



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2021

It has been quite a busy month. In early October we participated in the annual Fatima Conference. On Thursday and Friday (October 7th & 8th) we attended the lectures throughout the day at Mount Saint Michael. On Saturday we went back up to the Mount in the evening for the beautiful outdoor candlelight Rosary Procession, followed by devotions in the chapel in honor of Our Lady. Then, on Sunday, the Conference guests came here to the City of Mary for the High Mass.

We also have daily benediction at the seminary chapel during October with the recitation of the Rosary. Two seminarians are assigned to serve each day as acolytes. It is a great honor to serve for Our Lord, especially as we honor Our Blessed Mother with the Rosary.

We have also been busy with projects around the seminary. We finally got around to harvesting the apples, and last Saturday we spent much of the day making cider. This week we are carving pumpkins for a contest that is held each year at the end of October.

Now, as we enter November, our thoughts go to the relief of the souls in purgatory. On All Souls Day we will sing a High Mass. In addition, we will attend extra Masses and make many

visits to the chapel to gain the special *Toties Quoties* indulgence for the poor souls. We will also make daily visits to the cemetery during the Octave of All Souls Day. Let us all do whatever we can to help these suffering souls. In return, we can be assured that they will intercede for us in our time of need.

The Fire of Faith

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 12

The hum of dusk was bringing its darkness, deepening the cool evening air. Two hundred people waiting with lighted cupped candles for the vanguard procession to reach the front, grew restless as the wind fluttered autumn leaves. The lights of Spokane flooding below to our left looked like a besieging army ready to advance up the cliff, while we the

November Calendar

- 1 – Feast of All Saints; holyday of obligation; seminary outing
- 2 – All Souls Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 4 – Sodality reception ceremony
- 24 – Thanksgiving Vacation begins after classes
- 26 – William’s 16th birthday
- 28 – First Sunday of Advent
- 29 – Classes resume

Father Casmir began the rosary which echoed through the grounds of Mount St. Michael. Then came the hymn “In Fatima’s Cove” where all raised their candles, as would a knight his sword, above their heads at the beautiful refrain “Ave, ave, ave Maria!” It is still, in my mind, one of the most moving sights I have ever seen. It was then, however, that I noticed a fellow seminarian, whose name will remain anonymous, oblivious of the fire in his hand, holding his candle in a most precarious manner. I tried to my best efforts to warn him, but it was too late. For the fire was spreading and he was literally, not figuratively, on fire...

There are many great and wonderful things that can be said about the annual Fatima Conference. However, there are also a couple

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The seminarians attended the Pontifical High Mass during the Fatima Conference.

defenders, were busy lighting our arrows of devotion, our candles, to hurl down at the enemy as the fire of Faith.

The clear and booming voice of

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The Fire of Faith

negative things that should first be mentioned—namely, the coffee they serve for breakfast is sometimes a little weak and the Conference always ends too quickly. But, on the other hand they serve donuts for breakfast and they have their own coffee shop.

Just kidding! The Fatima Conference has a plethora of much more beneficial aspects—not only their donuts and coffee shop—that I could not begin to fit on one page. It is the largest gathering of traditional Catholics at the largest CMRI church in the world. It gives to those attending the confidence and peace of mind that the Church is still alive and as unchanged as it was during the time of the Apostles. Most importantly, it gives every



The seminarians attended most of the events of the annual Fatima Conference.

individual soul the means of learning more about our Faith and the opportunity to grow in grace and in devotion to Mary.

I personally learned two great lessons during this Conference that I hope I will never forget. The title, “Our Life, our Sweetness and our Hope,” taught me that Mary has to be the beginning and ending of every day. Did not Our Lord give us this example, living thirty years with His mother? Also, how desperately we need religious now more than ever to call down graces from God on our poor and confused world. Pray every day that God will send laborers into His harvest so that the harvest may not be wasted.

I could not highly advocate and recommend the Fatima Conference enough. Every traditional Catholic should try to attend at least once during their life. Who knows? Maybe the time will soon come where persecution will force us to hide our Faith and no longer be able to host the Fatima Conferences.

Finally, to conclude, I also learned not to hold my candle too close to the paper candle protector as Thiet did when his caught on fire. And no, thankfully, he did

not catch on fire. (P.S.: A special thanks to the major seminarians and Mr. Miller for inviting a few of us to sing with them.)

Night Games

by Arlin Wertish, gr. 10

I sat up in an apple tree in the dark, praying that the branches would hide me. Two sets of footsteps came under the tree. I heard Jorge and William’s voices converse under the tree. Maybe they wouldn’t see me after all! Maybe the branches of the tree would hide me!

“We see you,” said William in triumph. Well, so much for the branches hiding me. But they still had to guess my name. William walked around the tree studying my features. It felt like several minutes that he stood there looking at me. “I know you’re a twinkie,” said William. Okay, they knew that I was one of the twins; now they just had to guess my name. They only had one guess. William was obviously in confusion, not knowing which twin I was. Maybe I would get away with this after all! But then Jorge looked at me. I could feel his eyes watching me. An evil smile became plastered on his face. “It’s Arlin,” cried Jorge, and with that he ran away to kick the bucket. I was caught.

If you haven’t caught on yet, we were playing kick the can at night. We’ve been playing that lately. It gets very intense as you just read. I will say it is quite nice to have a twin when playing these night games. At first we tried to play games like four-square and football. But unfortunately, it got too dark too fast so we had to resort to games like kick the can. The other night we just played cops and robbers. That’s also a really fun game filled with tons of running and lots of hiding.

Now that I have informed you of what we’ve been doing lately for evening recreation, I will “close up shop.” May God bless you, and please enjoy my article.

What is Going in Here?

by Jonathan Lehnen, gr. 10

There is always something happening here at the seminary. Things constantly change in one way or another. It may be good or bad, but in this case it is good. (How can something bad happen here, anyway?) If you don’t already know, there are five major projects going on this year. The landscape of the area has been changed slightly as the tasks are being completed.

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The workers used heavy equipment for the various projects at the City of Mary.



We had an abundant harvest of grapes this year.



Last Saturday the seminarians used the cider press, to provide 20 gallons of delicious apple cider.



The seminarians sang several songs for the Conference guests after they attended Mass at Mary Immaculate Queen Church.

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What is Going on Here?

There is really no order for when each project began. They all have been done by the same company and they are being done at the same time—one day, one area, the next day, another area. But each project is getting close to being done.

You could say the first project that began was the addition to the side of the gym building. It was begun several weeks after school started and it has been taking a while to do, but is nearly finished. The workers have begun to connect the trusses of the roof to the posts that have been installed around the perimeter of the new extension. The field next to that area has been covered with dirt from drilling holes for the posts, and from other areas to level the field a little more.

Up at the cemetery, the road has been greatly widened to allow easier driving around a sharp curve near the top. With their giant machines, the workers have been able to do a fantastic job, and it is now a lot easier to drive around that curve to get to the cemetery safely. Also, the cemetery itself will be extended to allow more space for the deceased.

One of the biggest projects is the root cellar. This will be the storehouse for all our vegetables and canned goods, because, being covered by dirt, it will stay cool all year round. It has been rather interesting to see the work done on it day by day, and to see how it was built. It has been constructed out of solid concrete in a large, crevice dug out of a hill near the seminary building. It is just about completed, having been covered by the dirt recently.

The shortest of all the projects was the replacement of our septic system, which was completed in less than a week. Most of the hill behind the seminary is now all dirt, due to that, and so we will have to plant grass in that area in the spring.

The final project that is going on is the construction of a shrine to Saint Joseph. Originally, a lonely statue of our patron stood above a little flower garden in front of the seminary. Now, four large pillars have been placed around this statue to support the old bell tower from the church. It has been coming together very nicely.

As I said earlier, there is always something going on here. In this case, however, it is not just *a* thing, it is *many* things. There is never a dull moment at the seminary!

With Minds, Hearts, and Hands

By reading the various articles of our newsletter, you certainly have become aware of the fact that our seminarians are kept quite busy. Every seminarian spends time in fulfilling various chores, perhaps more than would normally be the case in a seminary. Usually, a seminary is well-staffed with cooks and other staff members, so that the students can be free to concentrate on their studies, but ours is somewhat unique.

For one thing, we produce some of our own food at the seminary. We have a cow for milk, pigs, a large garden, and a spacious orchard. This means a lot of work for the



On a recent field trip we visited the Great Falls of the Missouri River.

seminarians. At this time of year, Saturdays are quite busy with harvesting and processing the produce. In addition, each seminarian has his turn at milking the cow. Everyone pitches in with these chores.

Then there is cooking. Sadly, Mary Antonia Seale, our seminary cook for the past 13 years, has been quite ill in the hospital. She first went to the hospital in late March for a couple weeks. After her release, she was able to do some of the cooking but was still quite ill. Then, in late August, she went back into the hospital and has been there ever since with various physical infirmities. I ask your prayers for this dedicated soul who has been such an asset to our seminary over the years.

In the absence of a regular cook, our seminarians have all been involved in cooking. Father Philip makes out a menu for each day of the month and oversees the cooking. There are two seminarians assigned each day, and it is their job to prepare the breakfast and supper meals. Although this is time taken away from study and/or free time, it is a good training for these young men to learn how to cook. One day that skill will come in handy, for priests often have to do their own cooking.

So, as you see, our formation here at Saint Joseph Seminary is somewhat unique. While adequate time is provided for prayer, study and recreation, there are also plenty of chores to keep the seminarians occupied. By fulfilling their assigned tasks, they learn to serve God not only with their minds and hearts, but also with their hands.

As always, I wish to express my gratitude for your support of our seminary. May God reward you and may He bless your families. And let us all especially remember the faithful departed in our prayers during this month.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI