



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2020

Just a week ago a dozen young men gathered at the seminary for a new school year. They came from Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Quebec, and Washington. Most came by car with their parents, while three of them came by plane.

There are seminarians in each grade, 8th through 12th. Half of them are new, while the other half are students beginning their second, third, or even fourth year at the seminary. Already we are solidly into our academic curriculum, although next week we will take a few days off for the annual Lake Coeur d'Alene outing.

All of the seminarians have served Mass, most of them for many years. They will have plenty of opportunity to serve Mass and ceremonies, and to sing High Masses. All in all, it is going to be a great school year. We thank you for joining us in this adventure

by reading our newsletter, and we ask your prayers for a successful school year.

Seizing the Opportunity

by Jesse Sand, gr. 12

The summer is over and now it is time to get back to a regular schedule and routine. Although the summer has been a good vacation and break, it is good to get back into a more spiritual atmosphere and improve our spiritual lives. This year definitely will have ample opportunity for all of us to grow in grace.

Attending Mass is definitely the most grace-filled thing we do every day. What a blessing it is for us to never worry about distance, weather, or anything else that

September Calendar

- 5 – Our secretary's birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's nativity; special observances
- 10-12 – Annual outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene
- 12 – Joseph's 15th birthday
- 15 – Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows
- 24 – Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 30 – Mid-quarter

cannot be ignored as an immense opportunity for spiritual aid and grace. There also is plenty of

opportunity to make frequent visits to Our Lord in the chapel, which is connected to the same building that we live in. Of course, we also say the daily Rosary as Our Lady requested; however, we have the privilege of praying the Rosary in the presence of the Holy Eucharist in chapel. Aside from all of this, we also have the chance of frequent confession and spiritual counsel

from our priests.

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This year's seminarians pose for a group photo on the first day of classes.

would prevent us from hearing Mass. The daily privilege of receiving Holy Communion also

Seizing the Opportunity

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Besides sacraments and prayers, we also have the frequent opportunity of growing in grace by practicing charity towards one another. It is to be expected that not everyone will naturally get along. We have different temperaments, backgrounds, habits, etc. However, with God's grace we will be able to practice fraternal charity and overlook each other's faults and failings.

As you can see, we have plenty of sources for grace here at the seminary. But we can only gain this grace if we have the right intentions. The opportunity is there; all we have to do is seize it!

Your Future Priests

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 11

Down... Set... Omaha... HIKE! Suddenly the parking lot is flashing with running boys, each determined to accomplish the same end, and that is to win. What a blessing it has so far been this new school year to have so many minor seminarians, not only to be able to play legitimate sports, but also to see perhaps a swell of religious vocations. And now that we have as many as twenty boys in both the seminary and the school for P.E., we have enough people to make a full and legitimate football team. Being the second youngest of ten with four directly older sisters, this is a dream come true! Every day you can see the eager anticipation accumulate to what is one of the best parts of the entire school day, P.E.

Being only three days in and only scratching the surface of the full school year, my knowledge of our full potential is obviously limited. However, playing together already a grand total of three and a half hours, I would say our future as far as sports is very promising. Though we have difficulties to overcome and still

very much to learn, as long as we do what Father Philip, our P.E. teacher, says, then we will doubtless succeed.

With twenty boys such problems as transportation, equipment, and organization have become a standing issue. Also, come winter how are we going to fit twenty people in our already crowded gym? Perhaps in the big picture such things as not going to the park on Fridays or not being able to play sports during winter or even having a crummy football—it doesn't really matter. To a boy who has school eight hours a day, nine months of the year, it can mean life and death. However, whether it happens that we get the time and money to address these problems or we have to adapt without them, God's will be done.

What a gift it is to be able to play football with traditional Catholic young men. Young men who have come to learn, share, and cherish such things as God, virtue, discipline, honor, and plain old common sense—something this world has truly lost. Truly, God has given us "twelve apostles" the opportunity to grow physically, mentally, but most importantly to grow spiritually in knowledge and love of God. Please keep us minor seminarians in your prayers, for perhaps, God willing, we will be your future priests... and rest assured that your future priests will be great football players.

New Chores to Keep Us Busy

by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 11

I had a very busy summer and it looks like I'm going to have a busy school year as well. The five of us upperclassmen are going to have a lot on our plate. I am head sacristan this quarter, which means I am in charge of the two assistant sacristans and have to take care of the chapel, etc.

I am also captain of one of the three dishes crews. Yes three, for we have a total of twelve



A former student in our minor seminary comes for a visit.



Paintball battles are always one of the most popular activities.



Everyone had a great time at the lake during Boys' Camp.



Mr. Mark Vincent has been painting our church recently.



Fun at the park during a recent P.E. class.



Canoeing on Lake Pend Oreille is a much-anticipated part of Boys' Camp.



The seminarians work together to stack wood for the Sisters on their balcony.

New Chores to Keep Us Busy

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seminarians this year. Crew number one does breakfast dishes and crew number two, which I am in charge of, does dinner dishes. Father Benedict is having the third crew put away dinner dishes after night prayers because that is a big chore on its own.

This fall we will be harvesting and canning plums, apples and pears, and boy that is going to be fun. I wasn't here last year in the first semester, so this will be my first time.

Gabriel was telling me that raking leaves and pine needles all around the property is another hard task. We will also be helping Mr. Keaveney with harvesting the grapes from the over-flowing vineyard.

On top of all this, we plan on getting a Jersey cow so that we won't have to buy six or seven gallons of milk every week. We have a lot to do to prepare for the cow, like getting the milk barn ready. Father Benedict wants us upperclassmen to be in charge of this, so that will mean taking turns getting up early each morning.

In a few days we will go to spend a few days at a house on Lake Coeur d'Alene, so that will give us a break in between the various chores. Also, the Boys' Camp only used about half the paint balls that were purchased this year, so we will be happy to use the rest. Father Phillip really enhanced the paint ball course so we should have a lot of fun doing that. As you can see, we will be very busy this semester.

Doing God's Work

Not a whole lot has changed at the seminary over the years. There are new faces each year, a different

group, but the routines remain. Our daily schedule has remained virtually intact throughout the years, with only the slightest tweaking. The annual calendar is basically the same each year. The practices, customs and rules at the seminary also remain the same.

You know the old saying: "If it isn't broke, don't fix it." There is no need to tamper with a schedule, curriculum and rule that work. Likewise, in our individual lives we develop routines and practices, which serve as a sort of anchor. Yes, variety is also

good, and so the occasional special event is welcome. But in the main, we thrive on the regular routine.

Here at the seminary, we are busy doing God's work. Hidden away in the seminary, these young men fulfill their daily duty of prayer, study, chores

and recreation, by which they are being formed. The progress is usually not noticeable from one day to the next, but it is very real nonetheless. The formation of the character and spiritual life of a young man is of incalculable importance. Here we strive to cooperate with God's grace in continuing the work begun by these boys' parents. Pray for the success of that work!

You supporters of our seminary have a critical part to play in this work of formation. We are most grateful for your moral and financial support and especially your prayers. May God bless and reward you and your families, and may we all seek to always do His holy will. Be assured of our gratitude and our prayers for you.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Group picture from Boys' Camp.

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This Newsletter is free upon request.

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