



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2015

Last week was our mid-quarter, when we receive the first grade report for the school year. The mid-quarter grade report doesn't actually appear on the grade card at the end of the quarter, but it gives us an idea of how we are doing in each subject half-way through the quarter. So far so good. Now we just have to keep up our efforts in our classes.

Speaking of classes, most of us are spending a lot of time on our science class this year, which is physics. It is a computer class offered by IDLA, which stands for Idaho Digital Learning Academy. The course is demanding, and so we spend a lot of our study time doing the course work. All the other classes (theology, math, English, Latin, government and choir) are taught by our teachers here. As you can see, we have plenty to keep us busy.

But you know the saying: All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Well, that applies to seminarians too. That is why we enjoy our recreations and especially, at this time of year, the game of flag football. This week we will have our first game, and we all are eagerly anticipating the action!

Up The Long Ladder

by Joseph Vines, gr. 10

During this life we often forget about how long eternity is. Our soul will either spend an eternity of happiness with God, or, God forbid, we'll spend an eternity of sorrow with the devil and all his demons. Which one is easier? Well, of course it's easier to fall into hell because if it

wasn't, then everyone would be enjoying the happiness of heaven. We have to constantly struggle throughout our life to make it to those Golden Gates.

Even the saints had to struggle every day to keep sin out of their hearts and God on their minds. St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother was lying on his deathbed when the greatest temptation assailed him, but he courageously called for our Blessed Mother's help and conquered the temptation, dying a peaceful and saintly death. We have to especially pray for grace to overcome temptations at the hour of our death.

The devil tells you, "Oh you don't have to worry about committing that sin because you can just go to confession later." Or, "What's one venial sin, it's not going to hurt anybody." We have to constantly be thinking of eternity and how our actions today will affect the rest of our lives. We have to push ourselves to perfect our spiritual life. A wise man once said, "Never settle for mediocrity, whether it be in your spiritual life, your academics, or your work. Push yourself just a little harder, stay in chapel and say one, or two, or five extra Hail Mary's. Because once you perfect yourself you'll bring others along the way."

We have to strive for perfection at all times in our life, because when someone strives for perfection, he finds excellence and this attracts the people around you. When you see all the people around you in heaven you will rejoice and think of every moment you spent to bring them

October calendar

- 1 — Football game
- 7 — Feast of the Most Holy Rosary; outdoor procession; chanted Vespers
- 9 — Attend Pontifical High Mass and lectures at the Fatima Conference
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM
- 15 — Football game
- 25 — Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 27–28 — First Quarter exams
- 28 — End of First Quarter
- 29 — First day of classes for Second Quarter; final football game

there, whether it may be that you said an extra prayer or you did one extra good deed for those around you. You may not get the praise and recognition in this life, but God sees everything and He will reward you in the next life.

The devil spends all of his time trying to weaken our defenses, which are like the walls of our souls. Will we pusillanimously back away or will our trust in the Blessed Virgin help us conquer our three-fold enemy? Never ever lose hope in God. All the demons may try to pry us away from God, but if we have faith in Our Lady, who is more fearsome than an embattled array, we will triumph.

Football Fun

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

Well, as we're getting further into school we are starting sports. This means football. This is my first time on a real football team. It's really fun. I get to play as the center on the team. We have already gotten a few good weeks of practice. Our first game is on October 1st against Mount Saint Michael's.

One thing I know is that we have a good team. A good coach helps a good deal too. Mr. Prado is an excellent coach. This means he teaches us to be aware of our surroundings. This mostly goes for the quarterback. He must get a full view of the field to see if anyone is open before he gets his flag pulled. This is where the line men come in. It is their job to see that the quarterback is protected from anyone trying to get to his flag. If you have a good line, then the quarterback has more time to think about where to throw the football.

And there is the flag-pulling. For this you must be able to act quickly sometimes, or most of the time, when you are after the opponent with the ball.

Well, we all know football is fun and we have a good team. There may be some things we still need to work on. And we will. I hope that we do well in the game. I pray that we may have a successful school year and have fun with our recreation of football. Now get to your positions! Down! Set! Hike! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us!

No Hard Feelings?

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

It is said that a man's best friend is his dog. Well, we have a dog, and his name is Victor. That might make an exception to the norm. Victor is our ever happy, ever lazy chocolate Lab who enjoys the pleasures of a dog like eating and sleeping.

He knows what happens every Tuesday and Thursday after Mass at 11:00. Father Benedict and the rest of us come out of chapel and Victor in his instinct knows what that means. That instantaneous reaction he has that sets off a wire is that Fr. Benedict is likely to return to the seminary in his car, and to Victor that means a race to the death with the seminary as the optimal goal. Victor, as a creature of habit, desires to do his best to get to the door inscribed St. Joseph Seminary before the Mazda. Therefore, as soon as Father's shoe depresses the accelerator pedal, something flashes through Victor's head as to what is about to happen. His first and every time reaction is to spin off racing across the property looking for the fastest way back. His statistics vary depending on what he ate the previous day, as he is spoiled with leftover

foods like fat and meat drippings. I must add that Victor is borderline of being overweight.

Besides chasing cars, eating, sleeping and various activities, Victor does do a few other things that you would not expect. To start, there is a stagnant pond located about three hundred yards from the seminary. A startling fact about this pond is that Victor is a constant denizen who loves to swim in it. After he has exited that deep, lousy abyss, no one dares to touch him as he reeks of the pond and is soaking wet. He is the kind of dog who requires a bath as often as you can administer one. That is Victor's bad side, which we all know too well.

Aside from this, Victor has a good side which everyone can enjoy, which is hospitality. He is the official seminary door warden who enjoys greeting people as they pull up with either a bark or a lonely whimper. It doesn't take more than an hour or so for Victor to grow terribly lonely; he is a scare-dy dog and doesn't enjoy being by himself with nature. I have given you but a taste of the frosting of the cake of the lore of Victor. No hard feelings, Victor, *please?*

Setting One's Goals

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

So far, all our classes are *sometimes* fun and enjoyable. Some days are good and others, not so good. But we all cheer up when we know the bell is about to ring. There are a few classes that are fun on certain days, like math. It can be fun (not all the time) when you know how to do the problem, but really annoying if you get stuck on it for a while. Some of the last three classes of the day are sometimes hard to get by on—English, physics (an online course), and PE/Choir. Most of us like doing PE/Choir, but some don't really put forth the effort.

I took a survey of all the seminarians, and we have all agreed that the hardest one is physics. It can sometimes be fun, but *most* of the time it will usually get annoying after a while of just sitting there reading, downloading, printing, watching videos, taking quizzes and tests etc. In physics we have to be able to talk to the teacher online, meaning we all had to get a set of headphones with a mic so we can talk. Most of us, when we first got them, pretended among ourselves that we were airplane pilots or part of the military control center.

Physics can be fun in *some* ways, if you really set your mind to it. Some of us have already gotten the hang of it. Just because we get the hang of it doesn't mean we like it or don't mind it. Personally, I sort of like taking the quizzes and tests more than I like watching the videos. The videos can sometimes be boring, but we all have to strive and get through it.

continued on page 4



Blessing the new Calvary scene in the cemetery.



We attended the Fatima rosary procession in downtown Spokane.



Smile and say "stinky" cheese.



Just a little friendly game of aggravation.



Football is enjoyed by all.



Mrs. Salgado, Ben, Andrew, and Robert pose at the annual school fundraiser auction.



Some of the boys from our parish school joined the seminarians in singing a High Mass for the Feast of St. Michael.

Setting One's Goals

continued from page 2

Taking this class is also time-consuming. This is why we all must get into a habit of getting our other homework done on time so that we have time to get our physics done. We must discipline ourselves in making a schedule so that we stay on track and do not get distracted by other things. We must set a goal for ourselves, and when we are at the end of that goal, we must set another one. We all need to have a main goal. That main goal should be to get to heaven by doing our daily duties the best we can every day, although we may not feeling like doing them. As a wise man once said, "We should do ordinary things extraordinarily well."



A group of seminarians looks on as Ben finishes eating his beets.

The Catholic Sense

There are certain things that are dear to the hearts of all Catholics, such as the Holy Eucharist and Holy Mass, devotion to Our Lady and the saints, etc. One such devotion that lies near the top of the list, however, is the devotion to the Holy Souls. It has always impressed me to see how important to devout Catholics is the relief of the suffering souls in purgatory.

In our monthly mailings there are occasional intention cards, to be returned with intentions for us to remember. The largest number always come during October. It is the card you will find in this mailing, for the names of your beloved departed.

Here at our seminary we are privileged to have the consecrated ground of our cemetery, where the precious remains of so many faithful Catholics lie buried. By making visits to the cemetery, especially during November, the seminarians are reminded of the purpose of life as well as our duty to alleviate by our suffrages the Poor Souls. Let us remember that the souls we assist with our prayers will never forget what we have done for them. In our hour of need, we will be able to count on their prayers for us.

So be sure to send in the Holy Souls intention card with the names of your departed loved ones. We will remember them in our daily prayers and Masses during November. May they rest in peace!

October is also the month of the Holy Rosary, when we make the effort not only to pray our daily Rosary as devoutly as possible, but also to recite extra decades. Let us recall that Our Lady at Fatima requested in each of her apparitions that we pray the Holy Rosary *every* day. Certainly, that is not too much of her to ask.

As we practice our Faith, and strive to live in the spirit of the various liturgical seasons, we develop that beautiful Catholic sense, the *sensus Catholicus*. It is what distinguishes a faithful Catholic from one who is lukewarm. May we all be conspicuous for our love for and practice of our Catholic Faith.

Thank you for your support and prayers. May God reward you, and may He grant that we may all be united one day in our heavenly home. For, let us always remember, that is the purpose of our existence

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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