



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XXI No. 6 Issue #246

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2020

All is well at the seminary, although a few seminarians have missed a couple days of school, due to the inevitable winter colds. (So far, fortunately, no one has had the flu.) We have enjoyed two ski trips and the priests' visit, and now we are firmly entrenched in the Third Quarter of school.

February will have its own liturgical events, with the important Candlemas ceremonies on Sunday, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and finally Ash Wednesday. We also continue to learn new things in choir and will be chanting Vespers on all the Sundays of Lent.

It is hard to imagine how quickly the first half of the year has gone—a reminder that we must use our time well for academic and spiritual growth. Here at the seminary, we are all like a family and enjoy each day that God gives us. We also pray for you and for more vocations to our seminary. Please also pray for us.

He who perseveres to the end shall be saved

by Jesse Sand, gr. 11

War has been raging since the beginning of time, and now we are in the climax. This battle for souls has in more recent times turned in favor of the devil. The devil no longer needs to worry about the majority of men who drag themselves to hell. However, the people whom he works on are those who arm themselves against his

attacks.

Final perseverance is the grace that we should continually pray for since without this grace all else is meaningless. As laid out by Father Dominic Radecki, in "The Reign of Mary", there are ten basic things we can do to obtain this grace. First is the reception of the sacraments of Penance and Holy Communion. These sacraments can forgive sin, weaken our passions, and strengthen us against future temptations. The second means is assisting at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and adoring Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. The Mass by itself is of infinite merit before God; however, we only gain graces based on how well we attend.

The third means is devotion to the



The seminarians join the priests for Vespers from the Divine Office.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially with the nine first Fridays. For Our Lord has given St. Margaret Mary some wonderful promises if we only have devotion to His Sacred Heart. Fourth is devotion to our loving Mother Mary, who will not hesitate to help her

February Calendar

- 2 – Purification BVM feastday; Candlemas ceremonies
- 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes; special ceremonies in honor of Our Lady
- 10-24 – Annual ping-pong tournament
- 19 – Mid-quarter
- 22 – Talent Show and pre-Lent Parish Social
- 26 – Ash Wednesday
- 28 – Annual Lenten retreat begins

children who invoke her most powerful name. The fifth means is the Rosary, which will bring us much grace if we say it devoutly and fervently. The Rosary is one prayer that the devils particularly hate, for this prayer has the power to convert sinners from their wayward path and save souls.

Next is humility, for pride is the source of all evil and robs God of what is rightfully His. If Christ could be humble before men, how can we be prideful and still enter heaven? Seventh

is devotion to St. Joseph who is the patron of the dying and the "terror of demons." Eighth is devotion to St. Philomena the wonder-worker, a virgin martyr who was slain under Diocletian with most cruel tortures.

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The ninth means is the use of sacramentals that are blessed items that have certain indulgences attached to them. These items would include St. Philomena cords, St. Joseph cords, Holy water, Miraculous Medals, etc. The final means is devotion to our Guardian Angel and to St. Michael the Archangel who is powerful against the devil.

A Joyful Gathering

by Anthony Harris, gr. 9

The day of the priest meetings was a busy one rearranging the classroom and setting up tables and chairs for about 30 priests and His Excellency the Bishop, but when all was done the rest was fun. The first thing we did was pray Vespers with the religious and priests. Afterwards, we visited with old friends and made



The large amount of January snow turned the City of Mary into a winter wonderland.

many new ones. Then we had a dinner cooked by the parishioners, consisting of delicious beef, salad and mashed potatoes. After dinner Fr. Benedict shared some puns with the priests and you could hear the uproarious laughter all the way upstairs.

After dinner we played pool with Brother Thomas and ping pong with Fr. Jurado from Argentina and several other priests and major seminarians. We also played a game with everyone called "7-down." You play by counting and you cannot say any multiple of 7 or a number with 7 in it, or you are out. When you are out, you remain seated, which makes it even more challenging because you have to remember who is out and who is in. We all had a lot of fun playing it.

On Friday we went skiing with several of the priests:

Fr. Sandquist, Fr. Geckle, Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Philip and Fr. Molina. It was the first time skiing for some, but they quickly got the hang of it. It was a very fun day although we were all tired and glad to go home. I am already looking forward to the events of next year's priest meeting.

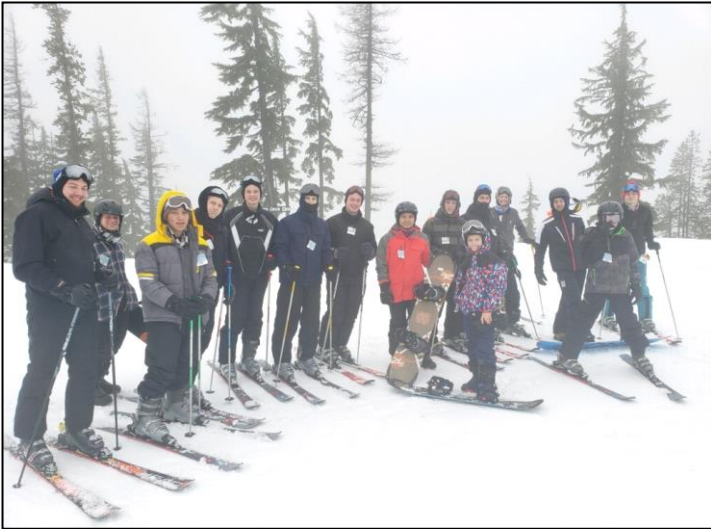
And Winter Came

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 10

There is perhaps nothing more stunning than a snow-covered forest in the mountains. Or nothing more enjoyable than watching a blizzard age outside your window. Winter came to the City of Mary, now the city of snow. Within forty-eight hours three feet of snow had transformed the minor seminary into a snow-sledding paradise. Once sloping paths climbing deep into our mountain now are extensive high-speed sledding runs. The book named Boys Handy Book has a winter section that illustrates and instructs boys how to make forts with walls ten feet high or igloos with twenty foot diameters. With the snow berms plowed off our parking lots and roads we have pre-made sixteen foot walls of snow, ideal for forts, tunneling and ultimate king of the mountain matches. Besides being useful, the snow has also made our mountain look stunningly beautiful.

Although snow does bring great pleasure and fun it also brings work. The City of Mary being a running facility of school and parish, the roads and walkways must be at all times clear for safe passage. Trust me, this is easier said than done. Father Benedict once said that the real reason he began this minor Seminary was to provide shovelers to keep things running. Obviously, Father was joking, but the amount of shoveling needed can be exponential. Shoveling snow off walkways, digging out vehicles and clearing stairs has become our Saturday routine. Once a year the snow builds up so much weight on the roofs that we have to push it off the roofs for the buildings' structural integrity. We look forward to Saturdays, for it's customary to sled and enjoy ourselves in the snow after work is done, and maybe even a little during work.

The first few days of snow we all pitched in to make these two amazing long sledding runs that both had ramps. Due to hard work and perseverance the following day we had the time of our lives sledding all day. I suppose the reason I tell you all of this is to inform you that even during boring winter days we find ways to keep ourselves busy and active. Winter is a great season, especially here. You have more relaxing time than the rest of the year, and also we get to enjoy in many ways the cold outdoors.



We had quite a group for the latest skiing outing, as several of the visiting priests joined in.



The seminarians were glad to see Father Augustine.



A game of chess always seems to attract an audience.



Clearing the snow from one of the roofs at the seminary.



The seminarians enjoyed opening their gifts during the Epiphany Octave.



Father blesses the chalk, and gold, incense and myrrh on the Epiphany.

One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 10

This past month of January, the clergy and the faithful of Mary Immaculate Queen parish recited prayers after Mass in the course of a week for true Christian unity. This exercise gave me an inspiration to write an article about this practice of religious unity because of the importance to understand the true meaning of this practice.

“And I say to thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I'll build my Church” (Matt. 16:18-19). As the world went on with its modernization, indifferentism and ecumenism are the greatest threats to the spirituality and morality for many souls today in the Novus Ordo Church. The ideal of the promotion of true Christian unity, and its difference compared to false ecumenism and indifferentism, are important for us to understand. False ecumenism is being used as a tool by Modernists to infiltrate the Church today.

Ecumenism is characterized by the belief that all multitudes of people hold excessive “rights” as human beings, permitting everyone to practice his own religion, and that all religions are holy in the sight of God. Along with the fact that it holds many errors against the teaching of the Church, as Pope Pius XI points out in *Mortalium Animos*, indifferentism and ecumenism are also opposed to and contradict the Ten Commandments, especially the First and the Fourth Commandments.

Due to the rise of Freemasonry during the time of the Revolution in France in the late 18th century, indifferentism is very much lacking the knowledge of the true Catholic religion. It shows the concepts of self-interest, self-benefit, and pride, rejecting self-denial and throwing away traditional beliefs and values. As an impact of indifferentism in the New Church, a huge lack of reverence in social behavior has evidently formed, particularly among the youth, towards the priests and clergy of the Church, towards authority, the elders, their rightful superiors and even God Himself.

True Christian unity on the other hand, is the promotion of the conversion of non-Catholics, in a true Catholic spirit. As stated in the encyclical *Mortalium Animos*: The union of Christians can only be accomplished by promoting the return to the one true Church of Christ of those who are separated from it... The Mystical Body of Christ, like His physical Body is one (I Cor. 12:12), compactly and fitly joined together (Eph. 4:16). Therefore, there is no true unity in the Church if differences in doctrine are not integrated under the orthodox teachings of the legitimate successors of Saint Peter.

It is truly an abomination that many are falling into the darkness and errors of ecumenism and indifferentism in the

Seminary Support Club

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Conciliar Church. This is not the Church that Christ founded 2000 years ago, for this Church is contradicting His will as He commanded that his disciples spread the true faith to every part of the world. We should always remember that we are the children of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Overall, let us be grateful to have the recognition of the true faith and pray for the conversion of all to the Catholic Church so that one day their souls will be saved by Our Lady's help through our prayer and penance.

A Time for Penance

Whether we want to admit it or not, we all need the penitential practices of Lent. Having finished the joyful, celebratory season of Christmas, we now turn our attention to a reflection on the Passion of Christ, and what our sins caused Jesus to suffer. Penance is certainly necessary for our spiritual welfare, so let us all prepare to make a good Lent this year.

Here at the seminary, in addition to their own chosen penances (which are submitted for approval to their superior or spiritual director), the seminarians join in common practices of the season. We recite the Stations of the Cross weekly, have a Lenten retreat, and chant Vespers every Sunday, among other practices. We also strive to reflect more on the passion of Our Lord and the terrible cost of sin.

Let us all determine, over the next few weeks, what we will do to make a good Lent this year. Since the members of the entire Mystical Body of Christ throughout the world are fasting and doing penance during this holy season, we are joining with our fellow Catholics. It is like the entire Church Militant crying out to God, “*Parce Domine, parce populo tuo, ne in aeternum irascaris nobis.* (Spare, O Lord, spare Thy people, lest Thou be angry with us forever.)”

Once again we thank you for reading our newsletter and for your interest in and support of our seminary. Please pray for our young men and for more vocations to labor in the Lord's vineyard. We are most grateful for your support, and we pray that God will abundantly reward you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI