



THE GUARDIAN

After returning to the seminary in early January, we began to practice the chants for the blessing of Epiphany Water and for the Solemn High Mass on January 6th. Our resident deacon, Frater Mary Aloysius, chanted the solemn announcement of moveable feasts and gave the sermon for the feast of the Epiphany (his first sermon!) A few days later we had our gift exchange, a tradition here during Epiphany week. We also had our first ski trip in early January, followed by a second trip a few days ago.

Just last week we finished the First Semester of school. It is amazing to think that we are already half way through the school year. No doubt, the remainder of the year will pass

Candlemas Day. We will also pray a novena in preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On February 18 there will be the annual parish talent show. On the weekend following Ash Wednesday we will have our annual Lenten retreat.

In addition to these spiritual events, we look forward to a few basketball games against the students from Mount Saint Michael. We will also start our chess tournament, to be followed by the ping-pong and pool tournaments. Our schedule, studies and activities keep us busy. But above all, we want to make a good Lent. Let us all prepare for that important season by planning to give up something we enjoy, for the love of Our Lord who suffered so much for

February Calendar

- 2 – Purification BVM feastday; Candlemas ceremonies
- 3 – Benjamin’s birthday; blessing of throats
- 11 – Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 18 – Parish Talent Show and pre-Lent celebration
- 22 – Ash Wednesday ceremonies
- 24 – Mid-quarter
- 24-26 – Annual Lenten retreat
- 27 – Annual Stanford Achievement testing begins



Opening of gifts during the annual Epiphany gift exchange.

quickly.

As we move into February, there will be several events to provide variety to our lives in the seminary. We will have the blessing of candles and Solemn High Mass for

us.

We thank you for your prayers for us and for our seminary, and we pray that God will bless and reward you.

The Good for Nothing

by Jorge Cruz, gr. 11

It was an important moment for the new Sisters in Nevers. They just had professed their vows and now they would be assigned to their new task. Some would be teachers for the poor, others would work in orphanages, and many would become nurses. Their names would be called, and they all would receive their assigned act of mercy, except one. “Does Sister Marie Bernard have an assignment, Reverend Mother?” asked the Bishop.

“No Your Excellency, Sister Marie Bernard is good for nothing.” Turning to the young Sisters, the Bishop asked, “Is this true, Sister Marie Bernard?”

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The Good for Nothing

“Yes, Your Excellency,” responded the humble nun. It would have been a surprise for many to hear that such a Sister was seen as useless, for she had a gift that none of the Sisters possessed. It was not great health or physical strength, nor education or high status, but of having seen the Mother of God. It would have been proper to give her an important position, such as Mistress of Novices or a school director, yet she was deemed worthy only of working in the infirmary to clean and make tea.

How many times in our own life do we think we deserve praise? Or that others should think of us very highly, or even as holy. We create an ideal of ourselves but we always fall short. We seek human approval and yet we only receive reproach; this is the law of human honor.

Sister Marie Bernard never sought to be something she wasn't. When asked why the Blessed Virgin chose her, though poor and uneducated, she responded, “Maybe that's why. If she had found someone poorer than me, she would have chosen her.” The men of this world always found something wrong with Bernadette, for she never fit their ideal.

Her Mother Mistress doubted the visions of Lourdes for she believed that Bernadette was not special or extraordinary, and she believed Bernadette had to be humbled. Yet these humiliations never withered her witty personality. Once, when she was prescribed snorting tobacco for her asthma, a sister humorlessly commented, “Sister Marie Bernard you won't be canonized.” “Why?” she asked. “Because,” responded Sr. Chantal, “you take tobacco. St Vincent de Paul very nearly missed it on account of his snuff box.” She responded, “But you, Sister Chantal, you don't take tobacco, so you will no doubt be canonized.”

We sometimes have an illusion of what perfection is—maybe because of our poor human ideals. Sister Marie Bernard didn't become a saint because of extraordinary acts or practice of asceticism, nor for having seen the Holy Virgin, but because of her ordinary acts, her love for her neighbor, her humility, and most of all for her love for Mary. “I have seen her! I have seen her! And I'm in a hurry

to see her!” she exclaimed on her death bed. She suffered humiliations, misunderstandings, and terrible illness. She had been crushed like a grain of wheat and yet she suffered all for Mary. We may not be blessed to see Our Lady, but we hope to say on our death bed, “I have loved her! I have loved her! And I'm in a hurry to meet her”!

Skiing Fun

by Henry Harris, gr. 9

The seminarians' favorite winter sport is skiing. We hosted a church breakfast after a few of the Masses in November to raise money for our ski trips this winter. All of the seminarians participated in the breakfast by cooking and serving food. It was a lot of work but it was fun.

In January, we all went to Silver Mountain to ski. Well...almost all of us. Marcel, one of the seminarians, had injured his back and had to go to the chiropractor. He was very disappointed because he lives in southern Utah and had never skied before. He is doing much better and is looking forward to our next ski trip which will be at Lookout Pass, one of the other ski lodges here in north Idaho.

The other one who missed out was Frater Martin, one of the major seminarians, who chose not to go. Another



Father Gregory recites the Gospel quietly, as the servers prepare for its solemn chanting by the deacon.

seminarian, David, learned how to ski for the first time, and John learned how to snowboard. Our first ski trip was extremely fun, although the conditions were windy and the snow was slightly sticky.

We are all looking forward to the next ski trip, which is right after the priests' meetings at the end of January. We will have several priests with us which will be an enjoyable addition to our group of skiers.



The view from the choir loft during the Solemn High Mass on the Epiphany.



Mr. Stinnett leads calisthenics during P.E. class.



Joseph's skills are in demand with the seminarians when they need a haircut.



After three boys, dressed as the Magi, present the gifts, we kneel and recite prayers for the Epiphany before Mass.



Saturday chores: working in the new wine room.



Jorge gives his final speech for the Speech Class.

The Feast of the Purification

by Anthony Strain, gr. 10

We have coming up very soon the feast of the Purification of Our Lady. On this feast we remember Our Lady going to the temple to follow the Jewish law of purification; and we also remember the prophecy of Simeon. The Holy Ghost revealed to her that she should follow the laws of purification, and she did it willingly and praised God for it.

On this feast we also have the blessing of candles. Here at Mary Immaculate Queen Parish we always have a High Mass with incense. In past years we have usually sung the Mass of Our Lady of the Franciscan Order, but this year we are planning to do the melismatic chant. It has been difficult learning it so far because we are not very familiar with it, but once we get it down I'm sure it will sound pretty good.

For the ceremonies the priest starts out wearing violet vestments for the blessing and distribution of candles. Next we have a small procession around the upper parking lot in

would see the Messiah before he died.

On this feast Our Lady received the second of many sorrows to come, the first being the Circumcision.

A Season of Fasting

Nobody enjoys doing penance! Nevertheless, we know we need to do penance for our sins and to earn graces from God. The saints tell us that when we unite penance to our prayers, they become much more powerful in drawing down upon us God's mercy. Penance, so to speak, disarms Almighty God, whose wrath is kindled by sin.

The season of Lent is a time of great blessing for those who strive to live by the spirit of the Liturgy of Holy Mother Church. During Lent we are doing penance in union with Catholics throughout the world. It is the entire Mystical Body of Christ, practicing penance and crying out for God's mercy: Spare us, O Lord, spare Thy people!

Let us, then, resolve now to make a good Lent. We need today, more than ever, the spiritual benefits gained by penance and self-denial. Let us especially call to mind the words of Our Lord: "If thou wilt be My disciple, take up



We enjoyed the visit of Bishop Pivarunas and the CMRI priests last week.

front of the church. Then the priest changes his vestments to celebrate the Mass for the feast of the Purification.

We can learn on this feast from Our Lady, who is a model of obedience and humility. First, because Mary was obedient to God by going to the temple. And second, because Mary humbled herself to the lowly state of a beggar even though she was without stain on her soul. The Jewish law of purification was meant to clean the soul after the birth of a child, but since Mary was spotless this was not necessary, but Mary still did it. The Purification also fulfilled a promise of Our Lord to Simeon that he

thy cross and follow Me." May we be faithful to our calling as Christians, followers of Christ, by bearing our crosses with patience and resignation, especially during Lent!

May God reward you for your support of our seminary. The harvest is indeed great, but the laborers are few. Let us all pray for more priests, and especially holy priests, to work in the vineyard of the Lord. May He bless and reward you!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI