



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2014

“I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia.”

by Fr. James McGilloway, CMRI

One of the highlights for me on a recent pilgrimage to Catholic shrines in Portugal and Spain was that of kneeling before a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, at the spot where she appeared six times in 1917 to three children. There we asked her motherly intercession for our personal needs and intentions. What I thought was significant is that we consecrated at this spot to Mary’s Immaculate Heart, not only ourselves, but all the Religious of CMRI, our Bishop, and all the families and souls under the care of our priests, as well as other traditional Religious and priests associated with Bishop Pivarunas. We also mentioned Russia in this consecration in anticipation of the day when a true Pope would consecrate that nation to Mary’s Immaculate Heart in obedience to Our Lady of Fatima.

I say this consecration was significant because we live in very uncertain times; indeed, Sister Lucia, the oldest of the Fatima children, stated that we live in the “end times” referred to in the Book of the Apocalypse. Our Lord described these times as a period characterized by “wars and rumors of war . . . there will be pestilences and famines and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:6-8). It is remarkable that while Catholic Spain, adjacent to Portugal, was engaged in a civil war with communist revolutionaries from 1936-1939, and while World War II raged in Europe with devastating effects, Portugal not

only was spared any military involvement, but experienced a spiritual reawakening with a great increase in religious vocations.

In 1942 Cardinal Carejeira, the Patriarch of Portugal, attributed Portugal’s miraculous protection to the fact that the Portuguese Bishops had consecrated the nation to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. He said the world also would experience just such a miraculous peace and spiritual renewal when Russia would be consecrated by a true Pope and Bishops, as Our Lady of Fatima requested.

We also had the privilege of visiting the tomb of St. James the Greater (Santiago) at the Cathedral in Compostela, Spain. For centuries the three most popular places for pilgrimage were Rome, Jerusalem, and Compostela. It might be helpful here to note that a pilgrimage is defined as “a journey to a sacred place undertaken as an act of religious devotion, either simply in order to venerate it or to ask the fulfillment of some need or as an act of penance or thanksgiving, or a combination of these” (A Catholic Dictionary, Donald Attwater).

St. James was the first of the Apostles to be martyred, having been beheaded by King Herod. His head is encased in a large statue of him above the altar, while his body is in a tomb below the altar. It is customary for visitors and pilgrims to climb the stairs behind the altar and venerate the Saint’s relics by kissing the back of the statue

August calendar

- 19–21 — Annual retreat for religious at the City of Mary
- 24 — Seminarians arrive; orientation
- 25 — First day of classes
- 29–30 — Camping trip

where his head is encased. As legend has it, despite his great labors for the salvation of souls, only seven people were converted to the Faith in his lifetime. After his death, however, many conversions took place at his tomb.

This reminds me of a man who told me the story of how he returned to the Traditional Catholic Faith by attending a lecture by Fr. Denis on the message of Fatima and changes in the Church. He was in his forties at the time and his mother had already passed away. He attributes the unique graces he received for his conversion to the Rosaries his mother had prayed for him. He remembered coming home as a young adult, late at night, a bit intoxicated,

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Fr. Gabriel celebrates Mass in the wilderness camp.



Water battles in the canoes — a camp tradition.



Thanks to Mr. LeStage for again giving the boys the opportunity of tubing on Hauser Lake!



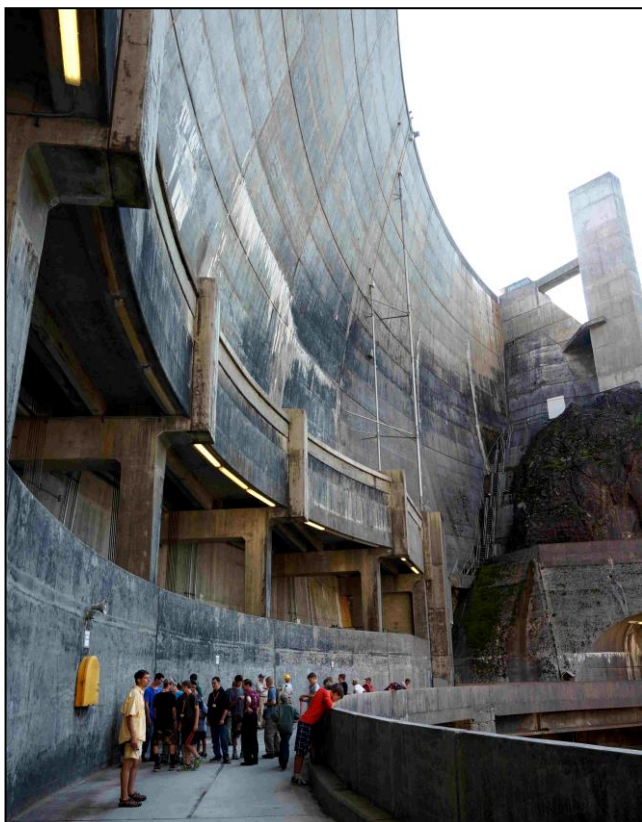
Hey guys! Any more room in that canoe?



The campers hiked to the Canadian border.



Music at the campfire.



The boys enjoyed a tour of Boundary Dam in north-eastern Washington.



Distribution of Holy Communion at the outdoor Mass at the Sacred Heart shrine.



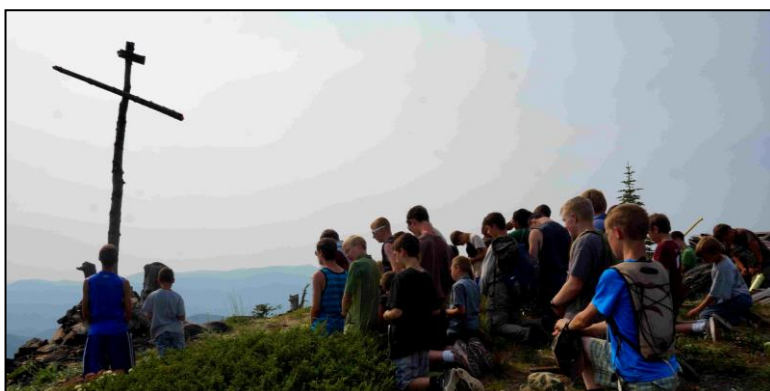
Inside Boundary Dam.



On our way to the top of the mountain.



The older boys are carrying the cross to be erected on the summit.



Conclusion of the Stations of the Cross.



Mission accomplished!



Rev. Mr. Geckle conducted the choir for a high Mass at the end of the Camp.



Our faithful cooks were much appreciated, as usual!



Our priests' meetings were held at Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha.



On the final day, the priests assembled for a group picture with the Bishop.

“... Consecration of Russia.”

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to find that his mother had fallen asleep in a chair with Rosary beads in her hands, most likely praying for him.

Let this story and the legend of St. James be a lesson for us: never to get discouraged thinking our persevering efforts and prayers for our own salvation or that of others are ever fruitless.

Why so few vocations?

by Fr. Anthony M. Short, CMRI

Sometimes we might be tempted to ask ourselves why there are so few vocations. I think that the reality is that there is no lack of vocations. To me it seems wrong to accuse God of not giving us everything we need. He is such a wonderful and good Father who is always watching out for us. He always does His part. So what is the real problem?

I would like to begin by saying that the religious life in itself is one of the most awesome things that a person could have. I know this from Church teaching and also by personal experience. I think the only reason that so few want it is that so few ever get any exposure to it. In this country and in many others, our youth are bombarded with so much junk. There is junk in the movies they watch and there is junk on the Internet that they find; they can get it on their phones at all times during the day. There is basically that nasty spirit of the world which almost completely pervades the very air that they breathe.

Another problem that priests see all too frequently is that of an over-protective mother who forgets that her children belong to God. These mothers mean well, but they keep their children back from God. They seem to excuse themselves with the thought that they will be generous to God when their child turns 18 years old. The reality is that for most vocations, that is far too late.

What can be done to foster vocations? At home and in school parents and teachers need to make sure that their children are not only protected from the materialistic garbage, but also to provide them with wholesome things like good spiritual reading books, maybe some movies that really have a good moral to them, and some sort of innocent work or recreation to keep them out of trouble.

I think one of the most effective ways to foster a vocation falls on the religious themselves. A religious doesn't really have to say anything to anybody. It is very easy — all they

have to do is to live their religious life to the fullest. If the children see that the religious are truly overflowing with happiness in living for God, they will most definitely be attracted to it. I read in a good book once that for the boy, “the priest is the priesthood.” It is so true! If the priest or religious is really on fire with love of God, many vocations will be followed and Jesus and Mary will be able to reclaim so many of the hearts that have been turned away from them.

The Christian Education of Youth

by Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

We are all familiar with the beautiful picture of Jesus surrounded by children who flock to Him to listen to His words and to be near His Sacred Heart. According to the Gospel story, the apostles had tried to turn away the mothers with their children, knowing that Jesus was exhausted at the end of a long day. But Jesus said to them, “Suffer the little children and forbid them not to come to Me: for the kingdom of heaven is for such.” How much Jesus loves children! And consequently, how important is the work of Catholic education, through which children are formed according to the teachings of the Church.

Now is the time of year when we, at St. Joseph Seminary, as well as the various religious and lay teachers of our Catholic schools, begin to earnestly prepare for the new school year, now just a few weeks away. In doing so, we are cognizant of the teachings of the Church regarding education. In his encyclical on the Christian education of youth, Pope Pius XI stated: “Disorderly inclinations then must be corrected, good tendencies encouraged and regulated from tender childhood, and above all the mind must be enlightened and the will strengthened by supernatural truth and by the means of grace, without which it is impossible to control evil impulses, impossible to attain to the full and complete perfection of education intended by the Church, which Christ has endowed so richly with divine doctrine and with the Sacraments, the efficacious means of grace.”

But you also have a part in this indispensable work of education. We ask your prayers and support, not only for the success of our school year here at St. Joseph's, but also for the success of all our Catholic schools. In return, be assured of our prayers for you and your needs, as we pray daily for our benefactors. Please also continue to pray for more vocations to our seminary. May God bless and reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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