



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2020

May was a busy month! Since Idaho allowed churches to reopen for public Masses on May 1<sup>st</sup>, we have had a large attendance with extra Masses on Sundays. We have also had 4 processions, including the annual Queenship procession and the Rogation processions. There was also First Holy Communion and on May 31<sup>st</sup> two seminarians will consecrate themselves as slaves of love to Jesus through Mary.

As you noticed in last month's newsletter, we were supposed to go on our camping trip in the third week of May. But since Idaho's state parks are closed until May 30<sup>th</sup> this year, we will leave on Pentecost Sunday (May 31) and be at Priest Lake State Park for the first 3 days of June. You can only imagine how much we have been looking forward to this trip. The tents

to Priest Lake. So you will have to wait until the July issue of *The Guardian* to hear about the trip.

It is hard to believe that just a few days are left of this school year. We all agree that it has been a wonderful school year (except for the coronavirus!) We have made new friends, learned a lot, and grown in our spiritual life. Before we know it, we will be back again for a new school year, but until then, we will enjoy the summer at home. We hope you also will have a great summer. May God bless you, and thanks for reading our articles.

### It Feels Like Yesterday

by Joseph Strain, gr. 9

We have now completed another school year here at Saint Joseph Seminary. When we are waiting



The seminarians and staff (and Victor) pose for the annual group photo.

and sleeping bags have been taken out of storage and we have reviewed and revised the list of food and other supplies to take. The canoes and all the equipment will be packed on Saturday, and after Mass on Sunday we will be off

for something to happen for a long time, it feels like it is taking forever. But when the time comes for that exciting moment, everything seems to be passing faster and you wish it was taking forever. For this article I want to write briefly about some of the main events of this past school year.

When the seminarians who live at a distance arrived at Saint Joseph Seminary, they were all unpacking and getting acquainted. The Sunday before school started we went on a hike up in

### June Calendar

- 1 – Thiet's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 1-3 – Annual Camping Trip
- 4 – School program; awards ceremony; end of school
- 5 – Seminarians leave for home.
- 13 – Our Lady of Fatima procession
- 23-26 Annual Religious Retreat
- 27 – Vows ceremony at Mount Saint Michael
- 28 – Confirmation and Parish Picnic

the hills and got to see some of the rural scenery of Idaho. And on Thursday that week we left to spend Thursday afternoon to Saturday afternoon at a house by the Lake. Then, on Labor Day, we went to Cataldo Mission and took another short hike in the woods.

The next highlight of the 2019-2020 school year was the Fatima Conference. We attended all of the lectures that were delivered to the public and also the Rosary procession that was on Saturday evening. And on the following morning (Sunday) the Conference guests came here to the City of Mary for High Mass and afterwards to have breakfast and see the grounds.

We had a couple of small highlights that can be mentioned in a few sentences. We had a pumpkin carving contest, the judges being the children in the school. Later, we had a breakfast to raise money for our winter ski trips. One of the main food items that we sold was pies we baked with Fr. Philip.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

## **It Feels Like Yesterday**

These brought in a good amount for the ski trips during the winter months.

We had three ski trips, and on each ski trip we explored and went down many different slopes. And all of these trips seemed to be very short and winter ended before we knew it.

To wrap up the school year, we will be going on a camping trip at Priest Lake from May 31<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>. And now the time of summer approaches when we must avert our eyes from the great distractions of the world. God bless you and may you have a good summer.

## **Unused Riches**

*by Jesse Sand, gr. 11*

**A**s the restrictions are lifted across the country, soon we will all be able to attend Mass and receive the sacraments like normal again. No doubt we are all expectantly waiting for this day. Though these restrictions have been detrimental to our spiritual life, they have probably made us appreciate how great a gift we have from God. The gift that I am referring to is the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

The holy sacrifice of the Mass is a complete mystery of God's love for us. For at every Mass Christ is mystically sacrificed in an unbloody manner on the altar. Christ already obtained infinite satisfaction for all sin committed, but the Mass applies this grace to us. Thus the Mass is vitally important for us to obtain grace. We can only obtain grace, however, in proportion to how well we attend Mass.

One thing that is especially recommended by St. Leonard, the author of *The Hidden Treasure*, is attendance at daily Mass. Many of us put off this good and holy devotion with petty excuses such as: we don't have time, it's too far away, I'm too tired, etc. Don't be fooled! God does not fail to reward the smallest kind act done in His name. So how much more will He not deign to reward those who attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass?

There is a story of two craftsmen who both held the same occupation. One had a family and the other lived with only his wife. The one with a family received plentiful business and was quite well off financially. The other man had sparse business and fell into debt. One day the poor man inquired of the other how he was able to support all the

needs of his family while he, himself, could barely subsist. The richer man proceeded to bring his friend to Mass for the next few days. The poor artisan made it a habit to attend daily Mass and quite soon business became regular and he was able to pay off his debts.

So as our churches start opening, let us take advantage of this gift that God has given us. Also, let us not take it for granted again.

## **Quest for the True Faith**

*by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 10*

**T**hank God my dad became a Catholic! He was born in Norfolk, Nebraska, of Hal and Virginia Kuck, and was brought up a Lutheran. He decided to go to college in Lincoln and eventually moved to Omaha, Nebraska.

After college he sold Filter Queens throughout the Midwest. That is where he met my mother. She had her own Filter Queen business in southern Iowa and after they married, they moved their store to Madison, Wisconsin. Mom was a Novus Ordo Catholic and wouldn't get married until he converted. Dad argued about faith for four years.

When she took him to a Novus Ordo mass, he said: "This is just the same as our church."

Together they studied and found the Latin Mass. They started going to the Indult Mass, SSPX, and Bishop Slupski. Every year we visited our Grandma in Omaha for about a week and needed to go to Mass on Sunday. My parents looked around to find the Latin Mass that was close by and that wasn't too early. Divine Providence stepped in and close by was Mary

Immaculate Catholic Church, which had Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 am.

My parents attended Mass there since the late '90s, not knowing at first about the sedevacantist position, or even that such a belief existed. Mom and Dad had a meeting with the Bishop and he explained everything. Eventually, we moved to Omaha for school and daily Mass in 2011. Many of our relatives did not agree with us and stayed with their heretical Churches.

Mom's aunts and her parents agreed with us and now there is a school, convent, and church in Seneca, Wisconsin. It was very hard for all of us when we moved because we were so close to our family. We would visit them very often, while we were still up there in Wisconsin.

*Continued on page 4*



*The seminarians have an important role in singing during the Rogation processions*





*Mrs. Gallagher and seminarians inspect a large donation of potatoes.*



*Fr. Philip conducts choir for a High Mass, as he plays the organ.*



*The seminarians had the privilege of carrying Our Lady's statue during the Queenship procession.*



*Thiet was among the seminarians who helped in laying new sod at the outdoor shrine of Our Lady.*



*The jog-a-thon starts, and the students are off to the races.*



*During May the boys took turns crowning Our Lady's statue at the church.*



*Continued from page 2*

## Quest for the True Faith

Now, we go up and see them twice a year for the family reunion and hunting. It all came to be because my Dad started as a Lutheran but converted, and because of him I am here at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary. I am so lucky to be here, one in a million. Thanks be to God!

## So It Begins

*by Evan Estrada, gr. 11*

**Y**ou know that special day when everything goes calmly and you are in your bed ready for a nice peaceful nap on a Sat...Satur...Oh shoot, it's Saturday! CHORE DAY!!! Well, there goes any hope of extra sleep.

Saturday—Oh what a day. This is our main chore day. On this free day of ours, we have a chore list that we volunteer to

do. Just about all of them are unique but we do have some repeats every week. The two main ones are checking our water level and filling up our water jugs for drinking water. Also, due to a harsh winter, a lot of trees broke in half or collapsed completely, so we have been busy cutting and burning all of these trees or tree branches. House cleanup is also on Saturday. Wait! I haven't told you of our normal chores yet, have I?

The daily chores of a seminarian are not very difficult. From keeping our rooms clean to doing the dishes at night, we don't have too much to do. Father does a daily room inspection and those who fail are assigned to wash dinner dishes. Sometimes it's sad watching the same seminarian do the dishes 4 days in a row. But that's fine with most of us because, well, it's less work for us.

On Wednesday and Saturday we have 2 groups for cleaning the house: one to clean downstairs and another group to clean the upstairs. Then we have "Special Assignment." This is for those souls who are not included in the normal Wednesday assignments due to them being "special." I am one of these elite 3 and we do some of the most important jobs in the seminary like raking, cleaning the van and setting up things in the church. As you can see, they saved the most important jobs for us.

I mentioned a chore but didn't go into detail. The worst, most terrifying and hardest chore is... dishes. In this, we can

spend anywhere from 10 to 30 minutes washing, depending on who you are stuck with. Dish crews are made up of 2 groups, the morning crew and night crew. These crews switch every week. Every quarter Father rearranges the members of each crew and the crew leaders. For example, Jesse and I were captains for the 3rd quarter; now Thiet and Thaddeus are the new captains for the 4th quarter. The dishes are not so bad in themselves but being stuck rinsing with a slow washer can give you something to offer up.

In general, a good amount of work is done here to fill in our daily lives. Well my dear loyal readers until next time, May God bless you all.

## Quest for the True Faith

Saint Aloysius is a great saint and model for Catholic youth, whose feastday occurs in June. Although he was a Jesuit seminarian preparing for the priesthood, Saint Aloysius

died at the young age of 23 while nursing the plague-stricken in Rome during an epidemic. He had volunteered for this dangerous mission and thus died, we might say, a martyr of charity.

Although Aloysius was snatched out of life before his ordination to the priesthood, he achieved great sanctity, being particularly known for his innocence, his deep interior life, and his incessant mortification. Saint Mary Magdalen of Pazzi was given a vision of the young Saint Aloysius in glory, and she marveled that he had been raised so high, above most other saints in heaven. In 1926 Pope Pius XI named him patron of Christian youth. Owing to the manner of his death, he is also venerated as a



*Father gives Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with our May shrine in the foreground.*

special patron of plague victims.

Let us pray to this saint for our Catholic youth, who are particularly surrounded by the temptations of the world during the summer months. May he especially assist our youth to retain the pure innocence of their baptismal robe! I pray that you will all experience a relaxing, joyful summer with your families, far from the enticements of a corrupt world. By so doing, we hope one day to enjoy, together with Saint Aloysius and all the saints, the eternal joys of heaven. Thanks for your support!

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*