



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. I, No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 1999

As the second issue of *The Guardian* goes to press, the new seminary year is but a few weeks old. Autumn, however, is definitely in the air as temperatures drop and leaves begin to change colors. Nevertheless, September gave us several weeks of outstanding weather, with temperatures running as much as 15° higher than normal for this time of year. These warm days provided the opportunity for some camping and swimming — a great way for the seminarians to start the year.

Some of you wrote to us about the September mailing, wondering why it was so delayed. Last month's mailing was delayed by the typical problems associated with the first issue of a new publication. We have now ironed out most of these glitches, and we expect to have each month's issue of *The Guardian* in your mailbox on or around the first of the month, beginning next month.

This newsletter, as will be the case in future issues, contains articles written by the seminarians themselves. We hope you enjoy their narration of the various facets of seminary life!

Life at the Seminary

by Fulton Abernathey, Gr. 9

Our regimented life at the Seminary began on September 7, when the last of the seminarians arrived. The weekday schedule runs roughly as follows: Each morning at 6:20 a.m. a bell, which sounds like a fire-truck bell, is rung. The seminarians jump out of their beds "as if they were on fire" and say a morning offering, kneeling beside their beds. Showers are taken and beds are made in silence. Then the seminarians make their way into chapel for morning prayers at 6:45 a.m., followed by a 7:00 a.m. Mass.

After Mass the seminarians have their breakfast, wash the dishes and

begin classes. The classes include theology, Latin, algebra, English, science and geography. Classes end at 3:05 in the afternoon and the seminarians have recreation until 5:30 p.m., when the Rosary is recited. After the Rosary there is dinner and dishes, followed by two hours of study hall from 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. Then comes another period of recreation and, finally, night prayers are recited. Night prayers are followed by silence until the next morning.

Such is our life in this house of training for God's service.

My Favorite Subject

by Kevin Cox, Gr. 10

As you may already know, St. Joseph Minor Seminary started classes on Wednesday, the 8th of September. I was here one day before school started and already knew that I was going to like it.

The day school started, I found it was going to be more of a challenge than I had been expecting, and Fr. Benedict did not hesitate to give us homework. But that did not bug me because I was waiting for my favorite class — English.

I think that, in a way, English class helps one to become a better and more sophisticated person. It teaches us to speak better English and write in a more understandable and clear way.



Seminarians at Our Lady's statue (from left to right): Wade White, Kevin Cox, Fulton Abernathey, Charlie Rodriguez, Isaac Martin, Francis Abernathey, and Philip Dunphy.

A Great Camping Trip

by Francis Abernathey, Gr. 10

September 10 was definitely a great day for the seminarians, because on that day we went on our first school camping trip. We only had a half day of classes and by noon the Suburban was jammed with all our gear and all of us frenzied seminarians.

Farragut State Park, a 30-minute drive from the seminary, was our destination. Upon arrival we unloaded the Suburban and started to set up the tent. Father, thinking we were capable enough, left Kevin, Isaac, my brother Fulton and me to set up the tent while he took Wade and Charlie to meet Mr. Petzinger, who was going to drive us in his boat. The next fifteen minutes were spent in confusion, while we tried in vain to set up the tent. Luckily, we were saved by Isaac who found the directions hidden in the box. After that things went pretty fast, bringing us to the most exciting part of our trip.

Father had arranged to have Mr. Gary Petzinger take us out on Lake Pend Oreille in his boat. Mr. Petzinger said he would take us to a remote location on the opposite side of the lake with some high cliffs. When we arrived there, we found out that he wasn't kidding. They weren't just high, they were gigantic! Fulton was the first one to get into the water. Even though it was cold, he didn't scream but swam back in quiet shock. Kevin, assuming the water was fine, jumped in head first and came out screaming, "This water is coool!" Wade and I scientifically tested the water before jumping in. It really wasn't too bad if you stayed in long enough and got numb.

Anyway, the exciting part of the story is when Wade and I decided to climb to the top of the cliff barefoot and jump off. It took us about twenty minutes to reach the top of the cliff. When we finally got there and looked down, it sure looked a lot higher from the top than from the bottom. I thought about climbing back down, but, after considering the time it would take us to retreat barefoot, jumping seemed better. After a few minutes of hesitation I went first. For a second I was suspended in mid-air and then suddenly I started speeding downward. Right before I hit the

water my stomach did a flip-flop and I landed with a scream. When Wade and Fulton saw that I wasn't dead, they decided it was safe and jumped too. Over the next few hours this feat was repeated four or five times by each of us before we had to head back to camp.

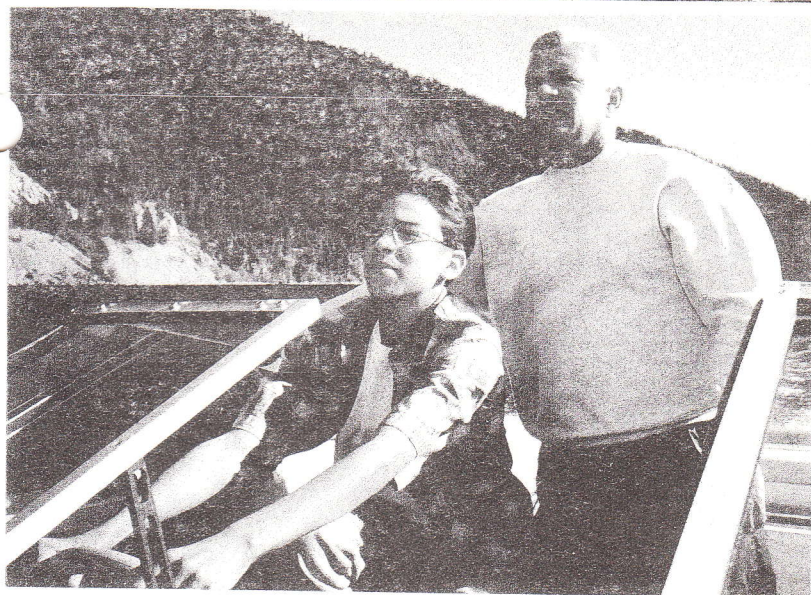
After supper that evening, Father gave us a little astronomy lesson. The night was perfect. The forest around us was lit up by the brilliant glowing orb of the moon. The sky was clear, except for a few sketchy clouds that hovered low on the horizon. The heavens were full of millions of sparkling stars. We learned to identify the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, and the North Star. But above all, we marveled at the beauty of God's creation.

Later, after having our roasted marshmallows, the fire died down to a few glowing embers. We sang all the songs we knew and then started telling stories. Naturally, the scene was perfect for ghost stories. Since I was the only one who seemed to know any scary stories, I set to work. By the time I was done, I had not only scared everybody else, I even scared myself! So that we could get to sleep, I ended with a happy story, and we finally went to sleep.

The next day, after a great game of football, we decided to go swimming one more time. This led to the exciting discovery of a rope swing, found by Wade and Fulton. This time, Charlie and Kevin mustered up all their courage and swung off it with us. It was a perfect way to end the trip. Our first camping trip was a perfect success, even though we had forgotten to bring a can opener. (We had to borrow one from another camper.) I am very glad we went and will always remember this excursion.



The seminarians pose with Mr. Petzinger in his boat.



Charlie gets a lesson on piloting the boat from Mr. Petzinger.



Sitting around the campfire.



Aren't those cliffs high?



Seminarians getting ready for a swim.



Fulton is followed down the cliff by his shadow.



A seminarian heads for the water.



No outing would be complete without a game of football.

The First Day of School

by Isaac Martin, Gr. 9 and Charlie Rodriguez, Gr. 9

We both found it very hard to say good-bye to our families when they left us at the seminary. But as soon as classes started, we had no time to miss our families since we had to adjust to the teaching style of a couple of teachers we had never had before. We started off the year with our eyes in the books and our ears to the teachers. Even then we still had a lot of fun. Getting to know one another was the first task, but we soon found something we all agreed on, and that was basketball.

Our first class was Theology in which we learned about our faith. Next came Latin. A few of the seminarians, as we soon found out, had already studied Latin before, giving them a head start on the rest of us. Then we had math, which was pretty complicated for some of us. PE was next and everyone had a blast! Lunch came and went. After lunch was English grammar and vocabulary. We still need to work on that a bit! Next came physical science and, finally, geography. After school we all went down to the gym to play basketball for a couple of hours. Afterwards we prayed our daily Rosary and Vespers, before heading to the dining room again for supper.

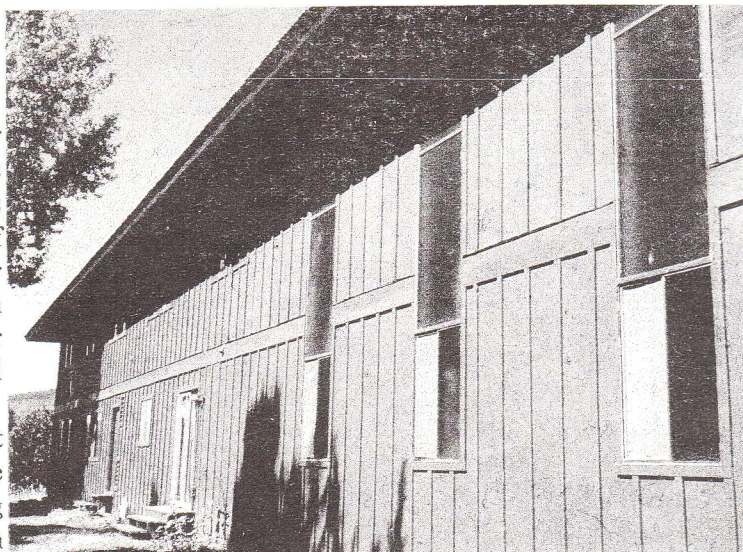
Our wonderful cook Mrs. Carpenter had prepared a delicious dinner for us. After dishes we all had study hall for two hours. During the free period after study hall, we played some card games. Then we went into chapel and said our night prayers and went to bed. Well, that was quite a long day!

A Final Word

Every month at the seminary we pray at least one novena. In future issues of *The Guardian* we will advise you as to the novenas or special monthly devotions prayed at St. Joseph Seminary. I have enclosed with this issue a card for our Masses and devotions during November for the Poor Souls. Feel free to write down the names of departed loved ones on the card and return it to us. These names will be placed on the altar and remembered throughout the month in all the Masses and prayers offered for the Poor Souls.

As always, our benefactors enjoy a special remembrance in our prayers every day. We are deeply indebted to you for your support and we pray that Our Lady and St. Joseph will richly reward your charity toward us.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



A view of the south side of the seminary.

Do you have a vocation?

If you are a young man of high school age who has a vocation, then St. Joseph Seminary may be the place for you. Our four-year course of studies offers the regular high school curriculum, with an emphasis on Theology, Latin, choir and foreign language. A well-rounded program of daily Mass, prayer and sport complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.

Seminary Support Club

If you are not yet a member of the Seminary Support Club and would like to become a member, you may write to the seminary at the address below. Members pledge to pray for the success of the seminary and, if able, to send a regular financial contribution for its support.

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
15100 N. Church Rd.
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7420