



THE GUARDIAN

October has been packed with many activities. We attended the events of the Fatima Conference, including the bishop’s pontifical High Mass and the outdoor candlelight procession in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. A few days later, we had a ceremony for our seminary sodality, which included the reception of four new candidates.

We have also been busy with outdoor chores before winter sets in, including the harvesting of our apple trees. This year’s bumper crop yielded 223 quarts of applesauce and 48 gallons of cider! And it is just in time, for the weather has turned quite cold.

This week we wrap up our First Quarter and look forward to getting our grade cards—hopefully, we will be pleased with them! But we also begin the important month of November, during which we seek to help the Holy Souls with our efforts to gain indulgences for them. We will also be making many visits to our cemetery. Let us, in charity, remember these suffering souls, who cry out for our prayers.

They Who Need Our Prayers

by William Riley, gr. 9

November 2nd is an important day. It is the day of the suffering souls in purgatory, or as we know it: All Souls Day. It is the day to pray for the souls that need it most, not that we shouldn’t do that regularly. It’s good to pray regular

prayers for these souls, but the best prayers are the *Toties Quoties*. The *Toties Quoties* is a series of prayers that provide a special indulgence that can only be gained on All Souls Day. The prayers are six Our Father’s, Hail Mary’s and Glory Be’s. When you finish saying those, then you exit the church and enter again. If you don’t leave the church you do not gain another indulgence.

You may say this prayer as many times as you like for the Poor Souls, as long as you are in the church while saying it. You may not think you have any relatives in purgatory. Think about it this way—if you were in purgatory, wouldn’t you want to be prayed for? So you should strive to pray all the more zealously. Also, if



Four seminarians were received into the seminary sodality, which fosters devotion to Our Blessed Mother.

we pray for these souls, when they finally enter heaven, we can bet that they won’t forget to think of us.

After I help and pray for the Poor Souls, I come out feeling holier and kinder than ever. We should pray daily

November Calendar

- 1 – All Saints Day; no classes; seminary outing
- 2 – All Souls Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 21 – Presentation of Our Lady; chanted Vespers
- 26 – William’s 14th birthday
- 27 – Mid-quarter; feast of the Miraculous Medal; chanted Vespers
- 28 – Thanksgiving vacation begins

for the Poor Souls, but on All Souls Day, we receive more graces and indulgences, so we should strive to pray earnestly on that day especially!

Holy Souls in Purgatory, when you finally enter Heaven, “Pray for us”!

A Slice of Seminary Life

by Evan Estrada, gr. 11

The minor seminary has been an amazing experience. Aside from the good environment of the other boys and better spiritual connection to God, we also have some pretty amazing teachers. Father Benedict, Father Philip, Mrs. Gallagher, and Mr. Keaveney do their best each and every day to teach us.

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A Slice of Seminary Life

The spiritual connection to God you get is an amazing part of being here. Having Mass every day and Rosary with weekly confession is a great grace. Something else that makes it very nice here are the boys. Believe it or not, they are great company, even though sometimes we want to bite off each other's heads! Still to have a good atmosphere is truly good for the soul.

We also have a lot of fun here. From different board games that we all enjoy playing, to just going on walks in the forest, we know how to keep ourselves occupied. Not to mention that earlier this year we got to go to Lake Coeur d'Alene. That was a fantastic trip. We had 3 days of just getting to know each other a bit better and got to do so many other things there, like canoeing, swimming, and playing card games. It was quite the trip.

When the school day is over and you finally get the Mt. Everest of homework done, you can get a fairly good amount of free time to do many things. I personally enjoy going on walks in the forest with a friend or playing outside games like 4-square. Sometimes, it is just nice to go inside the chapel and pray and talk to God. Being the only one in the chapel with God is nice and peaceful. Well, that is all I have to say for this month. I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter. Thank you for reading my little article. May Jesus and Mary keep you all safe and may God bless you.

The Mothers of Lu

by Joseph Strain, gr. 9

This is an incredibly true story about the mothers of Lu and their prayers that were answered in a rewarding manner. But this story began in the year 1881, which is 138 years ago.

In the small town of Lu, in northern Italy, with a population of about 4,000 residents, the mothers in the

town started gathering on the first Sunday of each month to assist at Mass, receive Holy Communion, and to recite a beautiful prayer while at Mass. This is the prayer which they said:

"O God, grant that one of my sons becomes a priest! I promise to live as a good Christian woman and will lead my children to all that is good, wherewith I hope to receive the grace to be able to give to You, O God, a holy priest."



Seminarians were privileged to serve for the Bishop's Pontifical High Mass at the Conference.

After they had started gathering together regularly and reciting this prayer, they had, within fifty years, an overflowing flood of over 500 priestly and religious vocations! Let us think about this really quickly: in fifty years and over 500 vocations, that is at least 10 vocations every year. We can clearly see that God heard their prayers and granted the greatest privilege to them, to have many priests from that one small town of Lu.

Wouldn't some of the mothers in the world today want to have the joy of having one or more of their own sons offering Mass? We should always be praying for vocations to the priesthood and also to the religious life, but I would also say to pray for the mothers of those religious. Today, how many priests and religious are there in the world? And how many priests and religious came from this small village? Let us constantly be praying for vocations to the religious life and the priesthood.

Behold Thy Mother

by William Davis, gr. 9

Behold thy Mother was the title for this year's Fatima Conference, so I decided to use the same title for my *Guardian* article. The main object for the conference was on Our Lady and her virtues and blessings. There were many beneficial lectures, many awe-inspiring

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Jesse recently celebrated his 17th birthday.



Every Monday we have a science lab with many interesting experiments.



There have been plenty of fall chores to keep us busy on Saturdays.



The snow came early this year!



The Sunday Mass on the final day of the Conference, held here at the City of Mary, was followed by a delicious brunch.



The early snow did not prevent us from igniting the burn pile.

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Behold Thy Mother

ceremonies, many meetings and making new acquaintances, and a surplus of events and activities. For the body of this article though, I wanted to talk about the lectures.

For the first lecture Father Dominic Redecky spoke about the aids to perseverance: how the sacraments, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Rosary, the scapular and the use of ejaculations are absolutely necessary to final perseverance. The next talk, by Father Benedict, was on the sacred liturgy and how it was defended by the good popes and changed by the false popes. The next lecture was by Father Rissling on his tumultuous life and how Mary overfills our needs. Indeed, it was a harrowing tale that Father Rissling told.

After that we had lunch and prayers. In the afternoon there was another lecture given by Father Le Gal on Our Lady in France and how indifferentism has corrupted that once beautiful country. And then we had free time until Rosary. After the recitation of the Rosary there was a banquet followed by a keynote speech by Father Casimir.

The next day, after the Pontifical High Mass, the bishop spoke about Our Lady. Then there were two more

conferences given by learned lay men. The first was on Sister Lucia of the Fatima apparitions, and how the new “Sister Lucia” was a total fraud taking the place of the real Sister Lucia. The last lecture on Friday was on the shroud of Turin and whether it is authentic. In both of the last talks, the lecturers blew the opposition out of the water with clear scientific facts and simple logic. Truly, this year’s Fatima Conference was filled with informative talks and edifying ceremonies.

Lessons of the Liturgy

Although you will likely not receive this newsletter until after the beginning of November, I would like to briefly

comment on the great feast that opens this month. Every season of the year has its own lessons and spiritual emphasis. This last month before Advent reminds us of the great truth of the Mystical Body of Christ, as we begin with All Saints Day followed by All Souls Day.

We are members of the Church Militant, while the saints in heaven (Church Triumphant) and the souls in purgatory (Church Suffering) comprise the other two branches of the great Communion of Saints. Every time we recite the Creed we profess our faith in this doctrine: “I believe in ... the Communion of Saints.” This truth is a consoling reminder that we are part of a great spiritual family.

The feast of all the saints in heaven on November 1st is particularly important. Holy Mother Church wishes us to make up to these dear friends of God on this day for any negligence on our part in giving them the honor they so

richly deserve. In past ages this great feast was prepared for by a vigil of fasting and prayer (All Hallows Eve, since corrupted to “Halloween”). As the Council of Trent teaches, we are bound to honor the saints.

How can we honor the members of the Church Triumphant in heaven? We honor them by praying to them to intercede for us, by striving to imitate their virtues, and by learning about their holy lives. A wonderful practice—

one which they greatly

appreciate—is to thank God for all the graces He gave to them on earth. For they realize far better than we, that their holiness and salvation are due only to the grace of God. As we say in the Divine Praises: “Blessed be God, in His angels and in His saints.”

The Liturgical Year with its annually recurring themes and feasts is full of spiritual beauty and rich with lessons for us. May we learn these lessons and thereby earn our salvation. We are most grateful for your support and prayers for our seminary. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families in return.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The school children joined the seminarians for a procession on the feast of the Holy Rosary.