



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XII, No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2010

**I**t has been a busy month! The painting of the seminary is finally done — at least for this year. In addition to the classroom, recreation room, and front entry way, we have also painted the stairwell, the long upstairs hallway, and most of the bedrooms. Father decided that the dining room, kitchen and the remainder of the upstairs rooms will have to wait until next year. It was an enormous project. Due to cracks, the walls and ceilings first had to be repaired and re-textured, before they could be primed and then painted with the final coat. A big “Thank you!” to our friend and dedicated benefactor Mr. Vincent, for the many long hours he spent helping us with this project.

We have also taken advantage of the fall weather to enjoy some outings, which you will read about below. Right now, we are preparing for our flag-football games. This is one of two sports in which we compete with other private schools. The boys from our parish school join us for these games. Finally, we have a coach — now we just need to practice.

But the biggest news has been the entrance of several new seminarians: Mathias, a senior from Nigeria, Aedan, a junior from England, and Robert, a freshman from Arizona. We have a great group, and we all get along well together. Of course, we count on your prayers, that this year will be a time of grace and spiritual growth, as we seek to do the will of God in our lives.

## A busy month

by Robert Kowalczyk, gr. 9

**T**his is the first year of my entrance to St. Joseph Minor Seminary, and since I have been here everyone has

been very kind and helpful. Since my arrival we have been engaged in different activities, which have been fun and time-consuming so far. Since a lot has happened lately, I just want to tell about our recent outings, such as going to Thompson Falls, a nice picnic outing with the Sisters, a Rosary procession dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, and rock climbing.

First of all, Fr. Bernard took us to Thompson Falls in Montana. We went hiking for miles and came to a small lake where we ate lunch. After lunch we went on until we came to another lake, and then we took a different route back along a narrow peak. We also had a picnic outing with the Sisters at Farragut State Park. We had a good time, played soccer, had a barbecue, went for a walk, and enjoyed the scenery of the beautiful lake.

One of the most impressionable things for me this month was the Rosary procession dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima. It was a great way for me to meet many traditional Catholics in Spokane and the surrounding area and for us to show publicly our devotion to our Blessed Mother. The Rosary procession took place in Spokane.

We also went rock climbing at Q’emlin Park in Post Falls. It was scary climbing the rocks because you are very high and there are few places to grab on to, but we had ropes holding us up. That concludes the outings we have had this month, and we are all

## October calendar

- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM; procession; no homework
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; chanted Vespers
- 14 — Flag-football game
- 26–28 — First Quarter exams
- 28 — Flag-football game
- 29 — End of First Quarter
- 31 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement

looking forward to what next month will bring.

## Where will I sleep?

by Zachary Odom, gr. 12

**A**nother year come, another year of sleeping in the same rooms, and another year of getting up at the usual

*continued on page 2*



*This year there are seven seminarians along with the two priests.*

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## Where will I sleep?

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6:20 every morning, and of getting back into the same old schedule of the seminary, right? Wrong.

The seminary, as you may or may not know, is being repainted, particularly the upstairs hallway and all of the seminarians' sleeping quarters. Since our dearly beloved sleeping quarters are being repainted, we asked Father where we would sleep. Father answered this question by saying that we would be sleeping down at the 'Red House.' We did not know what to make of this, as none of us had ever stayed in the red house before.

We felt a little bit of hope in staying there, because it seemed that we would be away from the rules of the seminary. We could go to bed whenever we wanted, just as long as we were up on time for Mass in the morning. Thinking on these things, we began to feel that life in the red house would be grand. This proved ineffective, however, as Father in his wisdom saw past our mischievousness, and appointed Fr. Bernard to stay down at the red house with us. Our spirits plummeted, and would continue to drop over the coming weeks.

As it turns out, in staying at the red house we have to get up five minutes earlier every morning. I don't know if you feel the same, but my body needs its extra — even five minutes — sleep in the morning. Not only this, but we have to trek up and down the same path to and from the seminary every morning and night. Don't get me wrong, trekking is good, but it becomes tedious after awhile, plus the coyotes pick just the perfect time to start their blood-curdling howls every night.

Okay, I admit, I exaggerate the facts sometimes. Obviously, life at the red house isn't this bad. Although we do have to get up five minutes early every morning, the numbing wind wakes us up quickly enough. I also enjoy looking at the stars on my walks down every night. Maybe it's just a wish for the same old schedule, but we really can't wait until we have our rooms back.

## Our renowned seminary

*by Juan Garcia, gr. 12*

My last three *Guardian* articles contained some of the activities here at the seminary. We completed most of our summer projects; however, it would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Vincent, a very dear parishioner here at the City of Mary, who dedicates much of his spare time to aiding us in our projects, for which we are very thankful.

In the seminary we began the work right after the final day of school. Getting all the rooms painted before school started again was our goal. That, however, would not be accomplished before the new seminarians arrived. Taking the "popcorn" off the ceiling made us discover many detail

problems, plus some others that needed attention, that were already apparent. Sometimes we had to tear down drywall and redo the whole thing again. Then we textured everything and coated the walls.

When the other seminarians arrived we were in the middle of this project. Very fortunate! because more seminarians means more help. Only three rooms were completed and we were six and two priests. What to do? We (Fr. Bernard and three of us, were sent to the 'Red House,' an extra dwelling close to the seminary. We have been having a lot of fun down in this red house; nevertheless, we are looking forward to moving back close to the Blessed Sacrament, as soon as the rooms are finished. We have sixteen rooms in the Seminary, so please pray for us and for more vocations to fill them.

## Football or Soccer?

*by Mathias Nwankwo, gr. 12*

It has been said that idleness is the devil's workshop, and staying in an institution like the minor seminary lacking experience of different types of games, you might think you had missed a great thing. But with regards to our seminary activities, it can be said, "Pray as if everything depends in praying, study as if all depends in studying, work as if all depends on working, eat and play as if all depends on them." And we have been praying, studying, working, and eating. But why can't we play as if all depends on it?

Now I don't mean by this that we haven't been playing football, which we do at least three times a week. But I want to use the means to accomplish my purpose, which is real football. (You call it soccer).

When I was in Nigeria watching some movies on American football, I thought "What type of rough game is this — it must be the survival of the fittest." I decided that I was not going to play that game. Well, here I now am in St. Joseph Seminary, playing and enjoying it. Indeed, the game is so interesting and fascinating, it only demands your determination.

I also want to use this opportunity to put you in mind of the competition we are preparing to have with other schools. Indeed the teachers are doing their best to support us with every requirement needed to our success, including a new coach who was brought in to instruct us, and from my observation, he is worthy to be a coach. Well, I hope we are going to achieve something in this oncoming football competition.

Lest I forget, I would like to explain the feelings of seminarians with regards to soccer football. Almost all the seminarians like soccer and partake well when playing it. But when your skills and experience are not practiced, they will probably fade away. I know we are in America and are supposed to play American football, but we also would like to have soccer games. We hope that next year we shall embark on two football competitions, American football and soccer, which will serve as an achievement for the seminary.





*The scenery on Thompson Pass was well worth the climb to get there.*



*Two new postulants were received into our Sisters' congregation on the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity.*



*Our football practices have been a learning experience — we have a ways to go!*



*We have been doing ball handling drills, among other things.*



*Rock climbing advice — don't look down!*



*Forrest pauses for a break.*



*Mathias impressed everyone by climbing the rocks — barefoot.*



## Concerning wonderful women and worn-out clichés

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 12

In the words of a worn-out cliché: Good things come in three's. But going further down this tangent, I have come up with a new cliché: The *best* things come in four's. Thus proverbially, we have four wonderful ladies who cook and work for us, namely, Mary Antonia, Miss Moylan and Mrs. Gallagher, our cooks, and Mrs. Salgado, our secretary.

First: the cooks! On weekdays, Mary Antonia cooks lunch and dinner, while Miss Moylan cooks breakfast. Mrs. Gallagher cooks weekends. (This time-share set-up ensures that there are never too many cooks in the kitchen; and, Mrs. Salgado also occasionally [but only once in a blue moon] cooks for us.)

Cooking in our messy kitchen (our fault not hers), Mary Antonia gets most of our pestering for samples — especially from me. But she takes it very well, not being one to make a mountain out of a molehill, and together in the kitchen, Mary Antonia and I are two peas in a pod. More recently, I have been her cooking student, trying to imitate her expertise (“monkey see, monkey do”). Also, Mary Antonia is our seamstress, mending our innumerable torn clothes (again, mostly from me). Sadly, often we do not get our clothes to her in time to save nine.

Save nine what? Why, nine lives of a cat, of course! Concerning which cat there is more than one way to skin and when which cat is away mice tend to play. Also, when it's raining cats and dogs, it pours — and we have certainly had an outpouring of plums lately. Plums are good, but too much of a good thing can be bad. Dutifully, Miss Moylan hides excess plums in breads and muffins and jams, though, honestly we are tired of them. And it's not just plums. In the darkest crannies of the seminary basement is an overabundance of various grains. Miss Moylan cleverly hides these in a tasty “oatmeal.” On the other hand, her multiplicity of baked goods are a treat — not only good but good for you.

Mrs. Gallagher, our Sabbath and Lord's Day cook, is not only an excellent gourmet cook, but is also early to bed, early to rise and thus healthy, wealthy and wise. Which is good, 'cause the early bird gets the worm, and the worm too often gets to the apple — which Mrs. Gallagher thriftily salvages and bakes into her world-famous apple crisp. Everyone's a critic and everyone says the crisp is awesome. Even when the

apple falls from the apple tree (though not very far) Mrs. Gallagher in all diligence reaps it from the soil and converts it into crisp. Strange: though one bad apple can spoil the bunch, an apple a day keeps the doctor away. Nevertheless, Mrs. Gallagher risks the one bad apple to make our daily (but only on weekends) apple crisp.

And speaking of apples, Mrs. Salgado is the apple of our eye. Though it could be argued that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, Mrs. Salgado's beauty is not skin deep. Her actions speak louder than her words, though her words are quite loud by themselves. She does so much for us: organizing, preparing, ordering (us around) — so much that it would be impossible for anyone less deft than herself to walk a mile in her shoes.

So here's to my four favorite ladies: Mary Antonia, Miss Moylan, Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Salgado: living proof of a new proverb and cliché: The best things come in fours.

## Gifts of God

There are seven sacraments and, likewise, seven gifts of the Holy Ghost, not to mention the seven joys and sorrows of Our Lady and St. Joseph. Also, the story of Creation gives us the week of seven days. Now we are not looking for signs and symbols, but I do look upon our seven seminarians this year as seven gifts from the Sacred Heart.

Daily in the seminary we pray for vocations, both to our seminary and for the Church in general. And while we desire more vocations, we also are most grateful to God for those He has sent. Actually, I thought we were going to have eight this year, but one deserving young man was denied a visa by the American consulate in his country — for no good reason. Please pray for him, as you pray daily for vocations.

In the meantime, until more come, we are grateful for the seven fine young men whom God has sent to us. Pray also for us teachers and staff members, that we will have the wisdom, grace and prudence, to guide them well. Even one priest is a wonderful gift of God, the result of many sacrifices and prayers on the part of the young man, as well as many others. May God grant us many more holy priests!

So we ask that you pray daily to St. Joseph for our seminary. We are blessed to have such a wonderful and powerful patron in St. Joseph. Let us beg his help in this work of the seminary. May the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph bless and reward each of you.

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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