



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

March 2007

Although you will receive this newsletter after the beginning of Lent, we are now preparing for this important season, which is just a few days away. To give you an idea of the minor cultural differences here at the seminary, we were recently having a discussion about the things we should give up for Lent. It was interesting to see the differences between the American students (who thought of giving up sweets, desserts, etc.) and the Mexican students, who will give up hot sauce and chilies! One thing is for sure, we are all determined to give up what we like.

During Lent we chant Vespers every Sunday. Of course we make the Stations of the Cross each week, and some are reciting the Stations on their own each day. According to our custom, we also have the annual retreat on the weekend after the first full week of Lent. These things will help us to make a good Lent, which is an important time for the soul.

March is also the time when we pray extra prayers to St. Joseph daily. We pray for all of you and for the needs of our seminary, especially for more vocations. We also are looking forward to our third and last skiing trip for this year. It is amazing to see how quickly everyone is adapting to skis. Right now, we are in the midst of our annual ping-pong tournament, so there is plenty to keep us busy. We thank you for your support and wish you God's blessings as you try to make a good Lent.

Skiing above the clouds

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

Ski trips have been a custom here at the seminary, and it is one of my

favorite winter activities. As you know, we go every year around January and February. This year we have gone twice, and we are hoping to go just one more time because we really enjoyed the last two trips. I think that the first time we went skiing, it was one of the best days I have ever seen. We could look down on all the clouds, especially when we were at the very top of the mountain.

It also was nice because this year I did not have any trouble at all trying to ski. At first I thought that I had forgotten how to do it. I was a little bit afraid of falling down and hurting myself badly, especially when I was coming down from the top of the mountain. While I was skiing, I realized that it was so easy to control the skis that I could move myself more easily and faster than I did last year.

For some of us, like Bryan and Juan, skiing was not easy at the beginning because it was the first time they had attempted this kind of sport. Nevertheless, they learned very quickly how to do it, although they crashed

March calendar

- 2-4 — Annual Lenten Retreat
- 17 — Matthew's birthday
- 18 — Seminary fund-raising breakfast
- 19 — Feast of St. Joseph, seminary patron; special schedule
- 21 — Fr. Benedict's feastday
- 22-23 — Third Quarter Exams
- 26 — Feast of the Annunciation; chanted Vespers; Fourth Quarter begins

many times on their way down the hill.

On our second trip we went with the boys from our parish school. When we got there, we realized that the day was not really a good day to ski. It was foggy and there was a combination of rain and snow. The good thing about this was that there were not many people around, so this made up for it.

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We celebrated the feast of Our Lady's Purification on February 2nd with a reception ceremony for our seminary sodality.

Skiing

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After a few hours of having fun we sadly had to get ready to go home. We survived another day of skiing with everyone alive and well.

Our new pastimes

by Juan Fernando Garcia, gr. 9

We enjoy our weekends here at the seminary. We have many chores to do but we also find time to relax. When we finish our chores, we don't usually have anything else to do. Sometimes, we just play basketball in the gym or we use Caleb's or Matthew's camera to make some funny movies.

So far we have made eight movies. The first movie we made was "The Three Mustaches." It was a bit difficult because we did not have adequate equipment. But since we got new computers, it's easier for us to make a movie, and we can add special effects and other things to it.

One thing that I like about making movies is making the costumes. I have been acting in almost all the movies that we have made so far. Besides all this I will tell you how we make each movie. The first thing that we do is to come up with a story and then discuss it with everyone. After this, we find out how many people are going to act in the movie. Then we find a place to film it and decide what everyone will do, which is the hard part. After we have all these things arranged, we start filming all the scenes for the movie until we get all of them right. When we finish filming the entire movie, we transfer it onto the computer and work on editing the film. After all this work is done, we show it to everyone at the seminary. And this is how the process of making movies works.

One of our goals for this year is to make a serious, religious movie about the North American Martyrs. I hope we can finish this and complete all our other projects by the end of the school year.

The case of Galileo Galilei, Part V

by Fr. Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

In the last few editions of The Guardian we have explored the reasons that resulted in trouble for Galileo with Church authorities. Here we conclude "The case of Galileo Galilei."

The whole matter was not at all a defeat for Galileo. He was allowed to continue his studies and teaching, and did so for sixteen years. Unfortunately, he did not give up his determination to force his theory on others, nor his attacks on his opponents. In 1632 he stirred up trouble again by publishing his *Dialogues*. In it he attacked even those who had shown great kindness to him, including Pope Urban VIII, who had given him a life pension (Cf. Devier, p. 282-283; p. 293).

This got him into trouble with the Holy Office again. In 1633 a document from the Vatican archives, dated

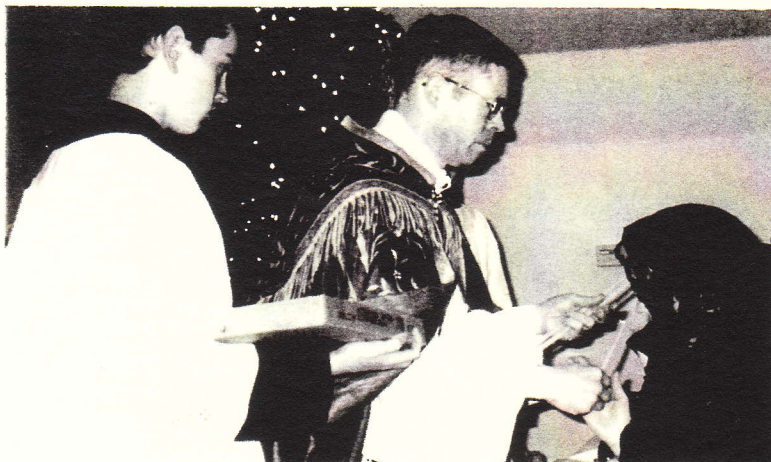
February 26, 1616, was brought out as proof that Galileo had promised not to teach his theory. He was accused of violating this promise. There is reason to believe the document was forged some years earlier (Cf. Brodrick, p. 373-374; p. 376-377). It does not agree with St. Robert Bellarmine's letter stating that Galileo had not retracted, nor does it fit with a protocol of the Holy Office dated March 3, 1616. Galileo brought forth the certificate of Cardinal Bellarmine in his defense, but it was apparently not enough to convince the judges. Cardinal Bellarmine had passed away by this time, and so could not speak on behalf of Galileo. On June 22, 1633, Galileo was condemned of having violated his promise of 1616.

His "imprisonment" during and after the trial is hardly deserving of the name. "He himself declares, in a letter dated 1634, that he suffered nothing, either in his person or his honor" (Devier, p. 289). He was detained in luxurious palaces and given excellent treatment. He says, "As to my health, I am well, thanks to God and to the exquisite attentions of the Ambassador and his lady, who are most anxious to procure for me the greatest comfort" (Cf. Devier, p. 288). At the palace of the Ambassador, he was permitted to come and go as he pleased and receive visits from his friends. After his condemnation, he spent the remainder of his life in his villa at Arcetri, near Florence, "where he continued his scientific studies and received the visits of the learned and of the great personages of his time. He received a life-pension from the Papal treasury, and died, as he had lived, a very religious man, in the year 1642" (Devier, p. 289).

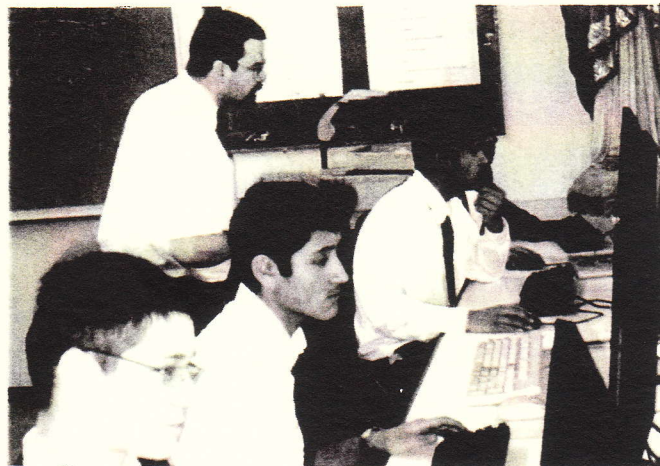
It is evident from all this that the case of Galileo has been badly misrepresented by those bent on attacking the Catholic Church. Although the Holy Office erred in condemning the theory as heretical, it was in no way due to hatred of science. They merely wished to protect the Scriptures from new interpretations which were in no way proven. Many of the clergy, even those who were opposed to the theory, treated Galileo with respect and great kindness. If he had returned this consideration instead of bitterly attacking them, he would have had no trouble with the Holy Office.

If the Church were the enemy of true science, there would be many examples in the past 2000 years to prove it. Why do her enemies constantly dredge up this one occasion? No doubt it is because it is the only one they can find. We have shown that even this one occasion proves nothing. The Holy Office is not infallible. Galileo's case is rather a proof of God's protection over the Church since, at a time when the majority of people in the world, Catholic, Protestant, and atheist, opposed Galileo, the Church did not condemn his teaching in any document protected by infallibility.

In spite of his critical attitude toward his opponents, Galileo found no reason to reject his Catholic Faith. He remained Catholic to his death. His two daughters became nuns, and his remains now lie in the Basilica of Santa Croce, in Florence, marked with a magnificent monument.



All the seminarians had a part in the ceremony of the blessing of candles on Candlemas Day.



Mr. Kevin Pichette teaches computer class to the seminarians.



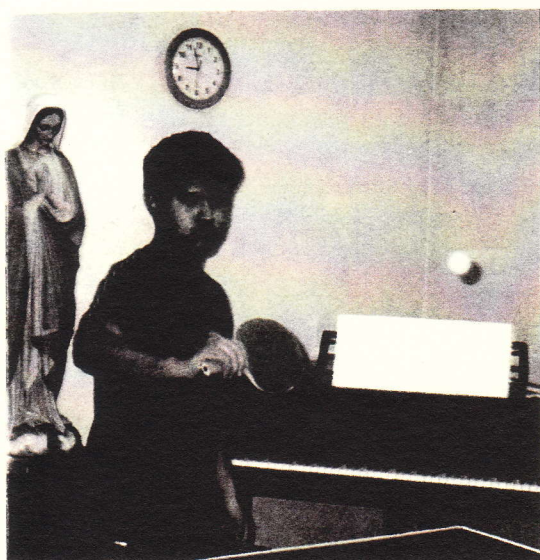
Jose prepares for another run down the slope.



Giovanni was well bundled against the cold on our first ski trip.



An intrepid soul works on his technique on the ski jump.



Angel gets in some practice for the ping-pong tournament.



The seminarians are enjoying the warmer weather, but some miss the snow!

Kitchen catastrophes

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

The Sisters cook for us during the week. But on the weekends, one of the priests or we do the cooking. Fr. Gabriel likes to experiment when he cooks, which makes his meals fun. I enjoy cooking too, so I usually find myself in the kitchen making bread and desserts or helping to make breakfast on weekends.

One of my favorite things to make is whole-wheat bread, because it's easy and it doesn't cover your face with zits when you eat it, as my desserts do. But deserts are also fun to make because they taste good. Why do they taste good? It isn't because I make them. Of course, it is the sugar!

I have only had one kitchen disaster this school year. We ate it anyway because it had sugar in it. Only one person got sick (I'm still not sure that it was because of my dessert). It was supposed to be cookie bars but it turned out to be something closer to a cake. The recipe was really crazy. It started out with two bowls and then I had to split what I had and it all went down the tubes from there. The part that supposedly gave Angel a stomachache was the "bad" condensed milk that I put in.

And then there is Fr. Gabriel's cooking, which usually is far more exciting. He made a peanut butter pie that was very delicious but weird. The weird part about it was that he substituted flour tortillas for the piecrust. What were even more exciting were his and Matthew's corn dogs and pumpkin soup. Among other things, they had to substitute the milk and even the corn flour. The corn dogs and soup both tasted great but they looked terrible. We even made a hilarious live movie about it.

Yes, the Sisters cook during the week, but on the weekends we fend for ourselves. But to me at least, cooking is usually a pastime, especially when we cook with Fr. Gabriel.

Using God's precious gift

The schedule at the seminary is so packed on weekdays, that there is little or no time remaining. The same cannot be said of weekends, however, when there is plenty of time for extra activities. The danger here is that too much extra time can lead to boredom. Although we try to provide plenty of activities, our duties as priests often take us away. So, for much of the time, the seminarians are on their own.

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.

Fortunately, we have a good group of boys who know how to keep themselves busy. Some of their recent weekend escapades have included things like making a fort in the woods and, what is especially intriguing, making their own movies. Yes, they have entertained themselves (and us) by planning, filming and editing their own movies. These have been on a variety of subjects. The first production was called "The Three Mustaches." Then there was "Chips Ahoy!" and other assorted 'shorts,' about eight in all. This is great because it keeps them busy and provides amusement for all.

We must remember the old adage: An idle mind is the devil's workshop. We cannot be working and praying all the time — we also need wholesome recreation. I am grateful that these young men know how to entertain themselves and avoid the dangers of boredom. Let us all use our time well, for time is a precious gift that God gives us, with which to work out our salvation. Thank you for your support and your prayers. May God bless you and your families.

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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