



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2020

We have had a great first month of the school year. So far, we have been getting adjusted to our school schedule. Everyone is taking Latin, along with all the other subjects. We are learning the necessity of forming good study habits, as we strive to memorize vocabulary, declensions and conjugations.

But, of course, the most popular subject is Physical Education! Football is everyone's favorite right now, but we also play many other games. On days when we don't have P.E. we have choir. We have been learning some hymns and also how to sing Vespers for feasts of Our Lady. Everyone enjoys singing.

We have also been busy on Saturdays with all the chores to be done. Over the next week we will be

thank you for reading our newsletter and will remember you in our prayers.

Our Trip to the Lake

by Matthew Mendieta, gr. 8

Last month we went to a house on the shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene under the auspices of Mr. Schindler. It was a lot of fun! We left the seminary on Wednesday, September 9th, in the afternoon. We took two vans with the seminarians and a truck with canoes and other supplies. As soon as we had settled ourselves in the cabin, some of us were already in the water.

The next day we woke up for morning prayers and Mass at the cabin. After breakfast we had free time until supper. Most of us filled that free time with canoe wars, king of the dock, and swimming.

Others spent time indoors playing cards and board games. We had lunch around 1:00 p.m. Some of us went back to



Classes have gone well during the first month of school.

preparing for the visit of the Fatima Conference guests. We also are looking forward to participating in the lectures, and especially in the bishop's Pontifical High Mass, which will be here in our church this year. As with other Masses, it will be live-streamed so that everyone can view the beautiful ceremony.

October is also the month when we have our daily Rosary. Let us all be faithful to Our Lady's Rosary, especially in these times, for we need her intercession more than ever! We

swimming but most of the seminarians stayed in after lunch and talked and played games. After supper we prayed the Rosary and our Vespers. It was nice to pray by a lake because we were near God's creation. After supper we read our spiritual reading and shortly after we started getting ready for bed. We said night prayers then unwrapped our sleeping bags and chose places to sleep on the floor, in beds, or on the couches.

We woke up the next morning on

October Calendar

- 7 – Feast of the Most Holy Rosary BVM; Rosary procession; chanted Vespers
- 8-9 – Attend the Fatima Conference
- 11 – Feast of the Divine Maternity BVM; evening Candlelight procession
- 13 – Sodality reception ceremony
- 16 – Mr. Gerard Keaveney's feastday
- 25 – Feast of Christ the King; renewal of seminary enthronement
- 27 – Jesse's 18th birthday
- 30 – Final day of the First Quarter

Friday and said the Rosary before Mass. After Mass we had a nice and filling breakfast. On Friday we had a very large game of keep-away on the dock. Keep-away is a fun game where we have a ball and we pick two teams and the teams keep the ball away from the other team. It was a lot of fun because we were on the docks, so we could push whoever had the ball into the water. We played that for most of the morning.

That night after recreation we said our night prayers and went to bed. Next morning we woke up early to have Mass. After Mass was breakfast then we started cleaning up the cabin and our stuff. We left the cabin on Saturday in the afternoon, but only after we all jumped in the lake one last time as a group. When we arrived at the seminary

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Our Trip to the Lake

in the afternoon we all came back with new memories and lots of happiness. Thank you for reading this article. I hope you enjoyed it and many more after this. God bless you and keep you!

October Events

by Joseph Strain, gr. 10

Already the month of September has come to an end and the month of October is dawning upon us. We will have many things to do this month, and I will write and explicate briefly concerning each major event that will take place.

First of all—and this is the most important of all the events during October—we will be preparing for the upcoming Fatima Conference. The Conference guests will be coming up here during the day for the lectures but will be staying at the Mount or wherever they have made accommodations. All of the seminarians will attend each of the talks and will certainly gain much more information concerning spiritual matters. Even though we will be getting out of a couple days of schoolwork, I am sure that we will be given an assignment that will need to be accomplished during the duration of the Conference.

Although we will be assigned new chores throughout the month on Saturdays and chore days, one of the most important of these will be picking all of the apples and plums in our orchard. We will pick them at the right time before the animals have a chance to get at the fruit. After we have picked all of the apples, some of the seminarians will help Sr. Veronica use the juice press to make some homemade apple cider. The plums will go through an entirely different process. Many of the seminarians will work to pit the plums so that Sr. Veronica is able to do the canning process for all of these fruits without the difficulty of pitting the plums herself. Then there is only one duty left to do with these fruits: we will have to eat them and drink some delicious cider.

And, as we have been doing ever since the school year started, we will continue to prepare the barn for the future cow, which will provide milk for the many mouths that are here this school year and for future seminarians. God bless you and I hope you enjoy this and future issues of *The Guardian* from Saint Joseph Seminary.



“King of the Dock” was a popular game at the lake.

A Great Discovery in the Catacombs

by Lionel Gamache, gr. 12

Who never heard about the catacombs, those long tunnels underground used to bury Christian martyrs under Rome, during the early ages of Christian persecution? Over the years, those relics had been abandoned, but in 1578 they were discovered for the benefit of the Church. This was a serious matter, so expert workmen, directed by ecclesiastics and specialists, excavated the graves.

In 1802 there was a great discovery of the tomb of Saint Philomena, virgin and martyr. But who is she? On the grave and inside there was not much information. An inscription was visible: PAX TECUM FI LUMENA (“Peace be with you Philomena”), along with a precious relic glass vase containing a portion of her blood in dried form. In addition to the inscription there were emblems: an anchor, arrows, a lance, a palm (all emblems of a martyr’s triumph) and also a lily, the emblem of purity.

But that is not all, because the Saint revealed to three different people, living far apart and utterly unknown to

each other, the story of her life. She first converted her parents to Catholicism. Then, when she was 12 or 13 years old, her Greek parents had trouble with a Roman emperor. To solve the problem, the emperor decided to take Philomena as his wife. She firmly refused because she was already united to the best spouse, Jesus Christ, by her vow of virginity. With

anger and disappointment, the emperor tried to kill her by drowning her with an anchor. He scourged her poor body and tried to pierce her with arrows, but in her prison two angels made the courageous girl feel better than ever (total recovery). Mary also came to console her beloved daughter, who was finally beheaded.

This miraculous life was the beginning of the greatest series of miracles in Church history. She worked so many miracles that she has been called the Wonder Worker of the 19th century by Pope Gregory XVI, and the Patroness of the children of Mary. The place she operates a lot of miracles is Mugnano, her main sanctuary. Her most extraordinary miracle was probably the cure of Pauline Jaricot, who had traveled from France to Rome, and then from Rome to Mugnano, in a dreadful state of weakness. In front of a praying crowd, she recovered completely from her illness. From Pauline Jaricot the Cure of Ars learned about the little saint and became an ardent and intimate friend of Saint Philomena.

But why should we pray to her? First, to obtain virtues

Continued on page 4



Joseph recently celebrated his 15th birthday.



Joseph and Anthony give their little brother some lessons on playing ping-pong.



The seminarians have ample opportunity to serve, including at Benediction.



The weather at the lake was perfect for swimming and canoeing.



Father Philip plays the organ while directing the boys at a High Mass.



Arm wrestling was just one competition during our trip to the lake.

Continued from page 2

A Great Discovery in the Catacombs

and temporal blessings. The dear saint is also very attentive to prayers from couples who want a child or from persons to be saved from danger. Now we know why to pray to her, but how should we pray? There are many kinds of devotions to honor this saint. There's a novena, the chaplet of St. Philomena, the cord, the oil, and various prayers. The exposition of her statue in your home, church, convent, or school is reputed to obtain many favors and blessings.

If you want to know more about this saint, I suggest you read *Saint Philomena the Wonder Worker* by Father Paul O'Sullivan. I really liked this book, and that is why I made my first Guardian article on her. St. Philomena, virgin and martyr, by your sufferings, pray for us. May you be more known!

Seminary Life

by Andrew Wertish, gr. 8

School has several subjects here. There is Latin, math, English, theology, U.S. History, health, P.E., and choir.

There are twelve students here this year, the largest group ever. Jesse Sand and Lionel Gamache are in twelfth grade; Thaddeus Kuck, Thiet Nguyen, and Gabriel Davis are in eleventh grade; Joseph Strain, and William Davis are in tenth



Harvesting plums on a recent Saturday.

grade; Jonathan Lehnen is in ninth grade; and Matthew Mendieta, Anthony Strain, myself and my twin-brother Arlin are in eighth grade. School is going well and I am benefiting from it.

Seminary life isn't hard. You wake every morning with prayers and Mass, with a hearty breakfast afterwards. Then there is school till 3:00 p.m. The Rosary is at 5:00 p.m., followed by supper and then Study Hall. Then there is recreation with prayers following. Lights out is at 10:00 p.m. for a good night's sleep. On Saturdays there is a lot of work to do, which takes up much of the day. After that it is mostly recreation. Sundays are mostly free time, calling your family,

finishing up homework, and recreation time.

We seminarians get to say prayers every day in front of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We are well provided for. We play sports. such as football, kickball, four square, ultimate frisbee, and baseball. The teams are always fair and competitive. The recreational time in the house consists of pool, ping-pong, chess, and board games.

It is autumn now which means a new month and more things to do. We are constantly busy and are never idle. Everyone has a specific job and does it well. I am assistant sacristan, so I help set up vestments, prepare for Mass, and take things off the altar and put them in their place. Everyone cleans the house and helps with meals. We get along well together. Our chapel is beautiful and we all know how to serve. I thank you for reading my article. God Bless you, now and always.

Pope of the Rosary

This past summer my private retreat was made using notes from two priestly retreats given by Father Mateo in the 1940s. One retreat was given in Milwaukee and the other was given in Techny, Illinois. By chance, I came upon the notes of a priest who attended these two retreats and carefully copied notes of the lectures.

Since these retreats were given for priests, Father Mateo spoke of things pertaining to priestly sanctity. One story that struck me was of a priest, a theology professor, who spoke to a group of seminarians on how sad it was that Pope Leo XIII "wasted" his time in writing so many encyclicals on the Rosary! That poor priest, like the Pharisees, was conceited with his learning and looked upon those encyclicals as a waste of time.

On the contrary, that brilliant and holy pope wrote 85 encyclicals during his lengthy and fruitful reign, and he considered the 12 he wrote on the Rosary to be among the most important. In addition, he ordered pastors to have a public Rosary daily in each parish before the Blessed Sacrament exposed during October. Fortunately, with the assistance of the seminarians, we are able to observe that beautiful custom here.

But whether you attend a public Rosary or recite it privately, let us all remember the power of the Rosary, as well as Our Lady's request for its daily recitation. There is probably no more important single thing you can do for your families than to pray the daily Rosary together. The graces that are showered upon homes where this custom is observed cannot be overstated. We pray that God will bless your families and homes, and we thank you for your support!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI