



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2008

Just one week left! Another school year has flown by at the seminary, as we prepare for summer. Soon seminarians will depart for home or to stay with friends. Some will be staying at the seminary for part of the summer and working locally. Juan and Angel have begun piano lessons and will continue them during much of the summer. For all of us, however, the summer will be a much-needed relaxation from the normal stress of studies.

At the same time, we will not neglect our spiritual life during the summer. While we may not have daily Mass, as we do at the seminary, we are all determined to maintain a daily prayer life, especially the daily Rosary. Some seminarians will be helping their pastors with serving and sacristy work as well.

We hope that you all enjoy the summer. Remember to pray for us also, and for more vocations to our seminary. God bless you all.

Preparing for Corpus Christi

by Juan Garcia, gr. 10

For one week before the feast of Corpus Christi, the seminarians and some members of the parish, helped to prepare the path for the procession. This time the embellishments for the ceremony were going to be different from previous years.

On the hillside above the road from the seminary to the church, is the pathway along which the Holy Eucharist is carried and venerated. Mr. LeStage took down some trees on the sides of the path to make it more

spacious. Nine or ten trees were removed and cut into sections. We separated the good pieces and burned the rest. The path was leveled and we spread wood chips along the way.

Some seminarians were raking up the pine cones and pine needles from the hillside, while the others were helping with the tree removal, hauling the branches to the burn pile. Some of the women were planting flowers and sowing seeds around Our Lady's shrine. In addition, Mr. Strain made a large canopy for the Corpus Christi procession. With all these preparations, it seems like we are going to have a magnificent procession for Our Lord.

This is the most beautiful procession of the year. It is good to remember to always give Our Lord and God the best we have. At this time of year we prepare and decorate the path for the feast of Corpus Christi, which is very pleasing to God, but what Our Lord really wants is hearts that love Him.

We must always remember to thank God for all the great benefits He has bestowed on us. And remember that it does not matter if we don't have money to buy something great for Our Lord, as long as we give Him our best and, above all, that we love Him.

El perro negro

by José Castellanos, gr. 11

Bosco is our pet dog; we all like him here at the seminary. Usually during dinner time, Fr. Benedict brings Bosco in and says, "Are there any leftovers for Bosco?" But everyone says, "No, Father. I'll eat it, I'll eat it," even though we are all finished eating — we just do not want it to go to Bosco. Every time Father releases a delicious morsel into the black dog's mouth, there is a cry of outrage from the lips of the seminarians around the table. Of course that does not mean that we all despise the poor creature, but we just like to make fun of the dog.

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Seminarians and staff members gathered in late May for our annual group picture.

El perro negro

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Bosco is a beggar, because during our meals he is always inside the house. And he knows when the meals are because at times when we are inside eating he arrives and starts whimpering outside the house to let us know that he wants to come in. Bosco is probably thinking, "I know you are there inside. Now let me in because I'm hungry too." And I say that he is a beggar because he is often at your feet by the table waiting for any kind of food. We don't give him anything from the table, but we do give him leftovers. Bosco is also a very fast eater — he usually finishes his meals in one or two minutes. Sometimes he seems more like a pig than a dog.

I remember a time when two of the seminarians were just playing with Bosco. Each one was at a different door and, since Bosco wanted to go outside the building, they started calling him. First it was one of them and they just opened the door a little bit so Bosco ran to get out, and when he was almost there the door was closed. Then the other seminarian started doing the same thing and so they went on like that, back and forth quite a few times until Bosco was exhausted and utterly confused. Finally one of the seminarians was going to let him out and he opened the door so Bosco could exit. But now Bosco did not know if he should try to get out again or just stay inside. Eventually, he just went slowly to the door and finally went outside.

We all love Bosco, our black dog, even though he does not have the best aroma or the best manners at meals. He is still our dog and our friend.

New places, new faces

by Marcellus Moylan, gr. 11

Over a month ago Fr. Benedict kindly invited me to travel with him to Omaha, where two seminarians would be receiving clerical tonsure. We set out on our 6-day trip early on April 30. Bishop Pivarunas picked us up when we arrived that afternoon and showed us the projects going on around the school and seminary. Caleb and I were both happy to see each other again. I met his younger brother Isaac, Brother Xavier, his fellow seminarians, and some of the boarding boys.

The next day, Fr. Benedict took Caleb, me and one of the seminarians to Boys' Town. I knew my Dad had been born in Omaha, but I never knew that Fr. Flanagan started his great work there. That was quite interesting. During my stay I was also able to participate in the Divine Office and get a little taste of the life at the major seminary. What was really nice was that Caleb and I were able to spend time together.

Saturday saw two seminarians, Adam Ledwon and Brendan Legg, receiving the clerical tonsure. After the ceremony, before Fr. Benedict and I had to fly to Colorado, the bishop took us all out for breakfast. He is very affable and down-to-earth, making the time spent with him greatly enjoyable.

That afternoon we arrived in Olathe, Fr. Gilchrist's former parish. I liked meeting with the parishioners, relating my story, and telling them about St. Joseph Seminary. On Sunday we went north to St. John Vianney Chapel in Grand Junction where two girls received their First Holy Communion. This latter part of our trip aided me in realizing how much the priests do to provide Mass for the faithful. It also showed me the dire need for more priests. On Monday morning after Mass and breakfast we headed back to Idaho, for the final weeks of school. We keep all of you in our prayers; please pray for us also that we may follow God's calling.

Where should we go?

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 11

As a custom here in the seminary we have a field trip before school is out. This time Fr. Benedict decided to ask Fr. Trough, who is stationed in Tacoma, if we could go and visit his parish and stay with him for a couple days. Fr. Trough gladly accepted Father's request. Now the question was: What would we visit while we were there? There are quite a few appealing places in Tacoma to check out. But, perhaps, the most interesting was Mt. Rainier. We also planned on stopping by Seattle on our way back and visiting some other interesting sights there.

With excitement we set out on our trip on May 12. We packed all the necessary things into the van and organized them in such a way that there would be enough space for us to be comfortable. We mainly packed our personal things, water and snacks to eat on the way because it was going to be quite a long journey.

It was 9:30 a.m. when we started out for Tacoma. By the time we got to our destination it was already 4:30 p.m. Fr. Trough was so glad to see all of us. He greeted and received us into his rectory. Father had prepared a succulent dinner for us on that first day: barbecued chicken, vegetables, and a variety of beverages to drink. After we finished our dinner we cleaned up and played some games. Eventually, it was getting late so we prayed night prayers and got to bed. So ended the first day of our trip.

The next two days we had an easy schedule with Mass and our regular prayers every day. We visited Mt. Rainier, watched a couple movies and played cards. Sadly, it was soon time to say good-bye and head for home. On our way back, we stopped in Seattle to have lunch and visit the famous Pike Place Market and the Ballard Locks. We also spent some time at a park on Puget Sound. Finally, we commenced the long ride home, eventually arriving home at midnight. We were all exhausted, and all we wanted was to go to bed. The next day it was hard for us to adjust to the normal routine, but we were able to manage.

We enjoyed having this little break, which we all needed, and we look forward to future outings as God permits.



The seminarians worked hard to prepare the pathway for the outdoor Corpus Christi procession.



We held our annual Corpus Christi procession this year despite the threatening weather.



During our procession the Blessed Sacrament is adored at the outside shrine of Our Lady.



As you can see during our outdoor procession of the Major Litanies on April 25, there was still snow in places.



The seminarians stopped for a pose on their way to Mt. Rainier.



There is plenty of beautiful scenery on the road to Mt. Rainier.



Fr. Trough, pastor of St. Mary's in Tacoma, joined us for this photo before we left for home.

The maker and provider

by Nino Molina, gr. 12

The winter is gone and the spring has come bringing new life. It reminds me of a documentary that we watched in Tacoma during our recent outing entitled *The Privileged Planet*. This film explains the unique circumstances of planet earth that allow life to flourish here. One of the professors said, "Without natural law, which God made, everything is nothing." In addition, he said, "Everything has its own law. Also every creature is unique."

We are creatures and subject to our Creator — God. Some people do not believe that God created everything. They believe in Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. There has been much scientific research that proves that there are many missing links to this theory, yet people still believe it. They believe in this human being, who was subject to error and failed to believe in a perfect God. They do not want to open their eyes to reality and accept that God created us.

When we had our annual outing, I saw beautiful and wonderful scenery and also amazing creatures that God made. According to St. Francis of Assisi, plants and animals are blessed because they follow the will of God perfectly and God provides for them. They are not like men who are subject to sin. Not only did St. Francis love creatures, but all the saints did.

We traditional Catholics are blessed because we believe that God created us. Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have not seen but believe." So, let us be firm in our faith and pray in order that we may not fall into heresy. Let us care also for the creatures that surround us — like God does.

Touching hardened hearts

Every priest has seen the grace of God at work. It is humbling and amazing to see the miracles of grace which God brings about through our ministry. While we marvel at the extraordinary gifts of grace, we recall that we are very unworthy instruments. Even though every priest could tell you many stories of results of God's grace being distributed through his instrumentality, we are also aware of the many souls we were unable to reach, either because we were not holy enough, did not trust enough in Our Lord, or were lacking in prayer and sacrifice.

This is all the more urgent, because the value of even one immortal soul is incalculable. We could say that a soul is

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.

worth the Blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed for the salvation of each of us. There is nothing more pleasing to God than the salvation of souls, for whom Christ shed his precious Blood. Every priest is grieved to see souls fail to cooperate with God's saving grace. What then is the solution? How can we become better instruments of the grace of God?

In addition to a greater striving for holiness, the remedy is a greater devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. One only needs to read the revelations of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary to understand His boundless love for souls, and how generous Our Lord is with His grace. Furthermore, He promised that priests who practice this devotion will have the gift of touching the hardest hearts. That promise must inspire every priest to become totally devoted to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus — to practice this devotion himself and urge others to practice it.

Seminarians, who will one day become other Christs, must early on imbibe a deep love for Our Lord's loving Heart — that Heart which has loved men so much, but has been so little loved in return. This devotion means that we love Jesus and strive to perform all our works for the love of Him. It also means that we make reparation for those who reject His loving mercy. Let us all honor the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus this month. Perhaps you could add the Litany of the Sacred Heart to your daily prayer regimen.

And please also pray for priests, that they will have the gift of touching the most hardened hearts. May we all love Our Lord, and love the precious souls for whom He shed His Blood. We thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for our seminarians and for more vocations. Be assured of our prayers in return.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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