



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2010

Dear friends of our seminary,

We are currently in the midst of our annual "Camp Saint Joseph" with 30 boys ranging in age from 10-15. Fortunately, in addition to three priests, we have two lay men and three seminarians to help with supervision. The key to a great summer camp is making sure the boys are always busy, with a variety of interesting activities to keep them occupied.

After the conclusion of the camp we (Fr. Bernard and I) will make our annual retreat. Each year we priests set aside a minimum of three full days, during which we shut out all other cares and concentrate exclusively on the spiritual life. We are constantly reminded of the fact that we cannot be good teachers and spiritual guides for the youth confided to our care if we are not ourselves entirely devoted to our vocation.

As soon as the retreat is over, we will get busy with the various preparations for the school year, which is fast approaching. In addition to ordering books and preparing class lesson plans, we have one major objective: to repaint the classroom, recreation room and dormitories. That will certainly keep us busy for the several weeks that intervene until school starts, but it is a long overdue project.

You may be wondering how many students we will have during the coming year. Well, I cannot give an exact number at this time, as there are several interested young men whose parents have not made a final decision. There are also several applicants from foreign countries who will soon have their interviews at the respective American

embassies as they seek approval of their visa applications. We ask that you keep this intention in your prayers, as their entrance here is entirely dependent on whether or not they are granted a visa to enter our country for studies.

This subject of applications to the seminary brings up another topic which I also commend to your prayers. And that is the need, on the part of a young man who is called to the priesthood, for the complete moral support of his parents. It is understandable that parents are hesitant to allow their children to go far from home at such a young age to study for the priesthood. There is, of course, the natural attachment parents feel towards their children, and hence they are reluctant to part with them for the duration of the school year. Sadly, many vocations have been lost because the parents delayed their permission until, eventually, the young man lost interest.

Parents should remember the example of the saints to inspire them to be willing to make the necessary sacrifice. It must have cost Sts. Joachim and Anne greatly to part with Our Blessed Mother at an early age, when she entered the service of the temple. Down through the centuries good Catholic parents have followed this example and given their children to God's service, knowing that those children belong primarily to Him and are only given to them in trust to be raised in the love of God. Our Lord's response to the young man who wanted to follow Him but was still attached to his family ("He who loves father and mother more than Me is not worthy of Me.") reminds us that the

August calendar

- 3-5 — Retreat for the priests
- 13 — Solemn Commemoration of the deceased members of our religious congregation
- 19 — Juan's birthday
- 20 — Fr. Bernard's feastday
- 23-24 — Seminarians arrive
- 25 — Classes begin

vocation to serve God supercedes all other obligations.

In Session XXIII the Council of Trent commanded that seminaries be established where boys are received who are at least 12 years of age. In the United States, seminarians have not normally been received until the age of 14, but one can see the wisdom of the Church, knowing the dangers to which young teenagers are subjected, especially in our time. For this reason, we have decided in the future to receive applicants who are at least 12 years of age and who demonstrate a proper maturity.



Fr. Gabriel celebrated Mass outdoors when the boys were camping at the St. Joe River.

Another problem I have noticed is that parents often do not believe their son has a true vocation but perhaps is subjected to a passing whim. But those of us who received the call of God at an early age know well how the Holy Ghost works in young souls. (This is such a personal matter that it would be impossible to describe the promptings of God in the heart of a youth whom He calls to His service.) Parents often do not give adequate credit to the seriousness of youth regarding such things as vocation. By delaying their permission — something that is usually due to excessive attachment — they may unwittingly cause their son to lose his vocation altogether. I, for one, will be forever grateful that my parents allowed me to pursue my vocation from the earliest years.

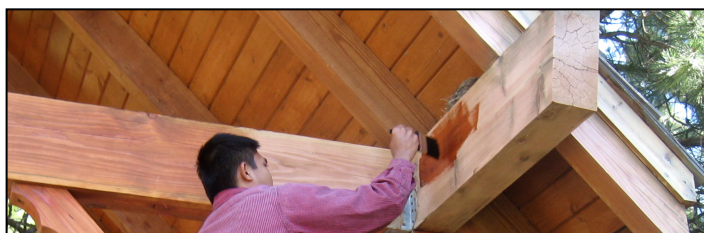
In beginning the topic of the last few paragraphs, I stated that I commend this intention to your prayers. We must not only pray for vocations, but also pray that the parents of one whom God calls will support their son in pursuing his vocation. It is a great blessing for children to have parents who understand the privilege of having a vocation in their family and indeed pray for that blessing. May God grant us more parents like that.

As always we are most grateful for your support of our seminary, both spiritual and financial. The work of preparing young men for the priesthood is a most important one, in which you have a significant part through your support of our seminaries. In return, we pray that God will abundantly bless you and your loved ones.

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 Latin, theology, 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.



Nino paints the outdoor shrine of the Sacred Heart.



Boys and staff enjoy canoeing on the river.



Everyone pitched in to set up camp on the first day.



You can't have a s'more without first roasting your marshmallow.



A sing-along around the campfire is a relaxing way to end the day.

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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