



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

February 2013

Our newest seminarian, Rynan Golpe, arrived safely on January 3 from the Philippines and has already adjusted to the seminary routine and local climate. In fact, Rynan insists that he rather likes the snow and the cold weather! He also did great last week at our first ski trip, as did the other seminarians for whom this was a new experience.

The highlight of our month, however, was the visit of Bishop Pivarunas and about 20 priests to our seminary on January 23rd. Fr. Benedict had given us the assignment to try to learn all their names and where they live. We did our best, but no one could remember every priest. At any rate, we all enjoyed their visit to the seminary for the dinner, which was in the middle of their week of meetings at Mt. St. Michael.

January also brought other changes to the seminary, as Fr. Bernard Welp, CMRI, one of our teachers, was transferred to Mt. St. Michael. His replacement is Frater Anthony Marie, CMRI, a recently ordained deacon. Father tells us that, now that we have a deacon here, we will be able to have more frequent solemn High Masses. In the past such Masses have been rare here, so that will be a pleasant change. We all want to learn how to serve the various positions for this liturgy and look forward to that opportunity.

As we look back over the month of January, it seems like only yesterday that we had our Christmas and Epiphany celebrations. Yet now we are already at the threshold of Lent. We are all resolved to make a good Lent and promise to pray for you that you also will have a good Lent. May we all

benefit from this wonderful season and achieve a greater love and union with our Crucified Savior.

A clerical house for one night

by *Nicholas Doll, gr. 9*

On January 23rd the priests from the priests' meeting came to the seminary for the evening. They arrived at different times between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m. Once all the priests were here, we started the tonsure ceremony for Mr. Letourneau. After the ceremonies and congratulating Mr. Letourneau, we sat down to supper. The supper consisted of smoked salmon and ham, mashed potatoes, salad, and vegetables. Thanks to the cooks who prepared all of this delicious food!

After supper we talked with the priests, met some new ones, and played games like pool and ping-pong with them. I knew almost all the priests except for two, who were here for the first time. There were about 20 priests here at the seminary altogether. It was interesting to learn where all the priests are stationed and what they do besides the normal priestly tasks. The priests all left around 9:00 p.m., and thus ended our evening with the priests.

February calendar

- 2 — Feastday of the Purification BVM; Candlemas ceremonies
- 7 — Accreditation review
- 8 — Ski Day
- 13 — Ash Wednesday
- 20 — Mid-quarter
- 22–24 — Annual Lenten retreat



The ceremony of tonsure was held in our seminary chapel.

“Ang Nag-antos Masantos”

by Rynan Golpe, gr. 11

My brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, I know you are wondering now what is the meaning of the title of my *Guardian* article. That writing is a Visayan (vee-saa-yan) dialect in the Philippines where I came from. That is our aphorism especially in time of distress, ache, anguish, pain, woe, misery and torment.

God always breeds a special man to become an example and a model to His beloved people. Do you know who they are? They were born as sinners like us, but they experienced a holy death. And now they are with God dwelling in His paradise. (How happy I will be if He takes me to live with Him in heaven.) The suffering ones are the saints whom God sent to be imitated. Do you know how they became saints? They became saints by taking up their crosses and following Jesus. They did their best to struggle and fight against sin, and to suffer without fear of the consequences. Their skin was torn off, their bodies were cut, and they were burned alive. They suffered all this in order not to offend the one and true Almighty God. Can you imagine that life?

Do you want to follow with them, singing and praising with the angels in heaven above? So, take up your cross, the problems, the dilemmas, the predicaments, the riddles, the difficulties, and the puzzles in your life to follow Him. Because *Ang Nag-antos Masantos* — those who are suffering will become saints. Please think of it.

A virtue the saints treasured

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 9

Humility is a fragile virtue. It can be easily lost by some act of pride or by making oneself look better than others. The saints are great examples of humility. When Our Lord went to a dinner, St. Mary Magdalen washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair as an act of adoration and humility. Can you imagine how humiliating it was and how hard it was to do that? But she did it for love of Our Lord.

Now, I'm not saying that's what we should do, but that's one of the ways that helps us get to Heaven. Even asking for help is another example of humility. We sometimes think that if we ask for help and instruction, that we will be made fun of. It's because of our fallen human nature but also that we don't want to be thought little of or teased, but we need to humble ourselves and do it for God.

Another example of humility is St. Francis of Assisi. When he wanted to go become a religious and his father would not let him, St. Francis gave his father all his clothing and walked out of the town of Assisi. Again, he did it for the love of God and to humble himself.

As you can see, many saints humbled themselves for God, to gain the virtue of humility. We all must strive to do God's will and to remain Catholic in these dark times. We must

never give up the Catholic faith into which we were born. We also need to thank God and our parents for sticking to the faith. We must all strive to do good and to be a good example to little children and even adults who are not of the true faith. So love God and thank Him for what He has done for us.

The importance of Catholic example

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 10

A good Catholic should want and try to be the best that he can be. He should want to give a good example and always elevate, not only his mind to spiritual and holy thoughts, but also the minds of his contemporaries. How can we go about doing this? It is important that we not assume a condescending attitude when helping or correcting others. This could cause great harm to their souls. We should remember that we are sinners as well. As Our Lord said: “Cast the beam from your own eye before you cast the speck from your brother's eye.” Needless to say, before we point out others' faults we should check our own spiritual life and make sure it is in order. Otherwise, we would be no better than the hypocritical Pharisees at the time of Our Lord.

But once our souls are in order, it is a holy and Christlike thing to counsel and console others, if it be our place. So to get back to my question, how can we give a good example and aid those in need to the best of our ability? Well, as you know, when we read the lives of the saints, we are edified by their holy heroics and daring deeds which led them to sanctity. By following their example, we assist others in their pilgrimage to heaven, as well as ourselves. But one doesn't have to be a martyr to set a good example, however desirable that thought may be to the zealous. You can fulfill your ordinary daily duties in a noteworthy way and still get to heaven. Indeed, it is certain that we will have to fulfill our ordinary works in an extraordinary manner, in order to attain eternal happiness in this time of danger.

So who is the best saint to imitate? It is of course our Mother, the Mother of God; she who nurtured the Child Jesus and raised Him to manhood. He will not refuse her whatever she would ask of Him. She who is so mighty in heaven was once a mere humble handmaid of the Lord while on earth. She who is so kind and merciful was just a daughter of Adam. She who is our mediatrix was subject to her parents just as we are or were. And yet, she is the Mother of God. She led a life so pleasing to God that He crowned her with twelve stars and made her queen of heaven and earth. And surprisingly, when you look at her life, it was not full of marvelous deeds and miraculous works. But she was to God, without a doubt, the most pleasing human being who ever lived or ever will live, because she did all that God asked of her. And God asked her to do far more than He asks us to do.

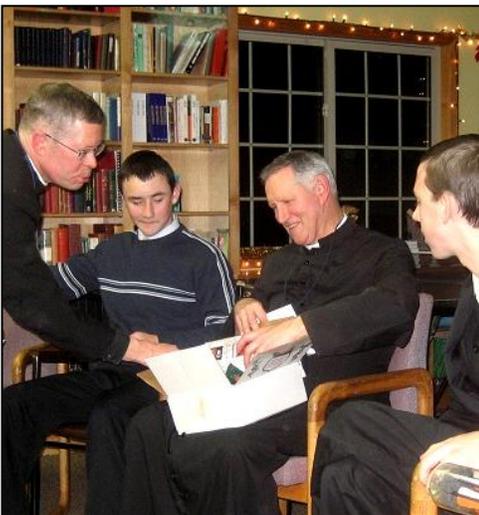
And so, in following the saints' and especially Mary's footsteps on the glorious, narrow path which lies between us and heaven, we can set a good example for, and edify, all whom we may meet in our life.



The visiting priests and seminarians attended the tonsure ceremony.



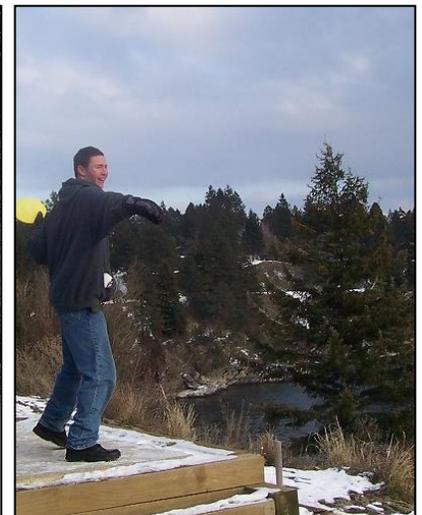
About 20 priests gathered at Mt. St. Michael for the January priests' meetings.



The seminarians look on as Fr. James opens one of his Epiphany gifts.



The winter weather does not prevent us from enjoying a game of frisbee golf.



The local frisbee golf course lies along the Spokane River in Post Falls, Idaho.



Our first ski trip was a new experience for 3 of our seminarians.



The view from the gondola on the way up to the lodge on Silver Mountain is breathtaking.

Looking back over the first semester

by Thomas Pulliam, gr. 9

Our first semester was a rather interesting one. I will try to go in order of events of what happened. First, we went to the Schindlers' cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene during the first week of school. Second, we went water skiing with Mr. LeStage and Timothy LeStage. Then we helped out with the Mary Immaculate Queen School annual auction.

When we went to the lake cabin we did many activities like swimming, canoeing, etc. The swimming part was a lot of fun — just the getting in part was a challenge because the water was rather cold. The water skiing was fun because Dominic and I succeeded in flipping the tube we were in while going about 30 miles per hour through the lily pads. The actual water skiing was the challenge because you have to somehow get on the skis without completely failing.

The auction was a rather confusing event because we were the waiters and we had to know what tables we were in charge of. I got \$10 in tips, by the way. It was also nerve-racking because Dominic and I had to help with the actual auction. There were actually a few items I wanted to buy but couldn't afford.

There were a few other events I will mention. We went hiking for about 4 hours on some mountain, of which I can't remember the name. It really took a toll on our legs, feet and arms, and we were pretty tired afterward, but the scenery was beautiful.

We also went sledding quite a few times around the seminary property. Obviously, being teenage boys, we got hurt a little bit going off our ramps. When we did get hurt, we either laughed at each other or we tried to help each other.

Then, of course, there was the Christmas Break. That was one of the best events ever. I obviously went home to Colorado to see my family and friends. I went to my cousin's house, and went ice skating. It was fun. I hope every one had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

O Blessed Lent!

Currently at the seminary, our staff is preparing for a formal review for our accreditation. The seminary has been accredited for many years now, and it is this accreditation which allows us to accept foreign students. Obviously, for that reason it is important to maintain.

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 Latin, theology, 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.

At the same time, it is a grueling process, with a formal review conducted by education professionals every five years. This year is our turn for the formal review, and the preparation for this event has occupied a considerable amount of our time and energy recently. I am sure we can count on your prayers for the success of this process.

In almost no time we will enter the season of Lent. For priests and religious — and for those who aspire to the priesthood — the season of Lent is vitally important. At St. Joseph Seminary each seminarian writes out a penance program, and we have our common penitential practices and Lenten devotions, such as the Stations. Although human nature may cringe at the idea of penance, those who try to make a good Lent learn to appreciate and value it. The worldly and sensual man, however, dreads the approach of the penitential season. May we all learn to appreciate the blessings that this necessary time of penance bring to the soul!

As always, we are humbly grateful for your support and interest. Please continue to pray for vocations, and for our seminary in particular. For our part, we promise you a daily remembrance in our prayers. May God bless each of you and your families.

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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