



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2020

Holy Week at the seminary was a wonderful time, at which we all participated in the Sacred Liturgy. On Holy Thursday Father Benedict had the ceremony of the Washing of Feet. Since the parishioners were not able to attend Mass, due to the stay-home order, we seminarians represented the twelve apostles. With nine seminarians, Father Philip, Brother Louis, and one other server who lives close to the church, we had just the right number.

On Holy Saturday we worked on setting up an outdoor altar. It was breezy and chilly, but Father Philip

week we had quite a pile of branches to burn.

We are now back in our regular routine of classes, with just over a month left of the school year. As you can imagine, we are looking forward to the end of the school year and summer vacation. It has been since Christmas that we were last home.

During this final month of the school year we will have our annual devotions to Our Lady. Also, some of the seminarians are preparing to make the act of Total Consecration at the end of the month. May we all grow in our devotion to Our Blessed Mother

May Calendar

- 1 – Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker; High Mass and devotions; mid-quarter
- 19 – Rogation procession
- 21 – Ascension Thursday; annual camping trip
- 25 – Memorial Day; no classes; Queenship Procession
- 26 – Feast of Saint Philip Neri: Father Philip's feastday
- 31 – Formal renewal of Holy Slavery



Father Philip offered an outdoor Mass on Easter Sunday for parishioners who had to remain in their cars.

still had Mass outside on Easter Sunday. The people stayed in their cars in the parking lot and were able to attend Mass.

Easter week was our spring vacation. We had plenty of recreation and also worked on the grounds. There was plenty of yard work to be done with raking the pine needles and collecting branches from the windstorms over the winter. By late in the

during this month, as we honor her with our daily prayers!

Preparing for the Easter Vigil

by Joseph Strain, gr. 9

After going through the forty days of Lent we have begun another Easter season. Time just seems to fly by and you seem to experience so many things that you would like to talk about. And it is for this reason that I would like to write about

preparing for the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Holy Week seemed to be coming and going with great speed as we suddenly realized it was the morning of Holy Saturday. All throughout the week we had been preparing for the ceremonies of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, and now we were preparing for the Easter Vigil ceremonies.

Early in the morning, after being able to sleep in for a little bit, we ate a quick breakfast and set off to do the preparations. But first we went to the Church to practice for midnight Mass and to set up the altars and lilies and get everything set up inside the sacristy and in the sanctuary. After we had finished setting up, we went to finish our Saturday chores and decorate for Easter. All afternoon we were thinking ahead and trying to remember what we would be needing so that there would be very little to do when evening came.

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Preparing for the Easter Vigil

When evening came we prayed the Rosary, ate dinner, did the dishes and then some went to take short naps while others stayed up and went to the church to make final preparations for the Easter Vigil ceremonies. Afterwards, we changed and cleaned up a bit before heading back to the church for the start of the Easter



Volleyball has been a popular sport lately, with the warmer weather.

Vigil ceremonies.

In the sacristy we went over verbally the order of the ceremonies and started to put final articles in their proper places so that there would be no last minute hustling inside the Church. But most importantly, before we began we said a prayer in order that we might perform the ceremonies correctly and with devotion.

After Midnight Mass we put away anything that would not be used for a while. Then we went to put ourselves away so that we would be ready to wake up early in the morning to serve for the High Mass at ten o'clock. God bless you, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the Easter season.

A Call Holier Than Jihad

by William Davis, gr. 9

My article this month, instead of being on the minor seminary, will be on a topic I hope you will enjoy reading. The subject to which I am referring is the Crusades. There were five holy crusades. Each one had a set goal, usually Jerusalem, which any nation who joined sought to free from the rule of Mohammed's successors. A Muslim "crusade" was called a jihad, or holy war. But obviously, since we are possessors of the true faith, our crusade is nobler and holier than their jihad.

The First Crusade was launched by Pope Urban II in 1095, with the aim of freeing the Holy Land, specifically Jerusalem, from the roving brigands and Muslims who

constantly harassed Christian pilgrims on their way to visit the places where Jesus Christ lived and died. After the Pope gave a rousing call to arms in the French town of Clermont, the message spread through Europe with amazing speed. Soon soldiers of many nations were preparing to set out for the Holy Land. A wave of Europeans, consisting of many knights and trained units, succeeded in gaining a foothold in Palestine. After that it was a slow but successful road to Jerusalem, which was taken in 1099, signaling the end of the First Crusade.

But it was not long before the Muslims launched a counter-attack, called a jihad. After more years of continuous bloodshed, the Seljuk Turks recaptured Jerusalem. In response to this another crusade was launched. This one, however, was not as fortunate as the first, and the crusaders didn't retake the holy city. Two more crusades were launched, but in the end both failed at a huge loss of life of Christians and Turks. Finally, a last crusade was taken

up by the mighty Holy Roman Empire under Barbarossa. But while journeying with his army he drowned in a river and his army dispersed. That was the premature end to the Fifth Crusade.

At long last the Muslims and Christians were both tired of the endless see-saw wars. So an end was put to it all when the Turks made an agreement to allow safe passage to and from the Holy Land. So in the end, the long term goal of Christendom was realized and the path was open for pilgrims to venerate the sacred spots where Jesus lived and died.

Nothing Held in Abeyance

by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 10

Fortunately for us seminarians, things have stayed relatively the same in spite of the coronavirus or COVID-19. On Fridays we have been making All-Night Adoration for the end of the coronavirus and for sinners to stop offending God. Mr. Keaveney live-streams the daily Mass so that people who don't have Mass can at least watch it. He also live-streamed the Holy Week ceremonies at which we all served.

We have been having our regular classes and chores as usual, which is a bummer. The high-schoolers were dismissed a couple of weeks ago and so we have been having P.E. by ourselves. It has mostly been volleyball

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Spectators gathered for the final match of the annual Pool Tournament.



The first Mass of Easter at midnight concludes the Easter Vigil services.



The priests first, followed by the seminarians, venerated the sacred wounds of Christ on Good Friday.



The seminarians gathered plenty of fallen branches for the burn pile.



We celebrated Gabriel's birthday during the Easter Octave.



Seminarians join in the chant of the Pange Lingua during the procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

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Nothing Held in Abeyance

but sometimes we play Ultimate Frisbee or football. We were playing volleyball in the gym but it has warmed up a lot so now we play it outside which is nice, because we finally get some sun. Another sport that we were playing in the gym was four-square, but when the weather is nice we play on the blacktop (parking lot). My favorite sport is baseball and I have been trying to talk the other boys into playing it, but we would have to drive to town because we don't have a field here.

On Saturdays we have started our spring cleanup. It has mainly been raking up pine needles and chopping up trees that have fallen down during winter. Some of the treetops broke off because the snow was too heavy. Mr. Frame, one of the parishioners, has helped us a lot. He has a couple of really nice chain-saws and has cut down many trees. After he chopped them down we took the branches to the burn pile, and then he cut the trees into logs. During the week we went around with the four-wheeler and collected the logs and put them into a pile next to the Seminary. Last week Fr. Phillip, myself, and a couple others started the fire and it was gone in half an hour. As you can see, our routine has not been held in abeyance by this bestial illness.



Seminarians represented the Apostles for the Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday.

The Month of Mary

All Catholic hearts warm with joy at the approach of the month of Our Blessed Mother. Those who have been blessed with the benefit of a Catholic education recall the "May altars" in our classrooms, and how we rejoiced to

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

Do You Have a Vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Latin, theology, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

bring flowers for Our Lady throughout the month of May. As this month comes around each year we repeat that act of devotion and seek to honor our loving Mother and Queen.

We must remember, however, that (as Saint Louis Marie de Montfort teaches) our devotion to Our Blessed Mother must not consist in mere external practices. True Devotion to Mary consists in the interior, especially in seeking to imitate her virtues and to live in union with her. While external devotions are commendable, they are only as good as the interior spirit which animates them.

Let us then, seek to honor Our Blessed Mother this month. Yes, let us perform external devotions, such as adorning a shrine in her honor in our homes. But let us especially imitate her and seek to become more pleasing to her. By honoring Our Lady with a true devotion this month (and always), we

will come to know, love and serve her divine Son Jesus—to Jesus through Mary.

As always, we thank you for your support and prayers. May God bless and reward you, and may we all become daily more pleasing to Jesus and Mary.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI