



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2013

The month of May goes by like a whirlwind of activities, as we approach the end of the school year. We begin the month with a solemn high Mass to honor St. Joseph. We also have daily devotions to honor Our Lady, and we conclude with her feast of the Queenship. In between, there are many other activities to look forward to.

In addition to all the various events, we continue our studies, including a major multidisciplinary project due in the middle of the month. This project includes a research paper and a PowerPoint presentation. The report is about a country we have chosen from South America, and the grade will be a major contribution toward our Fourth Quarter grade in geography, Spanish and English, as well as a contributing factor in our grades in health and theology. So you can imagine that we have been spending a lot of time in research, writing and preparation.

But our life is not all work and no play. Among other activities, we have been going to the park for baseball and continue to enjoy our disc golf course. Every now and then we go out to our fort for an evening campfire. We also are looking forward to our camping trip, which takes place in late May or early June, depending on the weather.

Pray for us, that we conclude our school year well. And may we all grow in our devotion to Our Blessed Mother this month!

Departed from earth

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 9

Do you remember in the life of Christ what happened at the Last Supper? He told the apostles that He would die and on the third day would

rise again from the dead. After the death of Christ the apostles went to Galilee and then returned to Jerusalem to meet Our Lord for the last time. He gathered about them in the hallowed supper room. He took His place at the table and told the apostles not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the Father's promise.

After this, Jesus left the Cenacle and went to the Mount of Olives. The apostles followed, and their hearts were filled with joy at the sight of the risen Lord. The apostles asked questions about whether Our Lord would now restore sovereignty to Israel. But the Lord told them to await the coming of the Holy Spirit before spreading the Gospel to all the wide world.

When they came to the brow of the hill, which marks the outskirts of Bethany and the outer limits of Jerusalem, Jesus stood still, and lifting His arms, He began to bless the apostles. And upon blessing them He rose above the mountain tops, was caught by a cloud and disappeared from the sight of the apostles. The apostles were amazed. Then two angels from heaven in white garments came to the apostles and said to them: "Men of Galilee, why do you still linger here gazing up into the sky? This Jesus who hath left you to ascend into heaven shall

likewise descend as you have beheld Him going up thither." After this they returned into Jerusalem rejoicing and blessing God without ceasing.

Now we should be like the apostles, rejoicing and praying to Our Lord and blessing Him. Meditate on Our Lord's Ascension into heaven and how good He has been to us from

May calendar

- 1 — Feast of St. Joseph the Worker; Solemn High Mass; seminary outing
- 7 — Rogation Procession
- 8 — Mid-quarter
- 9 — Feast of the Ascension; Holyday of Obligation; no classes
- 10 — Holy Ghost novena begins
- 16-17 — Presentations on our research project
- 28-29 — Annual Seminary Camping Trip
- 30 — Feast of Corpus Christi
- 31 — Feast of the Queenship; Solemn High Mass; Total Consecration to Mary; chanted Vespers; special observances

the start of our lives until now. Hopefully, we will always persevere as faithful Catholics and stay with Our Lord for the rest of our lives, trusting in Him and glorifying Him in heaven for all eternity.



Closing ceremonies at our annual Forty Hours' Adoration.

The first hundred miles

by *Rynan Golpe, gr. 11*

“A hundred miles begins with a single step.” Every success in our life began with a little effort, a little courage, and little actions. Almost all of the things in this world need to be done step by step. Your work will be useless if you try to go directly to your goal.

On January 3, 2013, I arrived at the seminary with felicity and full of hope. My heart was rejoicing like a bird singing to God for I had found the way, the way to the everlasting adoration of God. On that very first day, I really had no idea what I should do, but I didn't panic because I knew that God, Mother Mary and all the angels and saints were with me.

My first obstacles were the climate, the food, and the time zone. It was so cold for me, I felt like I was inside the refrigerator. Then the food here is very different from my Philippine food. And the time zone — especially in the night I couldn't sleep, but I was still alert and enthusiastic. Days pass by, and my first Sunday came. Fr. Benedict let me serve as a candle bearer. I was so nervous that I perspired almost like a mist giving a rain into the beautiful flowers.

As the world revolved on its axis, days passed, then the other seminarians returned from Christmas vacation. They introduced themselves as I presented myself to them. More days and nights passed, more adventures and tasks, and more first times than I've ever met. My first venture in snow skiing was exciting, as was ice skating. I really enjoyed them.

I also learned how to be strong in the midst of many impediments during my stay here. The top of the mountain in my first hundred days was that I learned how to be patient and humble and practice more virtues than I had before. I learned how to do penance for the atonement of my sins. I've also learned how to serve the Mass which is my first mission here — to adore God.

Every single step is very important in attaining your goal. The first step is the hardest decision, because you don't know what will be the result. Don't be afraid in doing your first step, especially because you have the Mother of God by your side. Just remember the life of a butterfly — he came from an ugly creature but turned into a beautiful creation of God.

Clean in soul and body

by *Jordan Hartman, gr. 10*

“Cleanliness is next to godliness,” as the saying goes. This saying is made valid through a phenomenon which allows physical actions to sway the condition of the soul. We can witness this in others, as well as ourselves, by the neatness and tidiness which we and they practice. If your room (or whatever may be your duty to keep clean) is always orderly, then you will have a more recollected mind. The condition of the things that you must keep clean will reflect the state of your soul. But you must first desire cleanliness within before the outward signs will take effect. For example,

someone would have to want to be charitable to another in order to be charitable. Conversely, someone would, generally speaking, have to want to be uncharitable before he would be. I don't think that any sane person would be uncharitable if he didn't want to be.

The key to doing either good or evil deeds is your free will, a wonderful yet dangerous gift which we must always wield for the glory of God. Our five senses are also gifts from God which our free will must govern. They aren't evil, as some may think, but if we give in to unlawful pleasures, then they will become the fetters by which the devil will drag us to hell. Our five senses are gates directly connected to our immortal soul. It is truly amazing that our physical actions can darken and hurt our soul, or brighten and prepare it for heaven. Thus one can easily see why the defacing of oneself with tattoos is contrary to the concept of the body as the temple of the Holy Ghost.

So in all our actions we must strive to be perfect if we wish to make our spirits perfect. Keeping clean is good. It eases our minds and helps us to concentrate. It can lift up your mind to God if you do not carry it to excess, as with all things. But, as I mentioned earlier, cleanliness of the soul must come before cleanliness can manifest itself outside the soul. When the bad angels fell, we are told that they became hideous to look at. This was reflecting the sin which they committed. Do we not also undergo a horrid metamorphosis of soul when we commit sin? The body and soul are mysteriously tied together, and we must keep them both clean and in check so that we may achieve a higher level of sanctity.

Mary's Representative

by *Michael Doll, gr. 10*

Mothers are here for us to run to
When we are in trouble or sick
They're always there to comfort us
And help us with our 'rithmetic.

Mother is there when we're down and out
She'll ask us what is wrong
We'll empty out our heart to her
Then she'll send us on along.

In the old age of our childhood
We sometimes tend to forget
In the hustle and bustle of our adolescent lives
Our mother is still there for us yet.

Some lose their mothers when still quite young
And find it hard to live
But live they must and offer to God
That which is hard to give.

Our mothers appreciate gratitude
From those they love today
For all the mothers reading this
Happy Mother's Day!



The weather and grounds were beautiful during our recent Greater Litanies procession on April 25.



Concluding ceremonies of the Greater Litanies.



In health class we practiced making splints for the injured.



On his birthday, Rynan prepared a delicious Filipino meal for us.



Rynan was surprised with an ice-cream cake on his birthday.



A game of "99" at the Slater residence.



The pigs are growing quickly this year.

God wills that we honor His Mother

St. Louis Marie de Montfort quotes St. John Damascene in saying that devotion to Mary is “an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save” (True Devotion to Mary, par. 41). If true devotion to Mary is necessary for all, it is much more so necessary for a priest, who must lead others to God. Thus, we can see how indispensable it is for seminarians to develop a tender devotion to Mary while they are in the seminary.

Here at St. Joseph Seminary we honor Our Lady in many ways every day of the year, but especially during her month of May. We have various special practices, but one that is particularly important is our seminary May shrine. The seminarians construct it themselves and take turns in providing fresh flowers each day of the month. We all kneel before this classroom shrine each day to recite prayers at the beginning of the school day.

These practices of devotion, however, will do little if the spirit of piety is lacking. For true devotion to Mary must above all be interior. It must penetrate the mind and heart. Everything in the seminary contributes to this formation: the prayers, hymns, devotional practices, spiritual reading, conferences in chapel, etc. Moreover, this year a number of seminarians are preparing to make their act of total consecration to Mary for the first time. If you have never done that, I highly recommend that you speak to your pastor for advice on how to prepare to make this important act of consecration to Jesus through Mary. As Fr. Faber states: “God is pressing for a greater, a wider, a stronger, quite another devotion to His Blessed Mother.”

So May is a beautiful month, a time to grow in our love for our spiritual mother. I pray that we all develop the devotion to Mary that God wants for us. In conclusion, I encourage you to reflect on the meaning of the motto of our religious congregation: *Servus Mariae numquam peribit* (“The slave of Mary shall never perish”).

Again, we thank you for your support and prayers. Please also pray for new vocations to join us for next school year. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families. May God bless you and give you a tender love for His holy mother.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The fifteen promises of the Most Holy Rosary

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary will be a powerful armor against hell. It will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. Those who recommend themselves to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred Mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just, he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons, and brothers of my only son, Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

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