



THE GUARDIAN

During Holy Week we spent plenty of time practicing the liturgy. Then, on Holy Saturday, most of the seminarians left for their Easter vacation. Those of us who stayed at the seminary enjoyed a trip to Western Washington during several days of the Easter Octave.

Now everyone is back and we are into the final stretch of the school year. It is going to be a busy May. We have our normal May devotions each day, as well as the prayers for our annual renewal of Total Consecration. We will also have three more Rogation processions and more High Masses.

Later in the month we will have our end-of-year camping trip. The clerics have not yet decided where we will go, but it is sure to be a fun time before school is out. In the meantime we will try to stay focused on our classes and complete our studies.

Let us all especially honor Our

Blessed Mother in a special way this month. No doubt, you all have a May shrine in your homes, as we do in the seminary. Each day a different seminarian is assigned to gather flowers for Our Lady. Let us especially gather the flowers of virtues, which please her so much. May we all grow in our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Queen and Mother!

There and Back Again

by Marcel Mansfield, gr. 10

Lent is over, and we are now in the season of Easter. After Good Friday, most of the seminarians went home for Easter week, leaving only Jorge and me at the seminary. Even though we stayed back, there was still something in store for us at the seminary. Father Benedict arranges an activity each year for the

May Calendar	
1	– Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker
5	– Mid-quarter
11	– Ordinations in Omaha
13	– Rosary procession
15–17	– Rogation processions
18	– Ascension Thursday; Holyday of Obligation (no classes)
23–25	– Annual camping trip
29	– Memorial Day; Queenship Procession
31	– High Mass and renewal of Holy Slavery

seminarians who remain at the seminary during the Spring Break.

This year we went on a long car trip with the clerics to Seattle, Washington. We left early in the morning on Easter Tuesday and got back on Thursday. During the first day of travel, we went to the town of Leavenworth, which turned out to be one of our favorite locations on the trip.

Before heading to the main part of Seattle, we went sight-seeing around the area. We were able to see the old major and minor seminaries in Bothell. After looking around a bit, we went to the Seattle Space Needle, which is a very tall tower that overlooks Seattle.



Frater Martin Marie, as thurifer, leads the Palm Sunday outdoor procession

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There and Back Again

There we went hundreds of feet in the air and had a great view of the entire city. Being that high up makes your adrenaline rush, especially when stepping onto the glass floor!

After climbing the Space Needle, we made a quick visit to the glass museum, where we saw a bunch of weird and wacky pieces of fragile artwork.

We're thankful that we could go on this trip, and we had a fun and interesting experience. With Easter Break now over, there is still a lot of activity and work that needs to be done here at the seminary, as we head into the final weeks of the school year.

Kermit the Frog Defies Evolution

by John Biehl, gr. 11

Recently at Saint Joseph Seminary, lab class with Mr. Duff simultaneously became more interesting and gruesome. Every Wednesday, Mr. Duff makes the forty-minute drive from Mount Saint Michaels in Spokane to the seminary here in Rathdrum. We students were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to use microscopes, grow bacteria, take apart a pig fetus, and now dissect frogs. Using surgical scissors and scalpels, each of us was able to inspect various frogs and pigs from literally the inside out.

My favorite activity, however, was dissecting the frogs. Upon claiming mine (whom I named "Kermit" after the goofy frog in the popular kids show "The Muppets"), I immediately encountered the combined stench of formaldehyde and death. I plugged my nose and then made a square incision on its belly and removed the skin. Once this was done, I had a full view of Kermit's liver, intestines, and stomach (other frogs even had eggs). All of the frog's body was harmoniously put together to specifically create Kermit. In all seriousness, studying the animal and its extremely intricate insides forced me to ask the simple question: "Who?"

Who could have created such perfectly designed amphibians? Who is able to perfectly place these animals into the harmonious animal kingdom without creating havoc? Who is capable of generating these vital organs? Well, the most devoted evolutionists and atheists cannot answer this apparently simple question. The dubious claim that this all happened by chance is almost laughable, but we can use the evolutionists' own logic against them, regardless.

According to the theory of evolution, each animal has in

some way or another evolved from another animal. However, frogs are one of the many creatures that completely annihilate this theory. There is no species whatsoever which connects the frog and fish in evolution. Therefore, frogs could not have evolved and had to be created.

Now we still have not answered the much-debated question of the existence and identity of our creator. Using both faith and reason we can deduct that our creator is an All-Intelligent, All-Powerful, and All-Loving God. There is a Creator, there is a Master, and there is a Father in heaven above guiding us with His affectionate hand, and waiting for us to join Him in His luxurious Paradise. We humans can now come to the logical but somewhat humorous conclusion that even Kermit the Frog gives praise to God.

I Await

by Jorge Cruz, gr. 11

"If you love me, sacrifice yourself for me," Our Lady said to a visionary. For this is the law of love, to sacrifice oneself for the beloved. If we wish to learn how to



Mr. Duff helps the seminarians identify the various organs of the frog during lab class.

love her, we must learn to sacrifice our hearts to her. For true love is not selfish, is not capricious and is not vain. True love endures every suffering with passionate and undying joy. Authentic and affectionate love consists of the complete annihilation of personal desire and comfort – all for the person we love.

If we meditate on the life of Mary we can see that,
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The Wild Horses monument overlooks the Columbia River.



The seminarians walked in pairs during the Palm Sunday procession.



The seminarians use the computers for typing essays and other homework.



Gradually, the cross is unveiled on Good Friday.



Returning from our Seattle trip we stopped by the Columbia River.



The weather was perfect for our outdoor procession for the Greater Litanies on April 25.

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I Await

although she did not have to, she offered all her sorrows for love of us. On the way to Calvary, she thought of each one of us, and as she held her dead Son, she whispered our name. She loves us to such an extent, that if it was needed, she herself would have crucified her Son solely to save us. Yet how ungrateful we have been to such a mother! How many times we have caused her many troubles and tears. How many bitter nights worrying for our salvation. Many, and far too many.

How can we repay so much love and compassion? How can we amend our ingratitude? She doesn't ask of us anything big or extraordinary. She only desires us to be like little children and give the little things of our ordinary life – the little crosses, the hidden tears, and the small joys. She desires that we do all things through her, for her, and with her. Like Saint John of the Cross say, "Nothing for me and all for you." She will even take our poor defects, our misery, and our sins and purify our poor wretchedness, only because she loves us.

If only we knew how much she loves us! If only we knew how anxiously she awaits us! Heaven seems empty without us and she is in a hurry to see us. What will that moment be like, after waiting a lifetime, when we finally run to her arms, and see her face to face? As we embrace her, the angels will look upon us with holy jealousy. Let us

not make her wait in vain. Let us give every little inch of our heart to Mary. Let us offer her the sufferings of our everyday life. Let us deny ourselves for love of her, for she will reward us, "not in this world, but only in the next."

The Spiritual Banquet

Here at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish we have outdoor Rosary processions on the 13th of the month, from May through September. It is always wonderful to see so many parishioners, including children, process around the grounds as we recite the 15 decades of the Rosary.

This is a wonderful practice, but even more important is fidelity to the message Our Lady gave at Fatima. Among other things, she spoke about the need for sacrifice, saying that our first and most important sacrifice is that of daily duty.

Here at the seminary we often remind the boys of the importance of fulfilling their daily duty, which is God's will for them. Of course, their classes and homework would be at the head of the list, but studies are not their only duty. Each seminarian has assignments for milking the cow, helping to prepare meals, doing dishes, and performing various other chores. These tasks are important, not only because

the work needs to be done, but also because the performance of these duties instills a sense of responsibility—an important quality for a young man to acquire.

Everything in their daily routine contributes to the formation of these young men. I am pleased to say that they are good workers when it comes to chores, not only on Saturdays, but every day. If they perform these tasks in the spirit of sacrifice, then they become meritorious and bring a growth in grace.

Let us all perform our daily duties in the spirit of sacrifice, as Our Lady requested. And let us especially show her our love during this, the loveliest of months. We will especially remember all mothers among our benefactors on Mother's Day this month, and we thank all of you for your prayers and support.



Seminarians hold the crucifix for the veneration of the faithful.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The Guardian is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This Newsletter is free upon request.

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