



# THE GUARDIAN

This month of December has literally flown by. Soon we leave for vacation, so these articles are being written earlier in the month than normal. As we look forward to our vacation, we also hope that your Christmas season will be a joyful time with your family.

The main event this month was the funeral for our dedicated cook, Miss Mary Antonia Seale. Father explained in the eulogy that she cooked at the seminary for many years. We will certainly miss her talent and labor in the kitchen but are comforted in knowing that she was well-prepared for a holy death. May God reward her abundantly for all she did for our seminary over many years.

we look forward to a relaxing vacation with our families.

When we return in January there will be the customary gift-giving at Epiphany, but we especially are looking forward to our skiing trips. There hasn't been much snow yet, but we know that will soon change. We hope that you will all enjoy a wonderful Christmas season and that God will bless you in the New Year of 2022.

## Some Facts about Our Lady of Guadalupe

by Anthony Stain, gr. 9

As we all know, or as we all should know, Our Lady

### January Calendar

- 4 – Classes resume at the normal times
- 5 – Blessing of Epiphany water
- 6 – Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord; High Mass
- 18 – Begin Church Unity Octave
- 19 – Priests visit the seminary
- 20 – Final day of the Second Quarter
- 21 – Ski Day
- 24 – Third Quarter begins

Mexico City and told this to the Bishop, but the Bishop wanted proof on who it was. On December 12 Juan Diego's uncle was very ill. Juan Diego was running to get the priest to give his uncle the last sacraments. He wanted to avoid being stopped so he went around the hill where he normally met with Our Lady. But Our Lady came down to Juan and told him that his uncle was well. And she told Juan to get the roses that were growing on the top of the hill.

After Juan had picked the flowers Our Lady arranged them in the way that she wanted them. She told him to show these to the Bishop. When the Bishop and the priests who were with him saw what was in Juan Diego's tunic, they were not awestruck by the flowers but rather by the image of Our Lady that was on the tunic. Our Lady's request was carried out. The tunic of Juan Diego is still around today.

The image of Our Lady on the tunic is so full of detail that you



In December the seminarians and staff gathered for a group "Christmas" photo.

During the past month we also had the important feasts of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. Soon afterwards, however, we began packing for our trip home. We worked hard to finish our tests and final lessons, and now

appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 on December 9, 10, and 12. Each time it was on top of a hill while Juan Diego was on his way to Mass. And she asked that a church be built in her honor.

Juan Diego went to the Bishop in

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## Some Facts about Our Lady of Gaudalupe

possibly would not know what to say first. The most remarkable thing that I have learned about it is that the image is not on the tunic but it is hovering. There is just enough room for one to fit a laser through it. What I find that is even better is that doctors have put a stethoscope on the image and they heard two heart beats—one of Our Lord and the other of Our Lady. Also, there is a small flower over the place where Our Lord is.

I would say that the tunic is a lasting miracle because it has not decayed for the past 490 years, yet a copy which was painted on the same material decayed within a few years. The stars that are on Our Lady's blue cloak form constellations that you would see from Central America.

There once was an attempt to destroy the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Somebody planted a bomb in the Church that the image was in. When the bomb went off Our Lady protected the image from damage. As I said, this image is a lasting miracle.

## Love Isn't Loved

*by Jorge Cruz, gr. 10*

“**M**y soul is sorrowful until death.” This is the complaint of Our Lord, abandoned and forgotten by His apostles, afflicted and alone. Many, like the apostles, sleep on the hard rock of the world, while Christ offers His bosom where they could take rest. They seek rather the euphoria of the world, than the delightful oasis of the tabernacle. They prefer what is minute rather than the grandeur that Christ offers... His heart.

This heart is always burning with love, yet it is covered with the thorns of ingratitude and indifference. What is most sorrowful for the Heart of Jesus is not the blasphemies of heretics, the coldness of worldly men, or the betrayal of the Jews, but the neglect and defection of those whom He called friends. Yes, His friends, those souls who promised their unconditional love, yet show indifference towards His heart and respond to His love with hate.

What might surprise us is that even though a Church may be filled with people, Our Lord is still so forgotten. The reason for this is that many souls say that they believe that Christ is truly present in the

Holy Eucharist, yet interiorly they are filled with doubt. If they are not doubtful, their hearts are cold and indifferent. You may ask, good soul, what is the cause of such coldness towards the Sacred Heart of Jesus? The answer is simply lack of love for the Blessed Sacrament. Many visit Jesus as a routine or because they feel obligated as Catholics to visit Him once in a while. Some enter without even making an act of love, for they don't realize Who is in their midst.

Oh, my good reader, such souls, when they are afflicted with a difficulty, plunge towards the vanities of the world. They all scatter and run towards the things of the world, just to live off the husks of the swine, while their Lord and God offers them the flesh of the lamb of Calvary. Many are amazed at the fact that the Jews didn't recognize Our Lord as their king and God, yet they are not displeased seeing Our Lord so dishonored in the Blessed Sacrament.

People with great honor and wealth or a high social status are dissatisfied when they are mistreated, yet they are not saddened to see their King so dishonored. What about those who have no position or are poor and have great respect for those who are of higher status, but are not moved when the *Lord of Lords* is so mistreated and receives indifference? “LOVE ISN'T LOVED” exclaimed St. Mary Magdalene of Pazzi. “Come with me and let us love LOVE,” she used to tell her fellow sisters. How could it be that *Love* isn't loved? Shouldn't *love* above all love be loved? How could it be that *love* is so unloved?

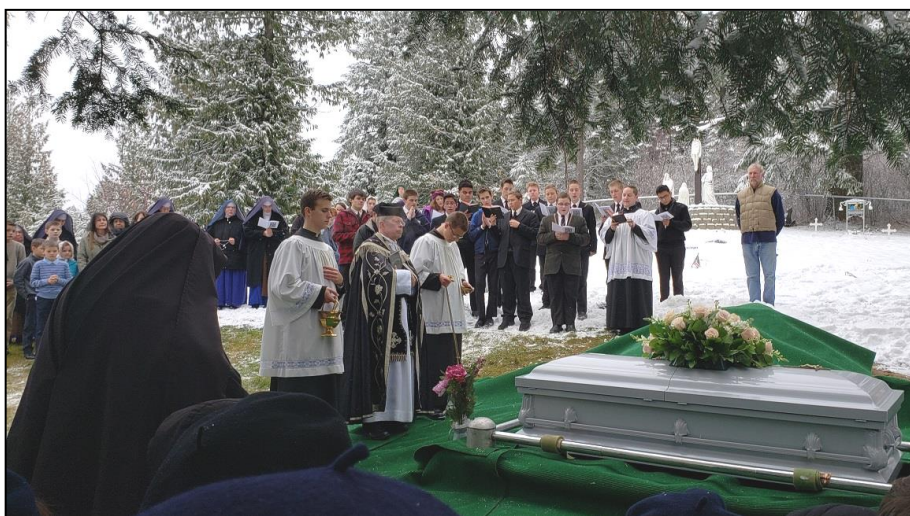
My good reader, the answer is that many souls don't think of Christ. “*Think of Me and I'll think of you*” are the words of Our Lord to a saint. Many people, after receiving Holy Communion forget who dwells in their heart. Yes Our Lord dwells in our heart and there he takes his rest and delights in the flowers of virtue. Many souls don't notice the beauty of their souls after Communion and lose their recollection and leave their Master all alone in their hearts. These good souls speak with their God and beg Him that they may never leave His side. So then, when you are in His presence say with the greatest confidence, “My God, imprison thyself in me and grant that I may love Thee more and more.”



*Jorge helped Saint Nicholas give out goodies to the children of the parish.*



*Recent Saturday chores included cleaning the gutters at the seminary.*



*Under Father Philip's direction the seminarians formed the choir at the funeral for Mary Antonia Seale.*



*On the Saturday before Gaudete Sunday the seniors worked on preparing the food for the festival in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.*



*Bowling on the feast of the Immaculate Conception has become a tradition at the minor seminary.*

## “Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant”

Many have asked me the recipe to our success here at the minor seminary. Whatever success we have had here is due to many causes. First and foremost, it is the result of God’s grace, without which nothing good can be accomplished. You members of our “support club” pray for this work, in order to secure these necessary graces from Almighty God through the hands of Our Blessed Mother. Second, the young men who come here must be devout Catholics who eagerly seek to know and do God’s holy will. Boys from good Catholic homes make excellent candidates for a seminary. Third, and very importantly, the staff members who run the seminary must be generous souls who seek to cooperate with God’s grace in order to further His work.

Here at Saint Joseph Seminary we have been blessed with many good young men who adapt to the schedule and the way of life in a seminary and, by so doing, grow in grace and virtue. But we also have been blessed with men and women who, in a sacrificial spirit, offer to help with this work of formation. Among these, a great deal of credit and gratitude goes to our dedicated cook of many years, Miss Mary Antonia Seale.

Mary Antonia approached me during the summer 13 years ago and asked if she might cook for us. Her offer was providential, as we had just lost our previous cook, who had moved away from the area. I hadn’t yet advertised for a cook, so her offer was certainly an answer to prayer. There was no doubt that we were receiving an excellent staff member, as I had known this devout soul for many years. Mary Antonia had long desired to become a religious but was unable to do so, due to health concerns.

These health issues did not prevent her, however, from faithfully fulfilling her tasks. She would walk over here early in the morning (Monday through Friday) from her residence by the church to start cooking breakfast. She would then prepare lunch before leaving. Later, in the middle of the afternoon, she would return to prepare supper. The fact that she was a talented cook whose meals were always tasty and nutritious only added to the blessing for our seminary.

In addition to her cooking duties she was also the sacristan. She would iron the albs and other linens, keep the sacristy clean and set up for Mass. Everything she did was done conscientiously, as it was done for Our Lord. Many times she told me how happy she was to have found a home here at the “City of Mary” and to work for Our Lord and for the priests and seminarians, despite her infirmities.

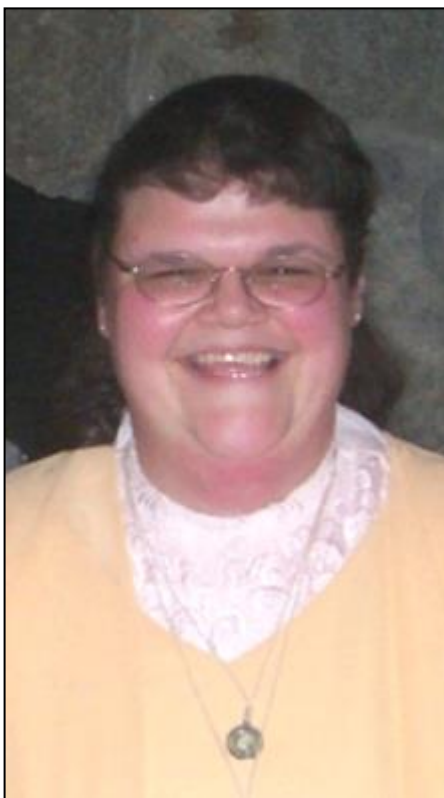
Those who have known me throughout the years of my priesthood have asked how I manage to stay well. I always answer that much of the credit goes to the cooks. If I were preparing my own meals, I would want to get them ready as quickly as possible in order to get back to the work that needs to be done. Having someone else do the cooking, who is conscientious about providing good nutrition, is a real blessing for a busy priest and certainly contributes greatly to health and longevity.

In addition to her fidelity to duty, Mary Antonia was a blessing to have around the seminary due to her good example. She was a Catholic who truly loved God and working for Him. This fact was clear to the seminarians who appreciated her service and good example. She will be greatly missed here, but we are consoled by the knowledge that she died as she had lived—loving God with all her heart. I have great hope that at her death she heard these words of Our Lord, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of thy master” (Matthew, 25:23).

Another year has passed, and we look forward to a New Year. We pray that God will bless you with His grace throughout 2022. Let us all continue to serve Him faithfully, that we might receive that reward

promised to those who love and serve Him on earth.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*



*(July 8, 1959 – December 3, 2021)*

*Mary Antonia Seale was a dedicated cook who loved her job at the seminary.*