



THE GUARDIAN

We have finished the Third Quarter and now begin the final quarter of the school year, with a wide open alley for opportunities. In our Religion course we have been learning about the liturgical year. Just as Lent was the preparation period when we looked at our faults and worked to overcome them, so now we are in the period of celebration, when we strive to put into practice the fruits of our Lenten season. Lent is not something that is just for the present. Like a spiritual retreat, if we have made a good Lent, we will have grown spiritually.

The season of Paschaltide is filled with wonderful feasts that we celebrate. Also, here at our parish we observe the Forty Hours Devotion every year during April. This will provide us with extra time before the Blessed Sacrament exposed, that we might grow in our union with Our Lord. We hope to take advantage of these wonderful feasts and get the greatest benefit from them as possible.

Since Easter came early this year, we have an earlier start to the applications of our Lenten resolutions. Not only do the feasts come earlier, but we also have an earlier start with the weather. The crocuses are now in full bloom in front of our statue of St Joseph and behind the seminary. We have seen sixty-five degrees liven up our atmosphere. At times we wake up to snow coming down, but it all melts faster than it comes down.

This all means that the grass will be growing up, prompting us to spend extra time maintaining the property. This consists of the ordinary chores of mowing the grass and doing other spring cleanup. But we can do all of this

with a joyful heart, remembering the sacrifices Christ performed for us. So as we see that even the flowers and birds come out thanking God for His sacrifice on behalf of the human race, let us strive to make the most of this season, that it may benefit the salvation of our immortal souls.

Champions of the Faith

by Clayton Wright, gr. 12

In the Catholic Church there are many saints who are celebrated because they chose to defend the Faith. Times were the worst during the early persecutions of the faithful. Multitudes died because they chose to be steadfast. These champions of the Faith are called martyrs or “witnesses of the faith.”

The martyrs were the ones called upon by God to die for the Faith. Not only did religious die, but lay people and even children died, because they didn't want to deny the Faith or offend God. The courage that these holy people obtained from God was exceedingly great! For they had to go through the most awful tortures, no matter the age, gender or political rank. It is said that “11,000,000 men, women and children along with 31 of the first popes died for this glorious faith.” (St. Alphonsus)

The persecutions started around the year 100 or earlier and were the result of ignorance concerning the Faith which Jesus Christ instituted while he was on

April Calendar

- 4 – Classes resume; Fourth Quarter begins
- 8-10 – Forty Hours
- 18-22 – Annual Pool Tournament
- 25 – Procession of the Major Litanies
- 28 – Feast of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for the Act of Total Consecration

earth. The people of those early times still retained the hatred which they bore Our Lord and Redeemer. They considered the holy Faith as a sort of sorcery from the devil, because they heard that the ministers of God could change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and the faithful received Him during Holy Communion.

Continued on page 2



The servers assist Father in the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday.

Champions of the Faith

continued from page 1

Besides the ignorance that the pagans had, there was another reason that the Christians were persecuted – the heresy known as Arianism, which was instituted from an unfaithful deacon by the name of Arius. This deacon chose to start this heresy and cause unjust persecution to the followers of the true religion in the Roman Empire. The priests that followed Arianism were able to trick many of the clergy and laity because of a few changed syllables in the Latin and Greek pronunciation of certain words. On account of this heresy many people were exiled or put to death.

Fast forward ten centuries to the persecutions in Japan by the emperors. What an atrocity these barbarous men were doing! But to the martyrs it is a glorious thing for they attained the everlasting crown and a throne in heaven.

The persecutions in this country were even more horrible than those of the Romans. The tortures were cruel and inhuman. The book *Victories of the Martyrs* describes some of the tortures used on the faithful, but to no avail, for the triumphant martyrs overcame all. But as I mentioned above, they didn't die for nothing.

As time passed many were martyred, even here in the United States, Canada and Mexico to name a few. But the greatest martyrdom that ever took place was the crucifixion of Our Lord and that of Our Lady who stood by in anguish and watched her Son die on the cross to save so many who did not deserve to be saved. Jesus crucified, have mercy on us! Saints of God, pray for us!

Our Annual Retreat

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

On the weekend of March 18-20 here at the seminary we had our annual Lenten retreat. This was my first retreat, although I had attended a day of recollection before. During the retreat there is silence, and spiritual conferences are given by Father. Our free time is silent and is a time of spiritual reading, prayers and so on. We are able to talk again during recreation. During retreat there is a little different atmosphere in the seminary. All is quiet. This gives us a chance to think more about the important things and our soul.

Now on the night of the first day of our retreat, we had an all-night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Basically, everyone was assigned to stay for one hour in the chapel so that Our Lord would not be left alone. My assigned hour was from 2:00-3:00 am. It was very peaceful, myself being the only one in the chapel, with only the altar lights on and candles lit. One hour, alone with Our Lord.

The retreat was a rewarding and interesting activity for us. It lasted about two whole days. It was a good experience for me and the other seminarians, especially those for whom it was the first time. It was particularly beneficial since it was during Lent. By the time you read this, it will be sometime

after Easter. I hope you all had a good and holy Lent and will have a joyful Easter.

The Hope of Salvation for Mankind

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

The feast of the Annunciation is one of the greatest feasts in the Church. This is when Our Lady agreed to be the Mother of God. At that moment, through the power of the Holy Ghost, she conceived in her womb the Creator of all things, Jesus Christ the Second Person of The Blessed Trinity. The Church refers to this occasion as the Incarnation.

This day is one of great joy and thanksgiving, for on this day, the prophecy of the Redeemer was fulfilled. This was the hope of mankind, for Salvation. It was announced that Our Lady was to be the Mother of God. She was to conceive in her womb a Son, and still remain a Virgin, and St. Joseph was to be the foster-father of Jesus Christ. St. Joseph played a big part in the raising and sheltering of the Christ Child.

“Hail full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women,” was the angel's greeting to Our Lady. But seeing Mary troubled at this salutation, he said, “Fear not Mary, for thou hast found grace with God. And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name Jesus.” Then Mary said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.” At her immediate answer, Our Lord entered into her womb.

Our Lord chose Mary to be the Mother of God. That is why she was born without original sin. If Our Lord had not come into this world, then mankind would not have had the opportunity for redemption. We should be thankful for Our Lord coming into this world. He did so, so that He might be crucified, and by His death, redeem us so that we may have a share in the glories of heaven.

A Promising Activity

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

We are now looking outside at the beautiful sun and hoping for the spring. But tomorrow there might be a change for merely snow again. The weather fluctuates greatly around the seasons. One day it is spring, the next it is fall and the next it is winter. Come up to Idaho, and that is the sort of weather you might expect.

But on March 11th, we were definitely going to have our archery tournament. Rain or snow, it was taking place. We had all practiced often and were ready for the contest. The contestants were the junior high grades, the high school and the seminarians. Father Anthony spent a good deal of time getting equipment ready and training everyone in the art. We improved our archery range by getting longer sections of discarded carpet and screwing them into a frame. We can now

continued on page 4



A group photo on Saint Patrick's Day, following the talent show.



The procession moves out of the church on Palm Sunday.



The servers take turns in venerating the large crucifix on Good Friday.



The seminarians take aim at the archery range.



The seminarians are always a big help during chore time on Saturdays.



The Mass of the Easter Vigil ushers in the joyful Alleluias of the Paschal Season



The annual ping-pong tournament was an enjoyable event for everyone!

A Promising Activity

continued from page 2

bring in seven archers at a time. As I was saying a moment ago, we were having our archery tournament despite the weather. The weather that day consisted of threatening cumulonimbus clouds. It sprinkled a small amount, but the clouds spared us their terrible wrath. There's nothing like extracting wet, slippery arrows from the target.

The seminarian warm up for the brawl began at 12:20 and ended at 12:30, giving way for the high school and grade school students to have their forty-five minute practice. Since a few of us had to keep track of the current scores and figure out the winners and such, we seminarians shot first. We were given a round of ten arrows ranging from a 0-100 point basis. In the midst of all the pressure, most of us came through with at least our average. I was the first place shot in the first part of the tournament, Benedict was the second place, and Joseph Prado of the high school came in third place. As the prizes for the first part, there were bottles of Black Cherry soda and five dollars for the highest score in each classroom. Then for the first place prize, there was a Craftsman tool set highly suggested to all the boys in the tournament.

Next came the shootout, which was basically the endurance section of the tournament. Scores in this section were nothing like the actual tournament. Most of the contestants came through with a much higher score. People were knocked out of the tournament by two's, based on the two lowest scores.



The blessing of Easter Water at the Easter Vigil ceremonies.

Special thanks go to Mrs. Gallagher for donating prizes and various items, and to the Valentine family for donating four bows. We also thank all who contributed to this tournament or added to the fun there. We hope to do this every year in succession and always look forward to all of the fun.

Looking for the Right Kind of Boy

Around this time of year we begin looking toward the next year and contacting potential recruits for the seminary. But what kind of boy are we looking for?

In the early part of the last century a theological debate was brewing over the meaning of vocation to the priesthood and the religious life. Some insisted that only those who felt a definite call from God should enter a seminary or religious house to pursue that vocation. Others taught that such an “inner voice” was not necessary, and that any boy or girl of good will, who had the necessary qualities, could be accepted into a house of religious formation. At length, Pope Saint Pius X intervened in the controversy and decided in favor of the latter opinion.

In other words, the Church teaches that we must not merely look for youth who believe they *have* a vocation, but rather for young men and women *for* a vocation. Minor seminaries, in particular, were schools where boys were admitted who had been encouraged by their parents and/or their pastor or teacher. These adults saw in the young man all the qualities which are necessary for a good priest, and so they encouraged the young man to enter the seminary, even though he may not have felt a strong attraction for the priesthood.

Eventually, the possible existence of a vocation would be determined by the bishop and other superiors, who would recommend for or against the eventual ordination of the young man. How many wonderful priests there have been over the years who did not themselves recognize their vocation? It was only the urging of their pastors, teachers, parents, or other adults which led them to pursue that possibility. So let us all pray for more vocations, and especially that God will deign to send us the young men whom He desires to be His priests!

Our final two months are busy and exciting, as we conclude the school year and look forward to the future. As always, we are most grateful for your support and your prayers. What a blessing is in store for all those who promote the work of preparing other Christ's to labor in Our Lord's vineyard.

— *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.

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