



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2015

The month of October has come and gone far too quickly for human comprehension. We are looking upon the last few warm days of the year as the sun gets steadily closer to earth. The end of October prompted us to once more winterize the garden and begin preparations for next year's. The trees have lost almost all their former green. Fall is here and it is but a warning for the oncoming winter months.

During this past month we attended the annual Fatima Conference which I must say was a great success. The keynote address was a very good choice as it gave all hope for the future of the Church. We attended the Conference for the first two full days and went to the Candlelight procession at the conclusion. It was very beautiful and a wonderful way to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Later in the month, we went to the Slaters' residence in Coeur d'Alene and spent the night enjoying their generous hospitality. Overall, we very much enjoyed this last month with its constant and various activities.

During this month of November, it is a common practice here to take a walk up to the cemetery to pray for the Poor Souls. During the octave of All Soul's Day, a plenary indulgence can be gained by making a visit to the cemetery. We are also able to release souls from Purgatory by performing the *Toties Quoties* exercise. This is one of the most beneficial months of the year, as there are so many ways to get graces throughout its thirty days. There are so many opportunities during this month, and it is a good

idea to take advantage of this once-a-year occurrence. We should all take the incentive to pray for the Holy Souls often and fervently. May God bless you and Mary keep you!

The Church Suffering

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

November is the month of the souls in purgatory. The second day of this month, the day after All Saints day, is the commemoration of the Poor Souls. On this day we can gain plenary indulgences by praying for them. And in return, they will also pray for us.

Those who go to purgatory for a time are those who die in the state of grace but are guilty of venial sin or have not fully satisfied for the temporal punishment due to their sins. There may be people who will only be there for a day or a week, but some have to stay for many years. But even those who will be in purgatory for a thousand years or until the end of time are dearer to God than the holiest person on earth. This is because their salvation is certain, while those on earth could fall away, because they are still capable of change. So we could also call them the Holy Souls in purgatory. And by praying for them, we can shorten their time in purgatory.

In purgatory the Poor Souls suffer the pain of loss and the pain of sense. The greater of these is the pain of loss because the souls, urged on towards God as to the center of their aspirations, are continually repulsed by His Justice. This pain exceeds all

November calendar

- 2 — All Souls Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 3 — Football game
- 12 — Sodality reception ceremony
- 25 — Annual seminary talent show
- 26-27 — Thanksgiving Break; no classes
- 29 — Advent begins

sufferings imaginable. There is also the pain of sense, the torment of fire and the torment of cold which is equal to that of hell. This really puts the fear of God in us. And His Divine mercy wishing to excite holy fear in our souls speaks more of the pain of sense which is far greater than any pain we could find in this world.

Again, this is the month of the Poor Souls. As I stated earlier, we ought to gain indulgences for them and to pray for them. They suffer greatly, but they will all be in heaven after the General Judgment. They make up the Church Suffering.

Have a Care

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

Centuries ago, in a land far different in comparison to our own, men worked hard to provide for their necessities. The most common type of work was farming, which might make you think of a barn,

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maybe a pile of straw, or even a garden. But we do not think of farming as men did of old. We use the idea of farming for pleasure such as growing fruits. The taste of strawberries brings a succulent flavor for the pleasure of the taste buds and in response, we might be inclined to grow them. Livestock in particular have good tasting and nourishing content to be enjoyed by meat lovers.

I have only two questions to ask: Which animal does beef come from? Yes, of course it comes from a cow, but which animal does ham come from? Ham comes from the pig, hog or swine, whichever term is your preference. Here at the seminary we just happen to like ham or similar pork products.

As the story goes, we acquired four piglets to raise for the butcher. Then the task of making a structure to place them in came to hand. Fortunately, I know something of what pigs need and how to accomplish the everyday projects with them. Pigs are natural escape artists, especially when they are young and elusive. With that being said, it is thereby necessary to provide the facilities to keep them in. To accomplish this, I took some decent-sized pieces of sheet metal to cover the perimeter of the pen, preventing them from squeezing through the fence. That is about enough to get started in the small-scale version of raising pigs.

Every day hereafter, I am required to walk down to take care of their needs, such as food, water and maintenance of the pen. Every day, when I walk down, I find them running around the pen into each other and the fence trying to perform the most welcoming task they can. They love nothing more than an affectionate scratch on the head or a pat on the back. The only downside about the matter is that when they do their welcoming performance, they stir up nearly every grain of dust in the pen.

As you have just read, dear reader, pigs can be loving pets if you treat them like you do the dog. Having pigs with character can make them fun to be around. Although they always try to eat my pants while I am doing work inside their pen, they remain my favorite farm animal. Many people despise pigs because of their musty odor and weird habits. If they are given the correct TLC, these problems can be resolved. If *you* need a tune up in patience or another virtue, just ask the pigs and they'll be sure to help you!

Soliloquy of a New Seminarian

by Clayton Wright, gr. 12

Hello, my name is Clayton Wright. I am 18 years old and come from the southwestern part of Ohio, from a

small town called Lebanon. I am the oldest and have five siblings—two brothers and three sisters. I was an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 186. I made it to first-class which is two ranks away from Eagle Scout. Boy Scouts was very beneficial in helping me learn life skills. However, I began to realize this was a stepping stone to more important things in life.

My family hasn't had a church to attend for about 20 years, because of the changes in the Church. Last year, by the grace of God, we found St. Theresa of the Little Flower Church, where Father Trough is the pastor. Various Sisters came to our church to teach catechism and my siblings and I were blessed to make our First Holy Communion. I eagerly learned how to serve Mass and discovered my goal in life.

I'm a new seminarian at St. Joseph's, and when I first arrived here my fellow seminarians greeted me as if I had been here the whole time, and had gone away on a trip and just got back. I was put to work right away helping with the pig pen, raking leaves and other various "activities." The food here, I have to say, is delicious. The school work here is surprisingly easy, other than math. Since coming to the minor seminary, I've recently begun to play football and joined the choir. My favorite activities are discussing history (I could tell you anything from the Civil War to Vietnam) and being an outdoorsman. My goals in life is to attend Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha, Nebraska, to be a priest and help spread the faith.

Oakland (the other Oakland)

by Joseph Vines, gr. 10

On October 15th the Church on earth triumphed again and, by the will of God, St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Oakland, Maine, was consecrated to God as a place of refuge and prayer. The true Catholic Church is growing more and more every day and there are vocations sprouting throughout. I had the opportunity of accompanying Fr. Benedict on his journey to Boston and Maine and I got to see the fruits of much labor and toil in the work of Christ.

On Tuesday, October 13th, Father and I began our journey. The plane left around Noon, stopped in Minneapolis, again departed, and landed in Boston, Massachusetts, around midnight. The next day we had Holy Mass in the basement chapel of a parishioner's home and headed to Portland, Maine.

The drive from Boston to Portland is about three hours, but it hardly feels like it because all the hues of autumn are brilliantly displayed along the pastoral drive. It was pleasant seeing all the trees and landscape of Maine and New Hampshire, but one thought puzzled me—where were all the people? All along the interstate there is just trees,

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One of our seminarians assisted with the dedication of our new church in Oakland, Maine.



Benedict and Clayton show happy faces at the banquet meal at the Fatima Conference.



Robert was surprised when the ball was thrown to him!



Carrying the statue of Our Lady of Fatima during the Rosary procession on the feast of the Most Holy Rosary.



The seminarians have enjoyed learning how to make rosaries.



Our football team includes the boys of our parish school.

Oakland (the other Oakland)

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trees, and more trees, leaving the visitors to wonder. We eventually reached Oakland after picking up His Excellency, Bishop Pivarunas, from the airport in Portland.

The next day the blessing took place, followed by Holy Mass. It was a beautiful ceremony, and many of the parishioners were involved, either in the choir or in serving or attending Holy Mass. A lot of the credit goes to those who helped work on the church because without them the blessing wouldn't have been possible.

I'm sure that this stately church will thrive and bring about the salvation of countless souls who thirst and hunger for their true home. Without God's mercy we, helpless children, would have been lost, and without His Mass and sacraments many would be in oblivion. So let us humbly thank God for the many graces He has bestowed upon us and let us also never stop thanking and blessing Him for all eternity.

The Renowned in Heaven

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

The saints are those who have been declared officially by the Church to be in heaven and who may be publicly venerated. They are there because of God's mercy, by being either martyred or by doing their daily duties well, by praying very fervently, by going to confession and attending Holy Mass as often as they could while on earth.

The First Commandment does not forbid us to honor the saints in heaven, provided we do not give them the honor that belongs to God alone. The veneration paid to the saints in heaven differs essentially from the adoration of God. The saints are creatures and are not to be given the supreme worship due to the Creator alone. The honor given to God alone is adoration in the fullest sense of the word. The veneration given to Our Blessed Mother and to the saints is an act of respect and honor of an entirely different nature. The veneration to the Blessed Mother of God surpasses that given to the saints and angels.

When we pray to the saints we ask them to offer their prayers to God for us. They intercede for us as Our Lady intercedes for us. They take our prayers and offer them to God on our behalf. We will get what we need from those in

heaven, but only if we ask for it. If we ever need something, it's always good to ask Our Lady or the saints.

We know that the saints will pray for us because they are with God and have great love for us. They are willing to help us when we ask, as long as the request is for the good of our souls. St. Philomena is one of my favorite saints. It is said that "to St. Philomena nothing is refused." All those in heaven want and will help us if only we would ask them for it. Don't ever doubt the strength and help the saints can give us. All ye holy saints and angels, pray for us.

Holy Ground

Those who have been reading *The Guardian* for some time are aware of the fact that our seminary is located on the grounds of Mary Immaculate Queen Church in the hills of northern Idaho. We have here about 100 acres of property, most of it covered with evergreen trees. But of all this acreage, other than that on which our church and seminary chapel stand, there is no more blessed ground than the cemetery – God's acre.

Very few traditional parishes throughout our country can boast the blessing of a cemetery on their church property. Ours began in 1972, and since then, we have had close to 100 burials. The ground has been solemnly consecrated by the bishop, and it is in that consecrated ground that the remains of faithful parishioners await the resurrection and the general judgment on the Last Day.

Saint John Marie Vianney called his parish cemetery his *reliquary*, for he knew of the devout life of so many persons buried there. Likewise, I was acquainted with most of those buried in our cemetery and witnessed their virtuous lives. There is perhaps no greater joy for a priest, who has worked with souls over the years, given them the sacraments, and assisted them in their final hours, than to have great confidence in their salvation. So it is consoling to stroll through the cemetery, to read the headstones and to call to mind the faithful departed. For soon—perhaps sooner than we realize—we will join them. May that last summons find us well prepared!

May God bless you and reward you for your support of our seminary. May He grant us many holy priests!

— *Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*