



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

August 2017

Dear friends of Saint Joseph Seminary, Praised be Jesus and Mary. Quickly the summer is passing, and we now find ourselves just a few short weeks away from the start of the new school year. First, however, there will be the annual Camp Saint Joseph on August 6-11. Afterwards, Father Anthony will depart for his new assignment in Omaha. Already, Frater Augustine, his replacement, has arrived at the seminary and is getting settled.

The main focus right now is preparing for the upcoming boys' camp, when some 50 boys, along with several priests, come to enjoy a few days of activities and camaraderie. Of course, there is daily Mass and prayer, but there is also plenty of opportunity for recreation. We will tell you about the boys' camp in the next issue of *The Guardian*.

The past month also provided an opportunity for me to make a pilgrimage to the shrines of saints in France and Belgium, accompanied by Father Nino Molina. We visited the shrines of Saint Vincent Ferrer, Saint John Marie Vianney, Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Bernadette, Saint Margaret Mary, Saint Colette and Saint Dymphna, to name just a few. We prayed to these saints for our needs and intentions, for the welfare of the Church, and particularly for vocations.

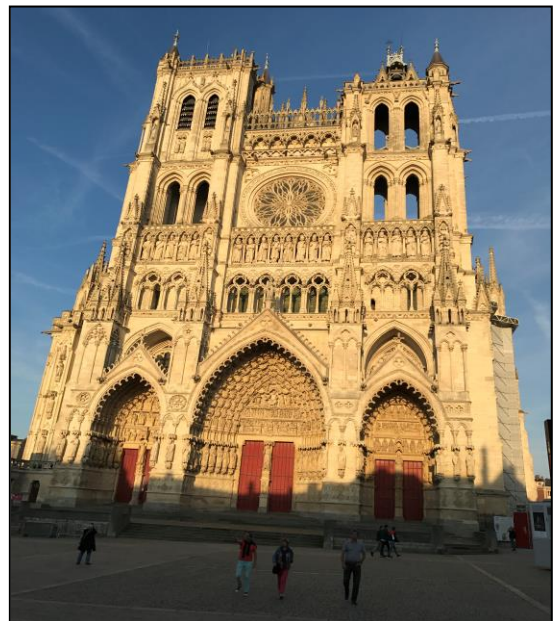
What especially strikes me is to see how the magnificent cathedrals and shrines of Europe are now practically empty, except for the tourists who do not enter to pray, but rather to admire the artwork. In other words, they have been reduced to mere museums. One wonders what these visitors think—if they would only reflect on the deep faith that produced such masterpieces!

Likewise, in the convents and religious houses, there are very few consecrated souls left. One Poor Clare convent we visited in Ghent, where the tomb of Saint Colette is found, has only 7 Sisters left, and they are all elderly. What will happen to the precious relics that are now cared for by these religious, when they soon

depart this life? Yet, despite the loss of faith caused by Vatican II and the Novus Ordo, there is still genuine piety to be found in some places. We saw this particularly in the basilica of Our Lady of Victory in Paris.

The month of July also provided the opportunity for all our priests to assemble, as we do twice a year, for meetings. These are wonderful occasions for us to visit our fellow priests and to review various theological and pastoral issues. It is wonderful to join some 23 other priests for a few days, but we are also reminded how many more priests are needed to respond adequately to the needs of souls. Let us all continue to pray for more vocations. May God bless you and your families, and may He reward your support of our seminary!

In the service of Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI
Rector



The magnificent cathedral of Amiens glistens in the light of the setting sun.



Mont Saint Michel in Normandy was built to honor Saint Michael the Archangel.



Many hours of labor have been expended in preparing the site for the Boys' Camp.



The incorrupt body of Saint Bernadette reposes peacefully in Nevers, France.



This outdoor shelter was built at the Boys' Camp for the celebration of Holy Mass.



One still witnesses piety and traditional religious habits at the shrine of Our Lady of Victories in Paris.



The incorrupt body of Saint Catherine Laboure rests in the chapel where Our Lady revealed to her the design for the Miraculous Medal.



Our seminary vineyard was planted just 2 years ago but is now burgeoning with grapes.



Father Nino Molina poses with 2 Filipino Sisters whom we met at the shrine of Saint Colette in Poligny, France.



Father Benedict and Father Anthony attended the priests' meeting in Omaha the last week of July.



The majority of the relics of Saint Therese the Little Flower are contained in this reliquary at the Carmel in Lisieux, France.