



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2007

Welcome!

Once again we begin a new academic year — our ninth here at St. Joseph Seminary. I would like to welcome our new readers and hope that you will enjoy our monthly newsletter. *The Guardian* serves multiple purposes: it publicizes the seminary, acquaints Catholics with the purpose of a minor seminary and elicits their prayers, is an organ of communication for the students and faculty with their families and friends, and also serves as a reminder of our need for your support.

Over the years in my travels, I have received many comments from our readers on their appreciation for our newsletter. It seems the reason for this is that *The Guardian* is not a theological treatise, but a light-hearted review of our daily life. Readers get to peer inside the seminary and see things from the students' standpoint. These young men are teenagers who have made the sacrifice to come here to pursue their vocation. Some will go on to become priests; others will discern a different vocation; but all will receive a solid and lasting spiritual formation.

While the summer has been quiet, we do have our recent summer boys' camp to report on. In addition, there have been a few projects here that the seminarians have helped with. One of these summer projects has been digging drainage trenches at our school building, which has undergone major repairs. It is not easy to dig ditches in a crawl space, where one cannot stand up, using a shovel with a shortened handle! The seminarians always pitch in when there is work to be done, and I greatly appreciate their help.

We also are working, as time allows, on a different kind of construction project. A seminary website has long been needed to publicize our minor seminary. Although it is a long way from being completed, you can have a look at our website at www.minorsemnary.org.

In our next issue we will tell you more about additions to our staff and students, including our first seminarian from the Philippines. As always, we ask for your prayers and support as we begin a new scholastic year. Be assured that we greatly appreciate your financial and spiritual support and pray for our benefactors every day. You are very much a part of this important work. May God bless you and your loved ones!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Festina lente

by Father Gabriel Lavery, CMRI

“Hurry up slowly” is the meaning of this Latin saying. In English we say, “Haste makes waste.” In Polish: “What is done through haste is done for the devil.” The saints had a unique ability to hurry up slowly, that is, to accomplish many things, yet remain always calm and recollected. St. Francis de Sales was once asked why he was never in a hurry. His reply: “There is enough chaos in the world without me having to add to it.”

This excellent advice is not always easy to put into practice in our chaotic world. Even here
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August/Sept. calendar

August:

- 26–28 — Seminarians arrive
- 29 — Orientation
- 30 — First day of classes

September:

- 3 — Feast of St. Pius X
- 5–6 — Annual camping trip
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; chanted Vespers
- 12 — Feast of the Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers; no homework
- 15 — Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 24 — Feast of Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 28 — Mid-quarter
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael the Archangel



Boys of all ages came from near and far (including California and Minnesota) to attend the annual boys' camp held in late July.

Festina lente

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at the seminary things can be quite a whirlwind. This was evident this summer, which has gone by incredibly fast; I'm sure someone forgot to put two months in my calendar, since I've gone from May to August in a few days' time.

One of the more exciting events was our boys' camp during the last week of July. They say too many cooks spoil the broth, but not the cooks we had; they did an excellent job. The lack of men to help as camp counselors was a problem though. Seventeen boys may seem a small number, but it was no easy task keeping order. Psalm 126 compares children to arrows in the hand of the mighty. Certainly they are capable of doing great things for God, but keeping these arrows all pointed in the right direction takes some persistence.

Of course, we had an excellent group this year. Not that we didn't have our troubles, like the time two boys got lost during a game of capture the flag, or the water fight that ended with a mud hole in the middle of the yard and water dripping from the ceiling *inside* the building. We had fun eating S'mores and singing around the campfire and probably scared away all the wildlife in the process. The campfire was also the scene of a suspenseful mystery game which ended in a large number of boys getting soaked with a squirt gun before the "murderer" was finally discovered (and promptly 'executed' with the squirt gun). Other activities included woodshop, tubing or water skiing, a science demonstration, and swimming.

The purpose of the camp is to give boys a chance to associate with other good Catholic boys and to grow spiritually. The camp would have been nothing without the spiritual side which included daily Mass and Rosary, opportunity for confession, several apologetics and spiritual conferences, and morning and night prayers. It was a joy to see their delight and earnestness in asking many good questions about the faith or the spiritual life. They learn at camp to unite the prayer life with their other activities by doing all for God as St. Paul said. They also have opportunities to practice charity and self-denial in their dealings with the other boys (and also when the cooks took a night off and I cooked).

For me the camp was the perfect opportunity to try to practice the "hurry up slowly" of the saints. It was necessary to frequently remind myself that God is in charge and that anxious activity will accomplish nothing. He gives us the ability to will and accomplish tasks for His honor and glory, and He does this only if we "come aside and rest awhile" each day in prayer.

Support a seminarian

One of the necessary aspects of running the seminary is somehow managing to pay the bills. While this has always been a challenge here, the financial situation of the

Remember the Seminary in your Will

Would you like to continue to support the work of forming future priests, even after you leave this world? We encourage you to think about listing St. Joseph Seminary as a beneficiary in your will. The seminary is incorporated in Idaho as a non-profit corporation. We depend entirely on the support of our benefactors to continue this work. May God bless you!

seminary has particularly been precarious over the past year. As you can imagine, all of our seminarians come from large Catholic families, many of whom can afford little of the tuition cost, modest as it is. At the same time, we would not want to ever turn away, for financial reasons, a young man who is being called by God to the priesthood.

To help resolve this difficulty, we have instituted the *Seminary Support Club*. Anyone can join by pledging a monthly donation to our seminary. We encourage you to include our seminary in your monthly budget plans. Along with each month's edition of *The Guardian*, a return envelope is always provided in our mailing. This makes it easy for you to send a monthly check for whatever you can afford.

Another means of helping the seminary is the scholarship program. Through this program, donors who are financially able and willing to do so, contribute the cost of maintaining a seminarian each month. Those who would like to participate but are unable to afford the entire amount would contribute a part of the monthly tuition fee. This scholarship would then be matched with a deserving seminarian, who would thus become that donor's "adopted" seminarian. (The monthly fee for tuition, room and board per pupil is \$425.)

Similar programs have been in place in the Church in the past. Without such support, the work of seminary training could not continue. Imagine the blessing of helping a young man reach the altar of God as a priest, particularly a young man who would otherwise not have been able to become a priest! If you are interested in this program, please contact us, as there are seminarians who need a part of their tuition paid though the scholarship program.

Finally, we ask above all for the alms of your prayers. The 126th Psalm poignantly reminds us of the need for God's help with the words: "*Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it.*" Our seminary has thus far been successful only by God's help. I am sure that this new school year will not be without its crosses and trials. We can be sure, too, that the devil will not rest and leave us alone. So we ask that you pray daily, especially to St. Joseph, for the success of our seminary.



The Sisters stayed busy cooking for the boys who attended camp.



The boys pray the Rosary at the outdoor shrine to Our Lady.



Learning how to make picture frames was one of the many various camp activities.



A rousing game of soccer at a nearby park was a big hit with the boys.



Everyone enjoyed being pulled around Hauser Lake in the inner tube, compliments of Mr. LeStage.



The rope swing at Hauser Lake added to the enjoyment of swimming during the boys' camp.

Mother of the First Seminarian

While we honor Our Blessed Mother under various titles, how many think of her as the mother of the First Seminarian? This is no stretch of the imagination, for Our Divine Lord was truly the great High Priest, who sacrificed His life on the cross and is present at every Holy Mass as the principal priest of the Mass.

The life of Christ, until his thirtieth year, was spent in quiet seclusion in the “seminary” of the holy home of Nazareth. Certainly, the Son of God had no need for formation. Rather, His life serves as an example to every future priest of the critical need for a proper training in the quiet atmosphere of the seminary.

Just as Our Blessed Mother watched with loving care over her divine Son, so too she looks down with interest, love and prayerful intercession upon every young man who has been called to the priesthood. How could she not be keenly interested in their spiritual welfare, more so even than that of her other children? After all, are they not destined to be “other Christs,” to carry on the life and work of her Son?

Thus every seminarian must form a tender and deep love for his heavenly Mother. To fail to do so would be fatal to his future life as a priest. If all the faithful need a special devotion to Our Lady, especially in these times, priests require an even greater devotion to her. Here in the seminary we honor Our Blessed Mother every day, but especially on her feastdays. September is a month filled with lovely feasts of Mary — a good way to start off the new school year. May all our seminarians cherish a unique devotion to their heavenly Mother!

Our special patron

While we reflect upon the importance of devotion to Mary in helping us learn to imitate Jesus, we must not forget St. Joseph, the other member of the Holy Family. Like Our Blessed Mother, he too observed with wonder the growing divine Child. St. Joseph meticulously fulfilled his role as superior, bread-winner and guardian of both the Holy Mother and her divine Child. St. Joseph is a hidden saint but a great one. After Mary herself there is not a greater saint in heaven than her spouse.

It was no accident that our seminary was named for this great patron. A minor seminary is for adolescent youths who

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.



A recent burial in our cemetery provided the opportunity to perform a corporal work of mercy.

believe they may be called to the priesthood. Hidden away in the seclusion of the seminary — much like Jesus in the home of Nazareth — they strive to learn and imitate the ways of Christ. Who better can assist them in this task than St. Joseph?

So seminarians should pray to St. Joseph to help them understand and imitate the life of Christ. Seminarians have their periods of doubt, of temptation, of struggle. If they but learn to turn to St. Joseph, who also experienced sorrow and hardship, he will help them to overcome all obstacles. He will help them to surmount every trial. May this great patron help our young men to follow the pattern of Christ.

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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