



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2023

After a long winter we have been eager to get outside more. Finally, the weather has been cooperating. We have had trips to the park and regularly play outside on the church parking lot. You can even see seminarians playing catch with a football or frisbee during the short breaks between classes.

The spring also reminds us that

some of us will stay at the seminary. The vacation will be a much-needed rest after four long months of classes, studies and homework. When we return in mid-April there will be less than two months left of the school year. We hope that you will all have a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter!

April Calendar

- 3 – Anthony's 16th birthday
- 6-7 – Holy Thursday/Good Friday; special schedule
- 8 – Holy Saturday; Easter Vacation begins
- 9 – Easter Sunday; annual children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 17 – Classes resume
- 25 – Procession of the Greater Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie deMontfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery
- 28-30 – Annual Forty Hours Adoration



William Davis directed the choir for the High Mass on the feast of Saint Joseph

Holy Week and Easter are right around the corner. Here at the seminary we spend a lot of time preparing for the liturgy of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Each ceremony has unique aspects that are proper for that day. It is a great privilege for us to be involved in serving these beautiful liturgies.

We also look forward to our Easter vacation, which extends throughout the Easter Octave. Many seminarians will go home for the week, while

The Redeeming Journey by David Stone, gr. 11

The Journey that redeemed us all, the Passion, is recounted in each of the four Gospels. In order to understand fully what happened we must read all of them, especially St. John's, for his was meant to fill in the gaps, to tell what others missed. By doing this we can understand what happened. I will briefly describe what

happened in the Passion.

First, Jesus entered into the garden of Gethsemane, and took with him Peter, John and James the Greater. He told them to sit there, watch, and pray. It is said that Jesus, while praying, saw three things: His death, the sins of mankind, and finally He saw hell. These things which Jesus saw made him sweat blood. He prayed to His Father that "if it be possible, let this chalice pass from me, but not my will but Thine be done. If it shall not pass away but I must drink, Thy will be done."

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The Redeeming Journey

While Our Lord was praying, the three disciples were found asleep. After the third time of Jesus finding them asleep, the betrayal of the Son of man was at hand. Judas, one of the twelve, came with servants of the chief priests. He told them "Whosoever I kiss that is He." And going to Our Lord he kissed Him saying "Hail Rabbi." And looking at Judas Jesus said to him: "Dost thou betray the son of man with a kiss?" And Peter taking his sword cut off the ear of a servant who was called Malchus. Then Jesus took the ear and healed him and told Peter to put away his sword for those who live by it shall die by it.

After this they bound Him and took Him first to Annas, the father-in-law of Caiphas. Jesus held his peace and would not answer him. Then they took him to Caiphas and said to Jesus: "I adjure thee by the living God are you the Christ, Son of God." And Jesus responded: "I am." Then Caiphas rent his garment and condemned Jesus to death, sending Him to Pilate.

Pilate, after he questioned Jesus, told the Jews that he could find no cause of death in Jesus and sent Him to Herod. Herod, too, could not find cause in Him, so he sent Him back to Pilate. To please the Jews Pilate sent Jesus to be scourged. When it was done the Roman soldiers crowned Him with thorns. Then they struck, mocked, and spat upon Him, sending Him back to Pilate. Pilate said: "Ecce Homo; behold the man." He asked them again: "What do you want me to do with Him." And they all cried: crucify him! Then Pilate sat down, washed his hands, and delivered Jesus to be crucified.

Jesus, embracing His cross, began the last part of this redeeming journey. On the way, He met Mary and John. Then the Jews, fearing that He would die on the way, forced Simon the Cyrenian to help Jesus carry his cross. Veronica approached and wiped the face of Jesus with her veil. Lastly, Jesus met sorrowful women and told them to weep "not for Me but for yourselves and your children."

When He reached the top of Mount Calvary they stripped away His garments and threw Him on the cross. These cruel soldiers fastened Him with nails and raised the cross. While this was happening Jesus prayed: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus hung there for three hours. At length He cried out with a loud voice and

said: "Father it is finished, into Thy hands I commend My spirit." Then He gave up His spirit. This is what converted Longinus, the soldier who later pierced Our Lord's side. He then proclaimed: "Truly this is the Son of God."

Now that we have read the story have we understood it? Let us learn from it. From the agony we can learn how to pray. From the way of the cross we can learn perseverance and when to hold our peace. And last, but certainly not least, we can learn forgiveness by the crucifixion, for Jesus forgave his persecutors who started Him on this redeeming journey.



There was a lot of green in evidence at our annual Saint Patrick/Saint Joseph parish breakfast.

Nature's Amazing Transformation

by Jonathan Lehn, gr. 11

Time flies here at the seminary! It's spring already (at least here, anyway). Winter has flown by and now the weather is getting warmer and very pleasant. Now it is time to work outside and clean up the grounds of any leaves, branches and other junk that make the property a mess. Along with that comes the garden. Frater Alphonsus is really excited to get the garden ready, and he has some plans for a great garden this year. That means we will be working in the garden soon as well.

In general, everyone is excited for spring. It means having fun outside for a long time, enjoying the nice warm day, or taking a peaceful walk with Victor (usually), or even doing some school work outside on the picnic tables. Spring is everyone's excuse to go to the park and have a fun time there, playing all sorts of different games. Since most of the snow is gone, everyone just wants to be outside enjoying the warm days during which you don't need a coat. It makes you feel free, so to speak.

In my opinion, I think spring is the best time of the year. After the gloom of winter, it is nice to see plants starting to

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Cords of Saint Joseph were blessed before Mass on his feast.



The parish breakfast was well-attended after each of the three Masses on Laetare Sunday.



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament during our annual Lenten retreat



It's all hands on deck when we make blarney stones for the parish breakfast.



We pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday in our church during Lent.



The seminarians concluded the annual March 17th Talent Show by singing a hymn in honor of Saint Patrick.

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Nature's Amazing Transformation

grow and buds appearing. It is so nice to take a walk outside, without a coat, and to breathe the fresh spring air. Nature wakes up from its slumber and life reappears. I have already seen several robins on the property and have been hearing other birds chirping. It is all so amazing that I can't help but admire the beauty of God's wonderful creation. It shows forth God's goodness and glory, and it feels like a blessing from Him, for He is giving the world another year to thrive and bear fruit. It is as if God was overlooking all the evil in the world by allowing His creation to be so beautiful and peaceful during this time of year. I don't see how anyone is able to deny that there is a God when they see the beauty of spring.

The Spiritual Banquet

The month of April contains two very important series of events for us at Saint Joseph Seminary. First, we will have Holy Week, the greatest week of the year. Much time is

devotion. Here we are blessed with a parish of adequate size and, especially, seminarians and clerics who can help with the ceremonies.

The opening ceremony is a High Mass of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a procession and the chanting of the Litany of the Saints. On the third day we have the closing procession, which is similar to the opening procession of the first day. In between there are forty hours during which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration. The reason for the number of forty is to commemorate the time that Our Lord's body was in the tomb, between His death and resurrection.

Forty Hours is a beautiful ceremony, by means of which we offer praise, adoration, thanksgiving, reparation and petition. We seek to atone for the forgetfulness with which so many neglect to visit Him and for the sins of mankind. We thank Jesus for dwelling with us in our churches and for all His many blessings. We especially ask for all the graces which we need.

These two series of liturgical ceremonies are a spiritual banquet for priests and the faithful. May God grant that they will likewise be a source of many blessings for our



Father Stephen Sandquist was the retreat master for this year's seminary retreat.

spent preparing for and then carrying out the liturgical ceremonies. Our entire week is spent in union with Holy Mother the Church, calling to mind the passion, death and resurrection of Our Lord.

The second important series is our annual Forty Hours Adoration, which we hold each year at the end of April, the month of the Blessed Sacrament. Most of our traditional parishes are small and unable to carry out this beautiful

seminarians. Please continue your prayers for them and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May God reward you for your support and your prayers!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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