



THE GUARDIAN

The highlight of the past month was certainly the feast of Saint Joseph. With a solemn High Mass and a day off from normal classes—that’s hard to beat. We also celebrated Saint Patrick’s Day with our usual talent show.

Now we are in the midst of Holy Week, and looking forward to the joys of Easter. We are privileged to serve the beautiful ceremonies of this week, and so we spend a good deal of time in practice for the liturgy. We want to serve as perfectly as we can and especially to enjoy and benefit from the beautiful liturgy of the Church. We have also been doing a major “spring cleaning” of the house and grounds in preparation for Easter.

seminary in Omaha. In his place we now have Frater Philip Marie, who is preparing to be ordained in May. We wish Fr. Augustine well and hope that he will be able to come back after the ordination. There certainly is a great need for priests today, and that reminds us of the importance of following our vocation. Pray for us, and for more vocations.

He Has Risen

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 12

Now with Lent being at its end with the closing of Holy Week, we get the Easter time, the time in which we celebrate the glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now when we do this the ones who have made a good and holy Lent will have a greater share in the joy of this feast. After all, the purpose of Lent is to meditate on Our Lord’s Passion to prepare us for this feast.

And Easter, as you know, is the greatest feast day in the liturgical year, even greater than Christmas and Pentecost. So most parishes usually have a sung High Mass on the day. And Easter not only includes the day of



Father Augustine was the celebrant for our Solemn High Mass on the feast of Saint Joseph.

There has been one other major event of this past month. Recently, we were surprised to learn that Father Augustine Marie was being transferred back to the major

Sunday, but it is celebrated for a whole week up to Easter Saturday. The vestments are no longer purple but are changed to white to symbolize happiness and joy.

April Calendar

- 1 – Easter Sunday; Children’s Easter Egg Hunt at the seminary; vacation all week
- 9 – Feast of the Annunciation; classes resume
- 18 – Seminary outing
- 25 – Procession of the Major Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery

In the seminary we now have Easter vacation during which some of the seminarians go home for a week, and all of us have the week off from school. It is a good break that should refresh us for the little part of the school year that we have left. We are also experiencing a change of weather. There is no more snow, the weather is beginning to warm up, and spring is here.

Now let us reflect on this short time of Easter and let us not forget to understand its true meaning. It is not all about having fun and vacation even though these are good things to do during this time. But the reason why this is so is because of this feast. This is the feast in which Jesus had just recently opened the gates of heaven by dying on the cross and rose again after three days to show His almighty power. And that is why we have this celebration of Easter.

Thank you, Saint Joseph!

by Dominic Scherling, gr. 11

On Monday, the 19th of March, the feast of St. Joseph, the seminarians were privileged to go bowling with Father Augustine to bid him farewell. The reason behind our outing is that it was the feast of St. Joseph, who is the patron saint of this seminary. I would like to thank everyone who participated in our fundraiser on Sunday, March 18th. Although there might not be a reward for you in this life, there will certainly be a reward for you in the next.

As we arrived at the bowling alley, the five of us piled out of the seminary van. While we rented our shoes, I took a quick glance around the bowling arena, and noticed how few people were present—we arrived at a good time. Soon enough, we rented our shoes, claimed our alleys, and started bowling. After we all found our bowling balls and started playing, Father Augustine began to give Thiet lessons. The teams assigned for the day were: Father Augustine and myself, and Thiet and Robert. Being that it was his first time bowling, Thiet was still learning how to bowl so Robert won their games. Father Augustine being... Father Augustine, creamed me at our games.

You might be wondering... where is Nicholas? Well, he has an injury to his right wrist, so he was just there to have a good time, for moral support, and to take pictures. While we were taking a quick break in between games, I took a look at the pictures Nicholas took. As we started our second and last game, the outcome was just about the same; Robert ended up winning the second game with Thiet and Father Augustine ended up winning the second game with me.

Before I conclude my article, I would like to thank Father Augustine for such a fun and grace-filled school year and for being our P.E. teacher. Good-bye Father Augustine!



Thanks to the cooks who helped us with the parish breakfast on March 18!

Good Luck, Mon Pere!

by Thiet Nguyen, gr. 8

In this month of March, we seminarians must bid farewell to a father, a friend, a coach, who is very dear to us and has helped and guided us on the journey of the spiritual life of a minor seminary. Following the order of Bishop Mark Pivarunas, CMRI, he has left (for now) his position as assistant rector of our seminary to Frater Phillip Marie, CMRI, who will be raised to the holy priesthood on the 3rd of May.

It's been almost nine months since I met Father Augustine for the first time on the 13th of August. He was a deacon at that time. Father Augustine is mainly a reserved person. He makes jokes out of everything, making people laugh with his good sense of humor.

He really enjoys playing sports, especially basketball, and he inspires and coaches his students well. The spirit of sports-coaching never dies in him; he always helps his students whenever they're in need. That's part of the reasons why I place P.E. as one of my favorite subjects. Even though I, as a Vietnamese, don't really enjoy playing football or hockey, Father has helped me to improve a lot and now I have started to play these sports by the inspiration he has given me.

This past December 12th was his ordination to the priesthood. After at least five days since the ordination, we seminarians were still calling him "Frater Augustine." Some of us, like Nicholas, just wanted to joke around, but some just forgot to call him "Father." The term "Frater" is an indescribably friendly term that we called him, and it's a term that we can't get out of our minds.

After being ordained a priest, Father Augustine no longer had as much time as he had before, but he still tried to spend most of his free time with us. Besides offering Mass every day, he also brings the sacraments to poor starving souls who are in need. His sermons on Sundays for the parishioners are great, especially for me and the other seminarians, to understand more about the Word of God, and bring it to our life to practice it, and through it we can find out if God really calls us to the life of the religious.

Above all, we seminarians must give such great appreciation to him for all the faithful works he has done for our seminary and parish of Mary Immaculate Queen. Representing all seminarians in this article, I want to thank you, Father, for your great time and many good memories with us, and wish you the best luck on the continuation of your journey of the priesthood. May God always bless you!



Fr. Benedict and servers pray as they wait for the arrival of the mortal remains of Richard Ramirez.



A few inches of snow from the previous day were still on the ground at our Palm Sunday procession.



Little Bernard was fascinated with Mr. Keaveney's singing Irish bear.



All the seminarians had a part in the Palm Sunday ceremonies.



Mr. O'Hara prepares a path in the cemetery to provide access to the grave.



Dominic and Thiet sang an Irish song for the talent show.

Forty Hours of Adoration

Here at the parish of Mary Immaculate Queen, we observe the beautiful Catholic custom of the Forty Hours. Many traditional chapels have congregations that are too small, or too spread out, to be able to maintain the hours of adoration properly. And although we are not a large parish, yet we are large enough to be able to hold this annual tradition.

The Forty Hours originated in Italy in the 16th century as a way to counteract the excesses of the Carnival season—the time right before Ash Wednesday. Since Christians were about to fast for the duration of Lent, they wanted to enjoy mirth and good food before giving it up. That alone is understandable, but the carnival celebrations devolved into sinful extravagance.



Nicholas composed and played his own song at the talent show.

For this reason, a zealous pastor began the practice of having forty hours of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed, to offer reparation for these sins and to promote Eucharistic worship. In a short time, the practice spread throughout Europe and, eventually, to nearly every parish. Many of you will recall the days before Vatican II, when the various parishes of each diocese would hold the Forty Hours Adoration on different weekends throughout the year.

The reason for the number *forty* is that it is the number of hours tradition holds that Our Lord's sacred Body lay in the tomb before His resurrection. Similarly, we adore Our Lord, who resides hidden, day and night, under the Eucharistic species in our tabernacles.



Fulfilling a corporal work of mercy, by preparing a grave for a deceased parishioner.

Our annual Forty Hours here is held in the month of April, the month dedicated to the Holy Eucharist. It is also the Paschal Time, so our altar is beautifully decorated in honor of Our Lord's resurrection. After the beautiful opening ceremonies Friday morning, the Blessed Sacrament remains exposed throughout the day and night of Friday and all day Saturday, concluding with reposition after our public Holy Hour Saturday evening. Then again, on Sunday, after the morning Masses the Blessed Sacrament is again exposed, until the completion of the number of hours on Sunday evening when the closing ceremonies are held.

It is especially appropriate to have this custom at a seminary. The seminarians all take their turns spending time before the Blessed Sacrament and even make an hour of adoration during the night on Friday. It is most important that these young men develop a deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, for there is nothing more incongruous than for a priest to be lacking in devotion to Our Lord in the sacrament of His love. For it is priests who call Him down upon the altar, who offer Mass and distribute Holy Communion. They, more than all others, ought to be deeply devoted to our Eucharistic King.

We ask that you continue to pray for these young men, that they will be formed as befits those who are called to the priesthood. Thank you for all your support and prayers for our seminary. Please continue to pray that this seminary will fulfill its mission of forming future priests, and that God will deign to send us many more vocations. We also pray for you and your intentions in our daily prayers. May God abundantly reward you!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI