



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. III, No. 8

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2002

“This is the day which the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.” This antiphon, which the Church uses during Easter week, is taken from Psalm 117. How well it expresses our joy as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

As seminarians, our Easter joy is heightened by the fact that our Spring Break always occurs during Easter week. The stretch of school from Christmas to Easter is the longest of the year. For this reason we are particularly looking forward to some rest and relaxation with our families and friends. Easter never occurs too early for us.

Our Lent has been eventful, both spiritually and academically. We have had our annual retreat and participated in various devotions, such as Stations of the Cross and Vespers. On the academic level, we have enjoyed several new activities, such as field trips in government (to the county courthouse) and for speech class (on conducting interviews). Above all, we have enjoyed biology class, which lately has included dissection.

Yes, our March has been a full month, and we eagerly leave after the Holy Week ceremonies for our spring vacation. We pray that all of you will experience the joys of this Easter season. May God bless you.

## Shhh... God is speaking

by Kevin Cox, gr. 12

Since the last issue of *The Guardian* we have had several activities, one in particular being the annual Lenten retreat. We have these retreats every

year to increase our spiritual life and to become more united with God.

When the retreat started we all noticed that the most important — although at times also the most difficult — thing was to maintain silence when called for on the schedule. Being silent helped us to listen and hear what God was trying to tell us. You see, God speaks to us all of the time, and the only way anyone is able to hear Him is if he listens for His words. To do this one must keep the silence.

The retreat began on Friday evening with dinner. (Spiritual reading was done by an assigned student during the meals throughout the retreat.) At the conclusion of dinner and dishes we had our first conference, which was held like all retreat conferences in the chapel. After the conference we had recreation, followed by spiritual reading and then night prayers. Our night prayers began with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the all-night adoration. (Each of us had previously selected an hour to spend with Our Lord during the night.) As prayers concluded, we all went to bed except for that person who was assigned the first hour. When his hour was nearly up he would come and awaken the next person, thus giving him enough time to get up and dress before going into chapel. Thus our vigil went on all night, one person after another.

The next day began with morning prayers and reposi-

## April calendar

- 8 — Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; classes resume
- 12 — Visit to the Slater residence
- 13 — Michael's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 19–21 — Annual Forty Hours' Adoration
- 22 — Begin Pool Tournament
- 25 — Feast of the Greater Litanies
- 26 — Biology field trip

tion of the Blessed Sacrament. This was followed by Mass, as we began our first full day of the retreat. We went through the day following the schedule to the best of our ability, with the singing of Vespers and other devotions. There were three conferences that day, which helped us to understand more fully what a wonderful thing it is to have a spiritual life.

Eventually, the final day of the retreat arrived, although it really wasn't a full day. We went to Sunday Mass, had breakfast and then later went into

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*Fr. James exposes the Blessed Sacrament on the first night of the retreat.*

## God is speaking

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chapel for the final conference. After this we received the priest's blessing, and the retreat was over.

We all felt that the retreat was a spiritually uplifting experience, which changed our lives in one way or another. We wish to thank Fr. James for coming to give us this retreat. We appreciate his efforts and example and all that he did for us.

## A taste of justice

*by Philip Dunphy, gr. 11*

During this quarter in our government class we covered the United States court system and the Judicial Branch of our government, including the way smaller courts work. So Father decided to have us visit our local courthouse to see how the judiciary operates in Kootenai County.

A clerk for one of the district judges in Coeur d'Alene gave us a tour of the courthouse and an explanation on how the Idaho courts function. She showed us a courtroom and explained the significance of everything from the jury room to the seat where the judge presides. Also, she described the types of cases most often heard locally, and she pointed out the different cases taken by the various courts according to the charge.

After the courthouse tour we attended part of a court session. (For many of us this was a first.) We saw the judge read the instructions to the jury, including the charges against the defendant. Then we saw the prosecuting attorney make his final statements, which were quite lengthy. As time hindered us, however, we were not able to attend the remainder of the session. We may eventually attend a full trial, which would be an excellent example on how our justice system operates.

We all enjoyed this outing, not just because we were able to leave the ordinary classroom and routine, but because it helped us to understand all that we have learned in our government class about the subject.

## "Cutting" class

*by Michael LeStage, gr. 9*

Lately, our biology classes have been very exciting. Throughout the year we have been studying just about everything that has to do with living things. We have studied microorganisms, all kinds of fungus and larger creatures like worms, fish, rats, and frogs. As I like to say, we've studied anything that "squirms." Finally, we have had the opportunity to try our hand at dissecting.

I can say that each of us has thoroughly enjoyed this part of biology. As we open the specimens, Mr. Duff helps us identify the various organs. To do the dissecting, we have used various tools, such as the scal-

pel, the probe, surgical scissors and tweezers. All these tools have contributed to making dissection an easy and informative class.

Thus far, we have dissected worms, grasshoppers, frogs, fish, crawdads, a shark, a turtle and a crab. We have yet to dissect a squid, a spider, a rat, and a fetal pig. Even though biology is the last class at the end of a long day of school, we have enjoyed the class and look forward to learning more about living things.

## Suffering severe PUNishment

*by Charles Rodriguez, gr. 11*

Here at St. Joseph Seminary we are subject to a hilarious teacher named Mr. Duff. He teaches math and theology to the underclassmen; and government, biology and choir to everyone. He also conducts physical education and is our coach for basketball and football.

Mr. Duff is notorious for his witty humor and jokes. He will come up with anything during class to keep us focused on our subject and to break the tedium of the day. We have even formed the habit of grading his puns and jokes. As with any student, Mr. Duff has his low points, but he averages about a 3.7 out of 4.0.

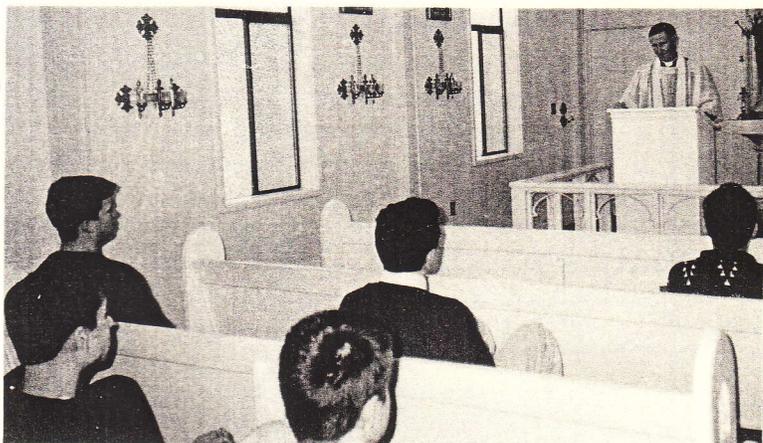
Not only is Mr. Duff the master of puns, he makes them relevant to the topic we are studying. Once, while we were in government class, he was teaching us about the Swiss government and the crime rate in that country. He explained how each male, 18 years or older, is required by law to have in his possession, an automatic weapon and to know how to clean and operate it. He then proceeded to explain that many governments operate according to the "Robin Hood" method (steal from the rich to give to the poor). As soon as he said this he added, "In Switzerland, there ain't no robbin' in my hood!"

This is just one of the many puns he has told us during class. He tells us a lot of political jokes and some jokes that he just makes up. I remember once when there was plenty of ice on the roads, Mr. Duff assured us that we wouldn't have any homework in his classes that day because he is "such an ice guy!" While we were in biology, we learned about the

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*The seminarians listen to an explanation of our Justice system by Law Clerk Janelle Burke.*



*Fr. James addresses the retreatants during one of the conferences of the Lenten retreat.*



*The seminarians provided a Sunday breakfast for the parish on St. Patrick's Day.*



*The seminarians gather around as Mr. Duff gives a few helpful pointers on dissecting frogs during biology class.*



*The seminarians and Father chant Vespers on Passion Sunday.*



*The seminarians and Mr. Duff pose on their recent field trip to the Kootenai County Courthouse.*



*Mr. Duff helps Phil identify the various organs of a frog.*

## PUNishment

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advantages and disadvantages of the fungi kingdom when he promptly stated that we would like this class because he was a "fun-guy."

As you can see, we endure a lot of *punishment* here, but we all enjoy every bit of it. Mr. Duff is a great teacher, and we hope that he will continue on the staff here at St. Joseph's for many years to come.

## Cantate Domino

*by Matthew Dunphy, gr. 10*

As most of you know, we have started the practice here at Mary Immaculate Queen of singing Sunday Vespers during Lent. For the benefit of the faithful who attend, our secretary Mrs. Salgado typed up the English translation, which was then printed and made available. At our first attempt at Sunday Vespers we made a few mistakes, but since then we haven't made very many mistakes.

We began practicing for Vespers in choir class about two weeks before Lent started. Each week we have a new antiphon to learn, and we also spend some time in review. In Vespers there are two different choirs that chant the psalms and then join together for the antiphons. When sung correctly, the chant sounds very good, and that's why we have been trying to perfect it.

As Fr. Benedict and Mr. Duff have pointed out, our primary reason for chanting Vespers is the greater honor and glory of God. Attendance at Vespers is also beneficial to the faithful. It is also a good sacrifice for us during Lent to come back to church on Sunday afternoons to chant.

Vespers is a very good practice that provides lots of graces, and we hope to continue it in the coming years.

## Month of the Blessed Sacrament

April is a beautiful month. Nature joins us in celebrating Our Lord's resurrection from the dead, as flowers and other vegetation come to life and the summer birds return and build their nests. It also, appropriately, is the month dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

It is for this reason that we observe the Forty Hours devotion, here at Mary Immaculate Queen Church, during the month of April. This devotion can be traced back to

## Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

## Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

16<sup>th</sup> century Italy, where it began as a means of honoring the 40 hours Our Lord spent in the tomb and as an atonement for the sins of the Carnival (immediately before Lent). St. Charles Borromeo, the patron saint of seminaries, helped to make this devotion more widely known.

Forty Hours can be held at any time of year. Indeed in some dioceses the custom was to have the various parishes observe the devotion at different times throughout the year, so that, at any given time, Forty Hours was being held somewhere in the diocese. As I have mentioned, April seems an appropriate time to observe this practice. Our procession and adoration of Our Lord on Holy Thursday night seem too little to thank Him for this great sacrament. Our hours of adoration during the Forty Hours are but a small way to return thanks to Jesus for giving us His Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, dear benefactors, you will be remembered in our hours of adoration, as you are in our daily prayers. We are most grateful for your support of this work of education. Please continue to pray for our seminary and for more vocations — for young men who will heed the call of our divine Master: "Come, follow Me."

*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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