



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2014

Spring is here and the end of Lent will soon follow. Now is the time to redouble your efforts of making a good Lent. Who knows, perhaps this will be your last chance to make the so very important atonement for your offenses against God. Don't pass up the many profitable and exclusive graces of Lent, which may be the means of your salvation. As Our Lord said, "Unless you do penance, you shall perish." Since Jesus said this, we must take these words to heart and put them into effect. Lent is a time of penance. We fast, make sacrifices, and pray even more. Let us hope that this Lent will be our best.

But as we mentioned above, the end of Lent is coming and that means Holy Week, the beautiful and somewhat lengthy ceremonies for which we diligently practice every year: Holy Thursday, which commemorates the Last Supper of Our Lord; Good Friday, His death on the cross; Holy Saturday, the day in the sepulcher; and Easter Sunday, His glorious Resurrection. We all look forward to these ceremonies which mark the end of Lent.

Toward the end of March all the seminarians had the privilege of visiting Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha, Nebraska, for the ordination of Fr. Anthony Short and Fr. Molina to the priesthood. Both of these men had previously been minor seminarians in St. Joseph Seminary during their high school years, and we

were overjoyed to attend the ceremony and both of their first Masses the next day.

Due to the ordinations, the minor seminarians have had the week off from their schooling. So now it's back to the plow to finish the year strong. We must strive even harder to do our best at our studies and achieve good grades. Please continue to pray for us, and God bless you all!

the Seminarians

There and back again

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 11

Achilly morning dawned on St. Joseph Seminary after our early Sunday morning Mass had come to a close. The big day arrived at last. We had been preparing and planning for about a week, and now it came down to the packing. Anyone who has been on a long trip with family can relate to our struggles in packing a vehicle which simply isn't capable of taking everything that one might want to take. So, we stuffed in all the necessities and jammed the doors of our red minivan shut. Having done that, we felt a

April calendar	
1-3	— Annual academic placement testing
4-5	— All-night vigil of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
6	— Passion Sunday; solemn high Mass by Fr. Anthony
17-18	— Holy Thursday/Good Friday
19	— Holy Saturday; Easter vacation begins
20	— Easter Sunday; no classes all week
25	— Procession of the Major Litanies
26	— Rynan's 19 th birthday
27	— Byron's 14 th birthday
28	— Classes resume

refreshing sense of accomplishment until we realized that *we* still had to fit in the van somewhere. But before we

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The bishop, priests and seminarians posed for this group photo after the ordination ceremony.

There and back again

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could set out, we had to do one more thing: visit the Blessed Sacrament and pray for a safe journey. Afterwards, we squeezed into our van and, although we felt like canned sardines, we settled in for a long trip.

And now the obvious question: where were we going? Our destination was Mater Dei Seminary in Omaha, Nebraska. We were all going to attend the ceremony which was to take place on the 25th of March. That was to be the day when two young men, who had both previously been seminarians of St. Joseph Seminary, would be ordained to the priesthood. (And one of whom — Fr. Anthony Marie — is a teacher of ours.)

With the novelty of such a journey and thoughts of the wonderful ceremony to take place filling our minds, how could we possibly have time to be irritable with one another? Au contraire. This trip of eleven hours each day for two days had the potential of taxing both our patience and charity to the max. Of course, that would be between naps and the periodic gas station stops along the way. However, I believe that we all got along with one another very well during the entire trip. Along with the frequent restroom breaks, we were glad to be able to explore some of the tourist attractions. This also helped to break up our road trip into more enjoyable parts.

Finally, at our destination, we attended the joyous and most beautiful ceremony in the church of Mater Dei Seminary. After the denouement of our journey was accomplished, we spent a few days in Nebraska and then made the return trip. Our quest was fraught with joys and interesting ventures, such as visits to Mount Rushmore and the site of Custer's Last Stand. Upon arriving back at St. Joseph Seminary, the sky wept tears of joy at our homecoming (at least I think they were tears of joy!) One thing is for sure — Victor (our dog) was beside himself with excitement. He probably thought, after six days, that he would never see us again! At last, we were home.

The conferring of Holy Orders

by Byron Ugolini, gr. 8

As you know, Fr. Anthony and Fr. Nino Molina were ordained to the priesthood on March 25, 2014. I want to tell you about the ordination ceremony which we attended.

The Holy Priesthood is the sacrament when the deacon becomes a priest. In the ceremony, the bishop processes in from the back of the church with the clergy who will assist at the ordinations. The solemn Mass begins and proceeds as normal. At the Gospel the bishop seats himself on the faldstool on the top step of the altar. Then the archdeacon says: "Let those who are to be ordained to the order of the priesthood come forward" adding the names of the ordinandi. Those who are to be ordained answer "Adsum" and enter the sanctuary. The ordination continues with a whole lot of prayers.

The candidates lie prostrate while the Litany of Saints is chanted. After that the bishop bestows their office. After he imposes his hands on the head of each of the deacons, every priest present stands in front of the candidates and also lays his hands on their heads.

Then there is the investiture with the priestly vestments. The bishop places the stole from the left shoulder to around the neck of the new priest, saying, "Receive the yoke of the Lord; for His yoke is sweet and His burden is light." Then the bishop places the chasuble on the newly ordained priest, saying, "Receive the priestly vestment, by which charity is signified; for God is powerful to increase unto thee charity and perfect service."

Following this is the anointing of hands. Then a chalice and host are presented to the new priest to signify the power of offering Mass. Then, from the offertory of the Mass, the new priests offer the Mass along with the bishop. After the Mass all of the clergy process out of the chapel with the new priests.

The right kind of pride

by Vincent Prado, gr. 10

Most virtues that we acquire can be applied both to our natural and spiritual lives. But there is one that we tend to forget, as it can already be a part of our lives. And that is confidence. Confidence is the faith in yourself to do what you set out to do. Confidence can be such a help to us in many ways.

It can help us in the world by giving us the personal boost we need to achieve whatever it may be that we are trying to accomplish. In the spiritual life, it can help us to overcome temptations. By saying, "I will conquer this temptation; I will not fall," we can find superfluous amounts of help. But if one would say, "I don't know if I will be able to conquer this temptation," then he/she is more likely to fall.

Writing from experience, I can say that confidence has helped me in the past. Whether it is my spiritual life, work, or sports, confidence gives me the extra boost I need to do the best I can do. For example, since I enjoy playing sports, if I enter a basketball game without confidence, then I don't play well, because I am doubtful of my performance. But if I am sure of myself and if I trust in God, then the results are quite the opposite. Confidence is the largest part of my success. It gives me the extra strength I need to perform my duties faithfully and well, especially when they are difficult to do.

What would our lives be if confidence did not exist within ourselves? The lack of faith in ourselves would be so harmful to us, that we would find it difficult to get through our lives. This is why it is so important to cultivate this natural virtue. It allows us to believe in ourselves a little more.

If you don't have this helpful natural virtue, acquire it quickly, because it will help you in every situation of your life. It will help you spiritually, mentally, and physically in every moment. So don't fail yourself — believe in yourself!



Before their ordination, the two deacons prostrated for the Litany of the Saints.



The bishop prepares to anoint the hands of the newly-ordained priests.



The bishop instructs the newly-ordained priests at the conclusion of the ceremony.



The new priests give their first blessing to their families.



Fr. Anthony poses with his family and relatives after the ordination.



Fr. Molina elevates the chalice at the consecration during his first solemn Mass.



The clergy and servers pose with Fr. Nino Molina for a group photo at the conclusion of his first Mass.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 10

“Easter is the principal feast of the ecclesiastical year. Christmas is celebrated only in preparation for Easter.” This was said by Pope Leo the Great. In fact, the order of Sundays from Septuagesima to the last Sunday after Pentecost, the feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and all other movable feasts right up to the feast of the Sacred Heart, depend upon the date of Easter. This shows how great the feast of the Resurrection is. Even though all Catholics know what Easter is, I would like to go back with you and take a look at the history of Easter.

Easter is the feast of the Resurrection. What is the Resurrection? The Resurrection is the revival of Christ’s body three days after His crucifixion. But did you know that the feast of the Resurrection or Easter started being publicly celebrated in Rome and Alexandria? And how did they find the date for Easter every year? They would celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox, and the Roman Church claimed for this observance the authority of Sts. Peter and Paul. In Rome the spring equinox was observed on March 25th and in Alexandria on March 23rd. In Antioch Easter was kept on the Sunday after the Jewish Passover.

Easter is a time of great joy. Here we celebrate, after forty days of penance and suffering, a feast so ecstatic that the Roman Catholic Church gives it the highest rank in the ecclesiastical year. So my dear friends, let us give thanks to God for this wonderful feast and, hopefully, after all the penances we did during Lent, we may have a greater joy on this feast and in heaven may give all honor, glory and praise to the Holy Trinity for all eternity.

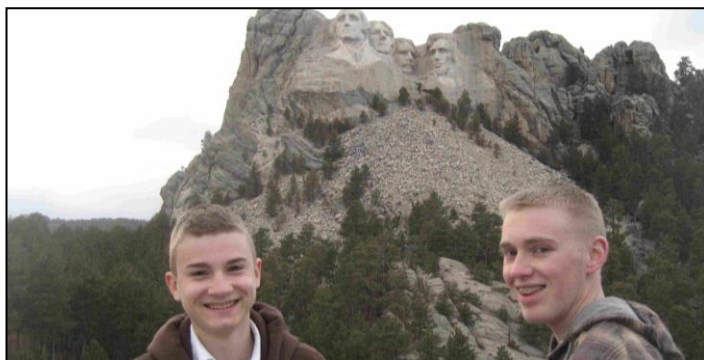
Two more Masses

A wonderful story is told about a couple of priests who were traveling on foot through the countryside. In need of refreshment they approached a farmhouse. A little boy who had seen them coming up the driveway ran in and excitedly exclaimed to his mother, “Two Masses are coming up to the front door!” He was right, for a priest is ordained, before and beyond anything else, to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

It has often been said that if a priest were to die after saying his first Mass, all the study, labor and sacrifices on his part, and on the part of anyone who helped him to approach



Our seminarians had the opportunity to visit the tomb of Fr. Flanagan at Boys' Town.



Our return trip from Omaha included a stop at Mount Rushmore.

the altar, would all be worth it. Did we only fully comprehend the infinite value of the Mass — and how pleasing the Mass is to God — we would find this statement only logical. Truly, the world can more easily exist without the sun than without the Mass.

And so we rejoice at the ordination of two of our former seminarians. May God grant them many years of fruitful labor as priests. Let us not forget to continue to pray for them, that they persevere as good and holy priests, and also that God will deign to send us many more vocations, to be trained and prepared to go up to the altar of God.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to again thank you for your support and your prayers. There is nothing quite as wonderful as the ordination of new priests, but it requires the cooperation of many persons to bring it about. Please continue to support our work. May God grant each of you a blessed Holy Week and a most joyous Easter.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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