



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. II, No. 10

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2001

Perhaps the most significant event of the past month was a field trip to Grand Coulee Dam, which was educational and fun as well. We have also had quite a few liturgical ceremonies and processions over the past month and are now looking forward in a few days to the ceremony of the dedication of our church and Pontifical High Mass.

School will soon be out and, of course, we are all anxiously counting down the days to our summer vacation. All the seminarians would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our readers for your support and prayers during the past school year. Please continue to pray for us and for the seminary.

A big dam

by Francis Abernathey, gr. 11

On Thursday, May 17, the seminarians took a field trip to Grand Coulee Dam, the largest dam in the United States. Grand Coulee is about three hours from the seminary in central Washington. Our only stop on the way was to pick up Mr. Duff, our science teacher who would also be our guide for this field trip. Our trip had been quiet until then, as we prayed the rosary en route to his home. After Mr. Duff got into the van there was constant chatter and laughing all the way to Grand Coulee. For each of us, this was our first trip to Grand Coulee.

I guess the best way to describe the dam is "big." It is a mile wide, five hundred feet tall and five hundred feet thick at the base, made out of solid cement. At the visitor center we watched a movie on the history of the dam and looked around

at the exhibits. It was pretty neat but the best part of the trip was yet to come.

After visiting Grand Coulee Dam we left for a geological wonder called Dry Falls. These "falls" were left from the waters that crashed through central Washington after Lake Missoula broke through an ice dam at the end of the Ice Age. If there were water flowing over the falls today, they would be the largest in the world. Mr. Duff explained how Dry Falls refutes the theory of uniformitarianism and shows that catastrophism explains the development of earth's terrain.

After enjoying the visitors' center at Dry Falls, we explored the caves and cliffs around Lake Lenore, in the Dry Falls area. The cliffs were huge and ideal for climbing so that's what we did. It was almost perfect until, on the way down, Louis and I ran through poison ivy.

We concluded the outing with a barbeque and a game of baseball at a park in Moses Lake. Of course, on the way back we just had to stop for ice cream — the perfect way to end a perfect day. Well, almost perfect. We all had a great

June calendar

- 5 — School program and awards
- 6 – 7 — Annual school trip
- 8 — Last day of school
- 11 – 15 — Priests' retreat in Omaha
- 24 — Fulton's birthday
- 25 – 29 — Priests' chapter meeting

time and everything was fine except for the poison ivy. We can't wait for our next trip.

Omnia pro Deo

by Charlie Rodriguez, gr. 10

When God's house needs to be repaired, enhanced, or gotten ready for a great feast, whom do you call upon? The seminarians, of course! On a rainy day in May, Father canceled several morning classes so the seminarians could help Mr. Strain move

continued on page 2



The seminarians pose before Grand Coulee Dam on a recent sightseeing trip.

Omnia pro Deo

continued from page 1

all of the pews out of the church and prepare the wood floor for refinishing. (Father had removed the Blessed Sacrament the night before so that the work could be done.)

When the seminarians finished breakfast, we changed into work clothes and hurried over to the church. As soon as we arrived there, we immediately began to remove the pews. Then, while a few of the seminarians ripped out carpet, others were busy pulling out staples and nails. After this was accomplished, some of the seminarians tore out a section of the floor that needed to be redone, while others carted away the debris. As you can see, each seminarian did his part to help make the church more pleasing and worthy of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Although the work lasted throughout the morning, the seminarians enjoyed working for God. This joy was of a two-fold nature: we were able to help make the church better and we got out of classes for the morning.

Those of us who helped improve the church are overjoyed that our reward will be in Heaven. We also know that this was done in Our Lady's honor, for our church was going to have the floor refinished, in preparation for the parish feastday of Mary Immaculate Queen. We are glad that we were given the opportunity to help out.

Survival of the fittest

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 10

During this past year some of us seminarians made hikes into the hills behind the seminary to camp. Isaac, Phil, Louis, Matt, and Charlie were involved in three of these camping expeditions, and each time a new situation arose.

The first camping trip came on a Friday in mid-December. We were all bored and decided to go on a hunting, hiking and camping excursion. It was hunting season for deer and it was still light. As it was only 9 degrees, we were all bundled up. On the way up to our camping spot we tracked a deer as far as we could in the snow, but we had no luck. Since it was so cold, we decided to make a fire right away to avoid the danger of hypothermia. Our fire took a while to get going, but it was well worth it. As soon as we could, we boiled water and made Ramen noodles and hot chocolate. After some stories by the campfire, we went to the tent for the night. In the morning we packed up and looked forward to the next time.

Another camping excursion was in the beginning of April when there was still snow on the ground in the hills behind the seminary. After school, we hiked up to the old monastery foundation. There we got the fire going immediately and built it very high. After we once again enjoyed some Ramen, we put up the tent and put a load of logs on the fire. The fire was excellently

positioned because the concrete walls of the monastery held the heat in. Later that night one of the seminarians woke up and decided that the fire was maybe a little too hot and perhaps was getting a little too close to the tent. He woke the others and together we moved the tent for safety's sake. After that we went back to sleep and then left early in the morning to get to the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Despite the mishap on our last camp-out, these camping excursions remain a highlight of the past year. We definitely plan on more overnight camping in the hills next year.

Waiter! Waiter!

by Fulton Abernathy, gr. 10

Mother's Day is a very special day of the year. It is a time made for us to remember our mothers and all that they have done for us, but especially to think of Our Mother in Heaven. This year for Mother's Day two of the women of the parish organized a candlelight dinner and talent show as a school fundraiser.

Some of the seminarians joined a few other boys from the parish in serving the dinner. All these waiters were dressed in formal attire. Before the dinner started the guests visited with one another while they sipped on wine or champagne. The formal dinner began with salad, followed by the main course, consisting in a choice between ham and chicken. After dinner was served the waiters had a few minutes to eat something before the dessert, which featured, among other things, Mrs. Carpenter's famous Napoleons.

The show that followed dinner was very entertaining and had everyone laughing. The spokesmen of the show were two men from the parish who were dressed in 60's era-style clothing. Half of the merriment of the show was provided by these men and the other half by the singing of seminarians and other parishioners who had rehearsed their songs during the previous month. At the end of the program all the performers joined on stage for the finale.

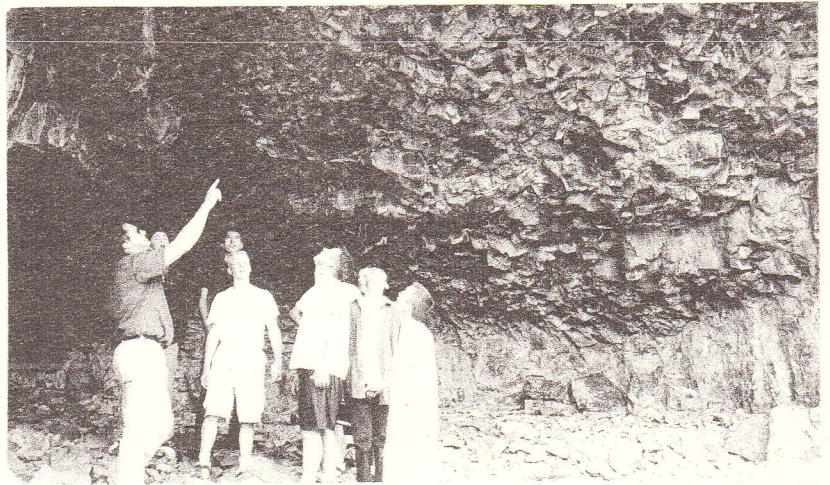
This was a very successful night and also the biggest fundraiser that the school has ever had. We enjoyed participating, and we wish a belated Happy Mother's Day to all.



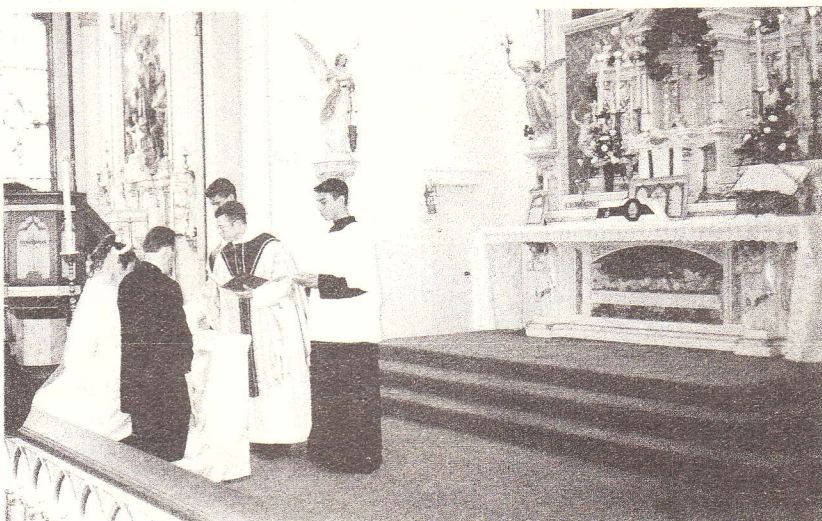
Mr. Duff explains the origin of Dry Falls to the seminarians.



Francis and Matt scout out a rock formation high above Lake Lenore at Dry Falls.



Mr. Duff and the seminarians investigate the caves at Lake Lenore which were created by the rush of water through the Dry Falls area.



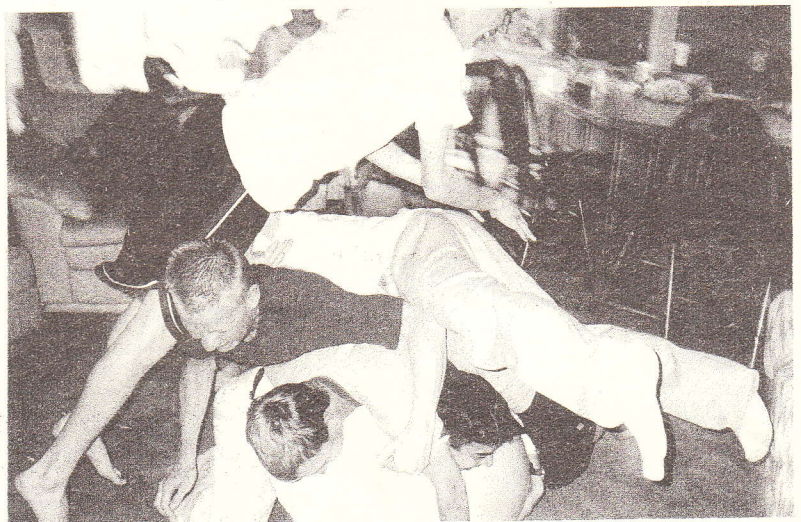
The seminarians assist Father as he confers the Sacrament of Matrimony upon a young couple at Mount St. Michael.



The seminarians joined in the daily public Rosary during May.



"Mighty Isaac" takes the plate on a warm summer-like afternoon.



The seminarians "at home" in Mr. and Mrs. Slaters' living room.

The most beautiful thing

by Kevin Cox, gr. 11

Sleep is most likely one of the top priorities of the seminarians. When a person comes to the seminary, he realizes more than ever why sleep is such a beautiful thing. Now, as the year is coming to an end, we think about how much sleep we missed by doing homework, prayers, sports etc. I am not complaining, but it makes us realize that we have an important matter to take care of this summer — catch up on sleep!

Now by telling you this, I may have given you the impression that we are deprived of such a wonderful thing. Yet, actually, that would be incorrect. As seminarians, we take advantage of any time that we have to relax and sit around, especially on the weekends.

So, all in all, sleep is a gift God has bestowed upon us to rest from the labors of the day so that we can start anew the following morning. It is a most pleasing thing — especially to the teens who need all the beauty rest possible — and no one ever gets tired of it. So this night try to make your sleep a pleasant one.

O blessed summer!

The most difficult part of a school year is the last few weeks. The temptation for students, even teachers, to surrender to fatigue is well nigh overpowering. (Our recent record-setting 90-degree temperatures aren't helping matters.) On the other hand, this time of year causes me to turn my attention to the coming year. June will bring a brief respite, and then July will usher in a busy month with many projects to be accomplished.

June is also the month of the Sacred Heart, a devotion important to any future priest. Our role as educators of seminarians is to help form living images of the meek and gentle Heart of Jesus. This is no easy task, certainly, and one that cannot be accomplished without Divine aid.

We also remember fathers in a special way this month. If you would like to have the names of any fathers — living or

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.

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 sports complements our academic schedule. For more information, write to the rector of St. Joseph Seminary at the address below.



The seminarians prepare Our Lady's shrine for the Queenship ceremonies.

deceased — remembered in our masses this month, please use the enclosed card and send them in as soon as possible. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you and lead us all to be more like Him.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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.

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