



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XX No. 11

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2015

Dear friends of our seminary, After the final hectic week of school, a beautiful silence has descended over the seminary. While the boys need the relaxation provided by the summer vacation, the priests are not any less in need of rest. The grueling school year takes its toll, and both mind and body demand a reprieve.

Here at the seminary Father Anthony and I divide the summer into two parts: the first half is one of rest, during which each of us takes a vacation. As I write, Father Anthony is in Colorado enjoying some time in the mountains with his family. When he returns we will be joined by Brother Alphonsus Maria, a former student of our seminary. Brother finished his novitiate and made first profession of vows a few weeks ago. He has obtained permission to

spend the remainder of the summer here. It will be a joy to welcome another member of our congregation to join in our community life.

When August arrives, we shift gears. The focus then will be on preparing for the new school year, ordering books and planning classes. In addition, we will each make a retreat, in order to renew our spiritual lives. By the time the new school year rolls around, we should be ready to get back to the normal seminary routine.

In between these various activities, there are projects to be accomplished here at the seminary. Work is needed in the kitchen and dining room, and summer is a good time to do it. Father Anthony is the handyman, and there will be helping hands from among the boys of our parish. All in all, we

July Calendar	
7-9	— Priests' meeting in Omaha
26-30	— Annual Boys' summer camp

won't be idle this summer.

During this month of July, the devotion of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus also occupies our thoughts. Daily we recite prayers in honor of the Precious Blood after Mass. Saint Paul exhorts us with the words: "You have been bought at a great price" (I Cor, 6:20). May we never forget the love of Jesus, which led Him to shed every drop of His Precious Blood for our salvation!

Don't Forget

by Joseph Prado, gr. 8

For my last *Guardian* article, I forgot the best idea that I have had this entire year. In fact, I still can't remember what it was. What a shame! But forgetting that wonderful idea led me onto another path, one, I am sure, I was destined to write about.

As we busy ourselves with the various distracting duties and enjoyments of the day, we tend to forget why we are here and why we are doing what we do. Yes, we all have to admit it: we always credit every personal victory, success, and popularity mostly to us



The procession makes its way to the outdoor altar of the Sacred Heart.

Don't Forget

continued from page 1

Naturally, of course. But little do we realize or know that God gives us all of that. We deceive ourselves with smoke and mirrors, living in our little lives, where we thunder across every day like invincible titans, until we fall. When something does not go our way, we are reminded that, well, that God does have control over our lives. Even though we have free wills, God gives us that little nudge out of the door that propels us onto our destiny. Our life could so drastically change; where then will our invincibility be?

It's so easy to forget God's love, even though we feel the indirect consequences of His affection. Ever have those days when everything and everyone is happy and you glow? Most likely you are in God's tender warmth. So, do we think of God often? Well, sadly, for myself, it's all too rare. That's why we must change. Just remember, every good thing, everything, comes—although it may seem distant—straight from God. If you think you are lucky that you came out from a pressured, sticky, tough, and all around nervous situation miraculously fine, well, you might as well point to the sky. For it was due to God's grace.

When I have plenty of things to do, I get so scatterbrained. But that's if... I didn't invoke God. I always happen to remember everything in order, and when I have to. If I am nervous and queasy, then a quick prayer to Jesus and Mary usually orders things. But that's when I remember to invoke and thank God, the reason why we are on this splendid place that we live on.

All Is Not Idle

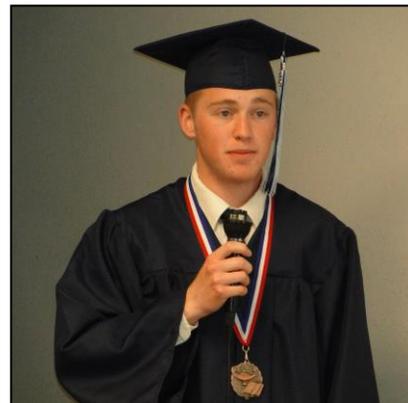
by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

School is over for everyone but the seminary does not stop now! All hands are on deck to get all kinds of miscellaneous work done around here. There is grass to be cut as the grounds incessantly grow back their former nature. Fortunately, we get lots of help from parishioners in this large task. I must say that we could not do it alone and unaided. We have two mowers and a couple of weed whackers that cannot stand to be unused for long. As you hopefully have learned from experience, grass does not stop growing

after it is cut but continues as everything else to grow and thrive on the good weather and rains. Each time we mow, we end up with at least a trailer full of grass clippings which we give to the chickens or use as compost for the garden.

But cutting grass is not all we do around here. We have been doing preparing a milk barn for a cow we should be buying by the end of summer. As God said we gain our food by the sweat of our brow, and that is so very true. Countless posts have yet to be pounded or set in the ground for the fence to go up. We recently poured the concrete in the milk barn which was an arduous task. It requires placing boards in a formation as barricades from the concrete flowing out of its intended area. Then you must dig down about four inches in the dirt and replace the dirt with rock. Then you are ready to pour and smooth out the concrete for the ultimate end. This was one of the largest projects as it required many helpers to do the preparation and spreading of the concrete. All we are waiting for now is to get the fence up and get that cow. Then we will have fresh milk to be enjoyed at the seminary. Once we have started to milk the cow we will find that we have finally obtained our reward for which we have so long been laboring.

Getting back on the subject of mowing, grass has some wonderful benefits when freshly mowed. It is wonderful when it comes time for an event like the Queenship processions or Corpus Christi. Our Lady deserves all the honor we can give her and fresh cut grass and flowers make a beautiful combination. It is a wonderful thing to be able to keep our grounds clean and neat which can be accomplished only with a lot of help. We would like to thank all of those who have cooperated with us in any way in regards to cleaning up the Church property, because as I have said, we could never do it on our own.



After his graduation, Jordan shared reflections on his four years at the seminary.



Seminarians and students who have made the 33-day preparation make the act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary on the feast of Our Lady's Queenship.



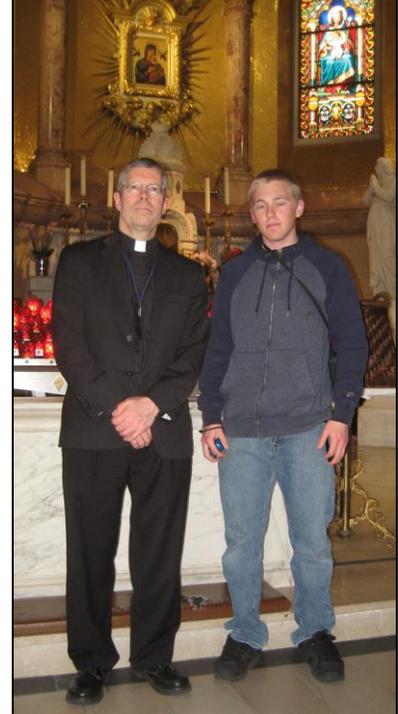
During the Corpus Christi procession, we paused for benediction at each of the outdoor altars.



The students and teachers of our parish school.



Our staff and students posed for a group picture during the final days of the school.



Jordan and Fr. Benedict visited the basilica of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Boston.



The opening procession with His Excellency at the graduation ceremony.

Most Precious Blood Of Jesus

Almighty and everlasting God, who hast appointed Thine only-begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and hast been pleased to be reconciled unto us by His Blood, grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate with solemn worship the price of our salvation, that the power thereof may here on earth keep us from all things hurtful, and the fruit of the same may gladden us for ever hereafter in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen (Raccolta #222).

An indulgence of 5 years. A plenary indulgence on the usual conditions once a month for the daily devout recitation of this prayer.

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.

**St. Joseph Seminary
15384 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**