest to priests and seminarians is the holy Curé of Ars, St. John Marie Vianney, whose feast is August 9.

St. John Vianney was truly a priest modeled after the Sacred Heart, who sought above all the salvation of souls. Ascetic in the extreme, he hardly seemed to eat or sleep. The saint spent his time in the church in prayer or in the confessional, leading souls back to God. Is it not incredible that he was nearly denied ordination due to his difficulty in learning? This saint certainly is a model to all priests of what we aim to be — true copies of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. After Mass in his thanksgiving prayers, the priest prays the beautiful ejaculation: "O bone Jesu, fac ut sim sacerdos secundum Cor Tuum — O good Jesus, grant that I may be a priest according to Thy Heart." The Curé of Ars can inspire us and intercede for us as we pursue that goal.

Here at St. Joseph Seminary we seek to form such souls. For this end we ask your prayers. As members of our support club, your daily prayers for our seminary are as important — and indeed much more so — as your needed financial

support. We have enclosed a copy of a prayer to St. Joseph that was sent in this mailing several years ago. Some have written to say that they recite the prayer daily. I ask that you join their ranks, by adding this prayer to our holy patron to your daily prayers for the intentions of many holy priests and the success of our minor seminary. Certainly, the need for good priests is greater than ever, but it is primarily prayer that will obtain that blessing for the Church.

The past month of July has allowed some time for R & R, but now it is time to make those final preparations for the new school year, which is nearly upon us. A new year brings the excitement of new students and a fresh start. There will be much to tell you about in the coming months concerning the new faces that will brighten our seminary come September. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued, and much-needed support. Yes, even in the summer we have need of your financial assistance, as there are a number of bills to be paid. May God reward you abundantly, and may He send His blessings upon you and your loved ones.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

## 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 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.



*During the past school year the seminarians attended daily Mass and participated in the Sacred Liturgy. Here one of the students prays before the Blessed Sacrament during a retreat.*



*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.

Page 2