



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 2017

November has been mostly a quiet month, with extra emphasis on praying for the Poor Souls. Now we are about to enter the season of Advent, where we make sacrifices and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus into the world.

For us, however, December will provide something particularly exciting, and that is a trip to Omaha to attend the ordination ceremony on December 12. Frater Augustine, one of our teachers, will be ordained to the priesthood, and we all want to be there to witness this stupendous event! Fortunately, Mr. Keaveney and Brother Sebastian have agreed to drive us to Omaha and back. That will be a lot of time in the van, but it will be well worth it.

Before we know it, our Christmas vacation will be here, and we are all

looking forward to going home to our families. But before we do, we want to make a good Advent and make sure that we are not forgetting about the importance of spiritually preparing for Christmas. We have all made out our penance programs and submitted them to Father for approval. Let us all make a good Advent, that we might experience the joy and blessings of Christmas.

## A Time of Joy

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 12

Now as we move through the school year as time unceasingly flows, the day of the Nativity is coming near again. It was the moment in which, 2000 years ago, Our Blessed Lord came into the world—a time that brought great joy to the

### December Calendar

- 6 – Mid-quarter
- 8 – Immaculate Conception BVM; Holyday of Obligation
- 10-15 – Trip to Omaha for ordination ceremony
- 12 – Ordination to the priesthood of Father Augustine Marie, CMRI
- 21– Half-day of school; Christmas Vacation begins after classes

human race. And this, of course, is what we mean by the word *Christmas*.

Now why does this day bring tidings of great joy? It is a day in which families gather, children laugh, and people exchange gifts. We hear a plentiful amount of joyful music and see many houses lit up. And one would notice that the whole world seems to be in a state of joy during this time compared to the feasts and celebrations of the other three-hundred and sixty-four days.

And why is that? It is because it is the day that God took upon himself a being as low as man for one purpose. And that purpose was to re-open the gates of heaven, for the sole reason He created us. It is as though the souls of all men have that feeling of happiness during this time. Even non-Catholics and others who may not know the true meaning of Christmas, also feel joy at this season.

Well, in the wait for the coming feast of Christmas, we all hope to

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*Robert leads the procession to the cemetery on All Souls' Day.*

## A Time of Joy

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prepare ourselves during the season of Advent, which is the start of the new Church Year. We prepare for this feast as it is one of the greatest feasts besides Easter Sunday. This is why we undergo the season of Advent, to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the anniversary of Our Lord's birth, just as Lent readies us for the feast of the Resurrection. And I have heard many priests say that the better you prepare the greater joy and merit will come on the day that is to be the feast of the Nativity of Our God and Savior.

## The Ugliness of the Modern World

*by Thiet Nguyen, gr. 8*

Compare the modern world today with the beginning of the human race when God created Adam and Eve. God created men in His own image Himself, making them the masters of everything on earth and giving the goods that He created. But then they sinned. God was sad and He banished men from entering Eden.

The world nowadays reflects what happened in Genesis. Most men no longer worship Our Lord and commit many sins. Abortion, homosexuality, and many other iniquities have covered this world. The modernists these days state that men have their own freedom of living. It's true we have free will; however, the limit cannot be far where God will take no more.

We had the privilege of listening to His Excellency, Bishop Mark Pivarunas, CMRI at the 2017 Fatima Conference. He talked about our world, and how many people fall for sins. He especially highlighted abortion and homosexuality. His Excellency said that God created men and women, so that they can pass their offspring from generations to generations to fulfill Our Lord's works. He added a hilarious phrase in the speech: "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!" In simple words, homosexuality is against nature and God's laws.

Also, at the conference, we, seminarians observed a video about a man who wanted to test the reactions of the youth at the University of Washington about homosexuality. So, he asked college students: "What do you think if I tell you I'm a woman?" And as the result, it surprised me that all of them responded: "Good for you!" or "Congratulation!" How ridiculous, as you can see the future of America and of this world! It seems to be a big problem for youth today to think about reality, they don't accept the truth of nature that God created, non-Christians or even Christians!

Many American families these days have only two or even one child. And why is that? It's because of abortion,



*Mrs. Salgado directs the seminarians in preparing for the parish breakfast.*

of course! The Democrats today say that it's a true right for women to have abortion. It's excessively wrong. My parents are the members of many pro-life and charitable organizations in Vietnam. Their group has collected and buried thousands of bodies of little babies that were killed in the wombs of their wicked moms.

Abortion is especially done in Communist or socialist countries, particularly in Bangladesh, China, and sadly, my homeland Vietnam. There have been researches claiming that if 1 baby was born, 2 babies will get aborted in these three countries.

There are different opinions about abortion. Many people say that abortions come from the pressure from society; many say that it mostly comes from a bad economic situation. But we Catholics know that it's gravely sinful to do abortion in any situation. Children are the gifts of God to parents, which means that if parents procure an abortion, they are against God and His law, because of their selfishness.

In conclusion, the world today is a big mess for the many sins they keep committing against Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We have to pray more and more in reparation for the sins of the world we're living in today, and for the conversion of many poor sinners throughout the earth.

## Breakfast for the Fun

*by Dominic Scherling, gr. 10*

On the second to the last weekend of the month of November, we seminarians woke up in the morning to accomplish our normal Saturday schedule, but today was a

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*Our soon to be Father Augustine.*



*A group photo on our field trip to the Petrified Forest.*



*Thiet explains his science project to the other seminarians.*



*Chanting Vespers on Our Lady's feastday.*



*Where is this young man's coat?*



*Dominic mounts one of the horses at the Wild Horses Monument.*

## Breakfast for the Fun

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little different. Today we were to prepare a delicious home-made breakfast for the parishioners of the City of Mary, which was to be served by us the following day after both Masses. The purpose of this breakfast was to raise money for the seminarians for activities, such as winter skiing.



*Thiet serves Mass for Father at our Lewiston, Idaho, mission.*

Before we began to prepare the breakfast we went around the property and raked leaves in various places. As the raking concluded, we all started to head back up to the seminary, where Mrs. Salgado, one of our devoted teachers, was waiting for us. She, being the secretary of the parish and school, volunteered to help us with all of the cooking and the preparations needed for the breakfast.

On the menu for the breakfast we were preparing was chili, pumpkin pancakes, sausage, fruit, salad, and juice. The first thing that we started to work on was the chili. When our cooking started I was assigned to chop the onions. After chopping several onions my eyes were running like faucets. Luckily, when I was done with the onions, I was allowed to open multiple cans of tomatoes and put them into the chili. Finally, with the help of all of the seminarians, we finished the preparations.

The next morning, we all, including Mrs. Salgado, attended the first Mass so that we could be ready to serve the breakfast afterwards. Slowly the guests entered. Soon enough we had a group of hungry parishioners for the very nicely accomplished breakfast. After the second Mass ended, the guests once again started to arrive. This Mass, being the second Mass of the day, is usually better attended

than the first, which means more people at the sale. For the second part of the breakfast we had a larger group of parishioners. Overall, we had a plentiful fund-raising breakfast sale. We seminarians would like to thank you all for your support!

## “Thou Art a Priest Forever”

For a Catholic, there is nothing quite so moving and inspiring as an ordination ceremony. If you have had the privilege to witness such an event, it is something you will never forget for the rest of your life. And truly, such a momentous occasion ought to be significant, for thereby a man become another Christ and will be so forever.

Jesus Christ chose men to take His place, offering the Mass and dispensing the sacraments. Even though priests are human beings, with faults and defects, they nevertheless fulfill the role of Christ and use His words in consecrating the bread and wine and confecting the sacraments. May God grant us more priests, and especially holy priests!

This is why the work of educating future priests must continue. Please continue to support the work of our seminaries, and especially pray for many more vocations to work for the salvation of souls. Let us also pray in particular for those seminarians who will receive Holy Orders this month.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I pray that you will have a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

## Prayer to Know One's Vocation

O my God, Thou art the God of wisdom and good counsel, Thou who readest in my heart a sincere desire to please Thee alone and to direct myself in regard to my choice of a state of life, in conformity with Thy holy will in all things; by the intercession of the most holy Virgin, my Mother, and of my Patron Saints, grant me the grace to know that state of life which I ought to choose, and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Thy glory and increase it, work out my own salvation and deserve the heavenly reward which Thou has promised to those who do Thy holy will. Amen. (indulgence of 300 days, once a day).