



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

April 2019

At last, the weather turned warm two weeks ago and the snow has mostly melted, giving way to a beautiful spring. We have been busy lately, not only in celebrating our patron Saint Joseph, but also in digging two graves and serving a funeral. Now we are looking forward to Holy Week and our Easter vacation.

We are also trying to make a good Lent. Even though the spring-time temperatures are coaxing us to outside recreation, we recall that there are still 3 more weeks of Lent. We want to make a good Lent, in order to properly celebrate a joyful Easter!

The Events of Holy Week

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 9

Silence draped over the land of Judea, as a solemn trumpet blast issuing from the highest pinnacle of the great Temple of Jerusalem resounded over the hills and

begun. To the Jews the feast of the Passover was the most important time of their entire year. It was annually celebrated at the time of the first full moon of spring.

The Jews were an honest and hard-working people who believed ardently in their faith. It was they who received countless graces from God and who awaited the Messiah for half a millennia, and yet it was this same people that delivered Jesus to Pilate to be crucified and said, "Let His blood be upon us and our children."

The hour was seven, the moon shown bright overhead; rays of the Paschal moon poured in through an open window in a high room near the house of Caiaphas where thirteen men of ordinary appearance sat in conversation. The felicitous atmosphere of the gathering and the warmth that hung about the room, gave evidence of a deep contentment.

Their eyes had often rested on the face of Jesus whose appearance was soft, but this night His features were more serious, as if much was on His mind. With a tender loving smile He said, "Much have I desired to eat this supper with you." Though Jesus knew the near future would bring much sorrow and pain, He still enjoyed this last night He would spend in the company

of His friends before His death. There was much to be done and He had only five hours. Though pressured with

April Calendar

- 1 – First Day of Fourth Quarter
- 12 – Gabriel Davis' 15th birthday
- 12-13 – All-night Vigil of Adoration
- 13 – Parish cleanup day to prepare for Holy Week
- 15 – Gabriel Riley's 15th birthday
- 18-19 – Holy Thursday; Good Friday
- 20 – Easter Vacation begins
- 21 – Easter Sunday; Seminary sponsors children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 25 – Procession of the Greater Litanies
- 28 – Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for Holy Slavery
- 29 – Classes resume



Thiet won the annual talent show with his rendition of "The Fields of Athenry"

penetrated every street and home, warning all that the Passover had

was much to be done and He had only five hours. Though pressured with

time, Our Lord immortalized His Church by the institution of Holy Orders, the Mass, the Holy Eucharist, and the mandate to love one another.

During this Lent we should realize that Our Lord's passion and death were caused by our sins. We can blame the Jews and the Romans for this abominable crime, but it was ultimately our sins that caused Our Lord's death. It was you and I who drove in the nails and who spat and

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

The Events of Holy Week

buffeted the Face of the one who only wants our happiness. Yes, it is by our each and every sin that we cause Our Lord these inexpressible pains. Knowing this, how can we continue to sin? Our sins have deserved one hundred times over to be punished in the abyss of hell. Yes, after being laid on the cross, through bloody tears Our Lord prayed for us: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

St. Patrick's Bakers

by Gabriel Riley, gr. 9

On the feast of Saint Patrick we had our annual bake sale. We had to complete the "blarney stones" before we (seminarians) could start baking cookies and more. The staff were surprised that we had completed covering the blarney stones with frosting and ground peanuts in one day. They said it usually takes about 3 days. We had the opportunity to finish quickly, thanks be to God, because the bake sale was only 3 days away. Yet we still had to do the cookies and cakes.

Thankfully, Mary Antonia, our faithful cook, helped us by making 8 loaves of Irish soda bread and a bunch of brownies. The two Davis brothers made the peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies which tasted amazingly good. I made oatmeal cookies, my favorite kind. I accidentally made them a little too small, so we named them "oatmeal cookie nibblers".

Thiet helped by gathering the ingredients and washing the dishes over and over, so that we could use them again. Gabriel Davis and I volunteered to wake up early on Sunday morning. After we attended the first Mass we helped Mr. Keaveney sell the blarney stones and the other goods that we had made. After we finished the sale we loaded what was left into the van to take to the seminary to sell after the second Mass.

After the second Mass all the blarney stones, the loaves of Irish soda bread and most of the cookies had vanished, thanks to the support of our parishioners. The rest were given to the seminarians for a treat. "Dear saint Patrick, Pray for Us!"



Father Gregory Drahman poses with the seminarians at the completion of the annual retreat.

The Fight to Free the Holy Land

by William Davis, gr. 8

The Crusades was a series of campaigns launched by the Europeans to clear the Holy Land of the evil sect of Islam. The first Crusade was launched in 1096, specifically for the purpose of ridding the holy land of the Seljuk Turks. The Turkish invasion of Syria and Asia Minor is what helped the first Crusade to really gain traction. Especially after the Byzantine army was defeated by the Turks in the battle of Manzikert, was it clear that the Middle East could not fight off this threat on their own. So the emperor of Byzantium, Alexius I, pleaded for the intercession of the pope to save the Byzantine Empire, which was then falling into ruin after ceaseless raids by the Muslims. Pope Urban II called the nations of Europe to come and help fight a common foe, and save Byzantium. Many brave crusaders took up the call.

These brave crusaders all set out for Constantinople, where they swore fealty to Alexius I. They also promised to give any lands they conquered to the Byzantines. With all of the pleasantries being completed they set out with their armies, defeating the Muslims with the unexpectedness of their attack. The main prizes they wanted to conquer were, of course Jerusalem, and also the important city of Antioch. Both of these cities fell to a siege. The official end of the first Crusade was when Jerusalem was conquered and the Latin Kingdom set up there.

The first Crusade was the most successful but not the only one. A second Crusade was organized by Pope Eugene III, but it failed to make much of a difference. The third Crusade was launched by Frederic Barbarossa. But on making it across Turkey the king drowned in a river. The loss of the king was devastating, and all of the crusaders went home in shame.

The fourth Crusade was also not successful, but there was trouble with money. The crusaders decided to use ships, and they borrowed them from the Venetians, but when it came time to pay up, the crusaders were short of money. When they finally reached Constantinople, they

Continued on page 4



The first of two recent burials at our cemetery took place at the end of February.



Getting the snow off the roof, lest it fall on an unsuspecting pedestrian.



Our Sisters and staff members joined us for dinner on the feast of Saint Joseph.



The Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday at the seminary.



Father distributes ashes to the seminarians.



Father Augustine and the seminarians wait their turn to venerate the heart of Saint John Marie Vianney at the Spokane cathedral.

Continued from page 2

The Fight to Free the Holy Land

were blood thirsty, so they sacked the city and left the Crusade. There were other failed attempts at reclaiming the Holy Land, but the only really successful one was the first Crusade. Eventually the Muslims gave permission so that pilgrims could visit the holy places. To this day, the land where Our Lord walked and died is not under the control of the Church that He founded, but pilgrims still travel there to venerate the sacred places.

A Holy Scholar and Apostle of Christ

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 9

St. Vincent Ferrer, my patron saint whose feast is in April, was a holy apostle of Christ and converted numerous Catholics in Europe. He greatly helped to reunite the Church during the time of the great schism, but unfortunately, he is not well-known by many Catholics.

Vincent Ferrer was born in Valencia of Spain in 1350. His mother is said to have experienced no pain at his birth.

At a very young age, he had already developed a great love for Christ and his neighbors. He would often fast on Wednesdays and Fridays for he had a great devotion for the Passion of Christ and would give alms to the poor.

Vincent began his theology and philosophy studies at fourteen. At the age of nineteen, he entered the Dominican Order. He experienced many temptations to leave; however, with God's grace he speedily advanced to his final profession and was ordained a priest in Barcelona in 1379. He was made master of Sacred Theology and was sent to Lleida for his doctorate in theology. Unknowingly, he was led astray by the Western Schism and acknowledged Urban VI as pope. Vincent later claimed that the Western Schism had caused him great sorrow, and he made great efforts to end the schism, demanding the faithful to return to obedience to the true pope.

For twenty-one years, he traveled around Europe, preaching and converting many. It was believed that he could speak only Valencian but was gifted by God with the

ability to learn very quickly to speak different tongues. The saint also performed many miracles in his missions. Many lepers were cured, some who were crippled started to walk on their feet, and many more wonderful miracles he performed under the power of God. It is doubtless that God rewarded him this privilege to perform these incredible miracles for his great faith in God, his humility and pious prayer life.

Near the end of his life, he preached to St. Colette of Corbie. The holy saint departed this world on April 5, 1419, at Vannes in Brittany and was buried in its cathedral. He was canonized on June 3, 1455. Seventy years of the saint's life were spent in penance, hard labor, and great love for God. He brought many souls back to the Church and was a perfect model of humility and charity. I recommend everyone to read more about the saint's life and to live his motto: "Whatever you do, do it for the love of God."

Highlight of the Year

This current school year is quickly winding down, as we begin this month the Fourth Quarter. Soon, we shall observe the sacred and beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week. It seems to me that Holy Week is always the highlight of the year.

It is important for seminarians to learn to love the Sacred Liturgy. We have just finished studying the Liturgical Year in theology class, but that knowledge must be put into practice. Although there are many ceremonies and events of the Liturgy throughout the year, it is in Holy Week that the Liturgy particularly comes alive and is the

focus of the entire week.

Here at the seminary we spend many hours of practice, so that the ceremonies will be performed as devoutly as possible. Each seminarian has his task to perform, but they all need to learn how to perform each part. May our efforts in the Liturgy be productive of abundant graces for them and for all who participate!

Be assured of our gratitude and prayers for you, our benefactors. May you experience the wonderful joy of the Easter Season.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



The secretary pitches in to help the boys make blarney stones for the bake sale.