



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 2001

Despite our anticipation of snow and cold, November has brought us mild temperatures, with no snow as of this writing. (Michael is a bit chagrined — he can't wait for snow so that he can get out his snowmobile.) The milder temperatures did make for a nice day to have our last football game, which was played in mid-November. We played well, winning 32-12, as you will read in Mr. Duff's article. Speaking of Mr. Duff, we welcome him as a contributor to *The Guardian*. We are sure you will enjoy reading his humorous style (He is the master of the pun!) as much as we enjoy having him for a teacher.

Our recreational attention now turns to basketball, the favorite sport of most seminarians. We have already begun practices and will have several games in late November. Thus far, our practices indicate that we will have a good team — better than last year. We will keep you posted.

Starting in late October, some of us have been attending Sunday Vespers at Mt. St. Michael. Fr. Benedict mentioned that he intends to have Sunday Vespers here during Lent. For now, we will work on learning the chants and look forward to this liturgical devotion in a few months.

As this issue goes off to the print shop, we are looking forward to Thanksgiving vacation. Although just a few days in length, it provides a nice break from school. We especially remember that we have very much to be thankful for. If we do not thank God for His abundant blessings, perhaps He will not be so generous toward us in the

future. May you all enjoy a very happy Thanksgiving.

## King of our home

by Kevin Cox, gr. 12

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is a wonderful thing to have done in a home or, in this case, our seminary. This act helps us seminarians to recognize Christ as the King of the household.

The Enthronement has had a great affect on the families who have adopted this practice. In his book on the Enthronement, Fr. Larkin relates one instance that happened right here in our own country. There was a family in which the father, who had not gone to church for years, was on his deathbed. The home had been enthroned, and so the wife and children prayed fervently to the Sacred Heart. The next day the father, now fully recovered from his mortal illness, went to the church for

## December calendar

- 7 — Basketball
- 8 — Feast of the Immaculate Conception; holyday of obligation
- 12 — Mid-quarter; Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe; no homework
- 14 — Basketball
- 16 — Christmas program
- 21 — Half-day of school; Christmas vacation begins after classes.
- 27 - 29 — Basketball Tournament in Missoula, Montana

confession and communion, cured in body and soul. This is only one of many examples of what Christ the King has done for those families and homes that are enthroned.



*The ceremony of the Enthronement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was conducted at St. Joseph Seminary on November 1.*

The ceremony of Enthronement does not take long. In fact it is a very simple ceremony that takes about 15–20 minutes. After Mass, on the First of November, we came over to the seminary and began this ceremony with a hymn and prayers to the Sacred Heart in the chapel. Then, Father gave a short sermon on what the Enthronement is and why it was established. After that, we all processed to the place prepared for the statue, while singing a hymn. Once we had arrived at the place for the Enthronement, Father placed the statue on the shrine prepared and we recited the Acts of Consecration and Thanksgiving. Finally, we all signed the certificate to show that we acknowledge Christ as our King.

This was a very moving ceremony. Now when the temptation of sin comes, we have a new means to help us fight it with more courage than ever before.

## What a coach!

by Mr. Duff

Our first full year of flag football was a success. We finished 3–3, with two of the wins coming when I wasn't even there to coach them. Hmm... I wonder what that tells us.

Our biggest improvement was on defense. We lost our first game 52–36, and, as I told the boys, even our defense was offensive. We won our final game 32–12, and it would have been a shutout were it not for a few mistakes.

Our offense steadily improved during the season, with a good balance of running and passing. The boys probably had the most fun passing the ball with routes like the z-out, hitch-and-go, 90-out, quick slant, corner lob, and halfback pass.

I was very pleased with the sportsmanship and development of leadership (although a few exhibited more "literalship" — often wanting drinks).

We plan to play again next year, and perhaps if I don't show up for most games, we'll have a winning season!

## Advent is upon us

by Michael LeStage, gr. 9

At this time of year we all look forward to Christmas, one of our favorite feastdays. But before we can fully enjoy Christmas, we must spend Advent well. The purpose of Advent is to prepare us for Christmas.

Some of the popular Advent penances are things like fasting, abstaining from things you like and other mortifications. By practicing penance earnestly during Advent, one can best prepare for Christmas. The sacrifices we perform during Advent give us a better understanding of the true purpose of Christmas. They make Christmas even more desired as Advent approaches its end.

The four weeks of Advent represent the four thousand years the world had to wait to receive the Redeemer. This period of anticipation is symbolized by the four candles of the Advent

wreath. In each week of Advent one candle is lit until all are lit, and then the four thousand years are up and we can enjoy the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath is essential in a Catholic home because it reminds us of what we are preparing for, and helps us to do so. If we are earnest in making a good Advent, we will better enjoy the spirit of Christmas.

## Saved by the bell? — Not quite!

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 11

This year a new fixture at the seminary is an automated bell. The bell tells us when classes begin and end and when to be in chapel for prayers. The bell wasn't programmed, however, until the middle of the First Quarter.

There are a few things about this bell that make it unique. For one thing, it is unusually loud — so loud that Father asked Mrs. Salgado (our secretary) to cover it with padding to partially muffle the sound. It also sounds more like a buzzer than a bell — like something you would hear in a basketball game at the end of the quarter — and it seems to catch someone off guard every time it rings.

The first day it was in operation, a couple of the more mischievous seminarians decided to not tell Mr. Duff about the bell. They had already heard it and knew how loud it was. When class ended the bell went off, and it nearly sent Mr. Duff through the roof. (This was before it was covered with padding.) Even now that it is muffled, the bell still leaves a buzzing in your ear.

This new bell will take some getting used to, but it does provide a reliable reminder of the schedule.

## Art class or biology?

by Charles Rodriguez, gr. 11

Here at St. Joseph Seminary a couple of the students find it difficult to resist the temptation to draw in class. At the end of the class the teacher sometimes finds interesting pictures in a seminarian's notebook. Phil, Michael and I are the main culprits and each of us has his own style.

Michael's style has become known as the "bloater" style. He tends to draw caricatures of animals that exaggerate their most prominent feature way out of proportion. Examples would be his famous "Venus Cowtrap," which depicts a giant plant with a very plump cow in its grasp. Another drawing of his is an enormously bloated penguin called "The Grandfather Penguin." Michael's most famous caricature is "Caesar the Cell vs. Brutus the Bacterium," which was drawn as part of a quiz during biology class. In this drawing he depicts endocytosis (the breaking down of food by a cell). Michael's style provokes many hearty laughs among his fellow seminarians.

Phil's style could probably be named the "who knows?" style. He draws pictures of furry cats with their tongues

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*Putting out The Guardian mailing each month is a time for jokes — and getting out of class.*



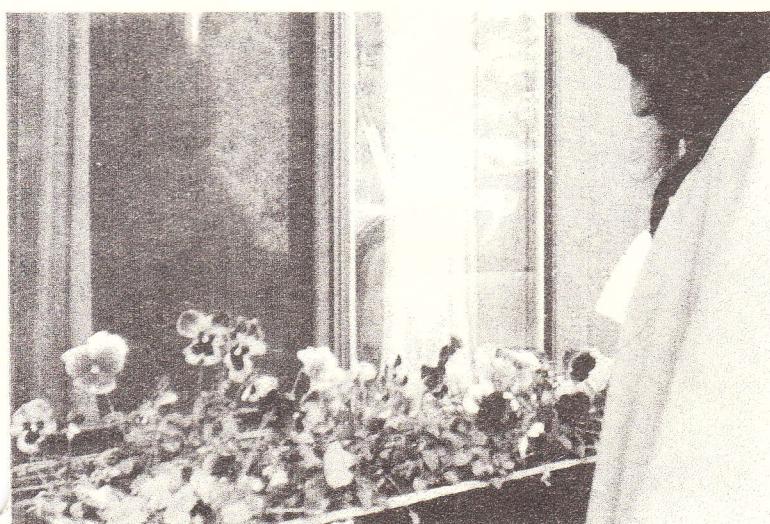
*Mr. Duff conducts the seminary choir in singing a Requiem High Mass during November.*



*Michael splits wood for stocking the stove during the long winter months.*



*Raking leaves is another fall chore at the seminary.*



*Mrs. Carpenter's flowers, in the window box and in the garden, lasted well into November with our mild temperatures.*



*The sacristan assists Father in vesting for Mass.*

## Art

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sticking out or faces with a jester's hat. He is also known to draw logos of his favorite teams. Phil also draws things that the others just can't seem to interpret. Often, even Phil isn't able to interpret his drawings. Phil's is more of a quiet type of art.

As I said before, sometimes these two have a hard time resisting the temptation of doodling. Sometimes the teacher will have to remind them that they are in biology class, and that we don't have an art course here at the seminary. (Doodling most often occurs during biology, which is the last class of the day.) Their art can be seen on their folders and on the bulletin board in the recreation room. The other students enjoy the artwork and are looking forward to their next masterpieces.

## The saints and boys

**B**asketball season is here again, and I am just as pleased as are the seminarians. Why? Because wholesome recreational activities are good, especially for boys during their teenage years. They provide a constructive way to release pent-up energy and also provide a classroom in which boys can learn the value of discipline, teamwork, self control, leadership and other qualities.

It is true that many in our times have exaggerated the importance of sports, to the great detriment of their spiritual lives. But this does not mean that we should go to the opposite extreme and look upon recreational activities as bad. St. John Bosco is one who understood the value of recreation for boys. His famous boys' school began with the Sunday afternoon outings to the property at Valdocco, which included games (which the saint himself organized) as well as catechism. St. Philip Neri is another saint who shared the same appreciation of physical recreation for boys. One of these saints (I do not recall which one) was once chided for his emphasis on recreational games for boys. He replied that he would willingly allow the boys to chop wood on his back if it would keep them from sin.

Numerous other examples from the lives of the saints could be cited to demonstrate the same attitude. Those who work with youth will readily understand the lesson here. If boys and girls are forced prematurely to be adults, instead of being

## 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.

allowed to enjoy the simple joys of their youth, they will often have troubles later on. Only a well-rounded young man will make a good priest. So yes, I am glad that basketball season here again.

Enclosed you will find a card for names and intentions for our Christmas novena. Please return it soon if you wish to have your intentions remembered in our novena prayers and in the triduum of Masses offered at Christmas time.

In the last issue I mentioned that there would be a retreat for men here at the seminary in July, something we hope to make an annual event. That will take place during the week of July 14. One other note: at last I have found someone to tape the Sunday sermons, as some have requested. The seminary will soon make available audio cassette tapes of Sunday sermons. More information on this will be forthcoming in the next month or two.

May you all have a blessed Advent Season and a most joyous Christmas. Again, we thank you for your support and assure you of a daily remembrance in our prayers.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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