



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. IV, No. 7

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

March 2003

The month of March is a most important one here at the seminary. Not only is March the month of our great and holy patron, it also forms part of the very important season of Lent. Furthermore, it is during this month that we have our annual retreat. We ask for your prayers for the success of our seminary retreat.

Over the past few weeks a nasty virus has been making the rounds at the seminary. The telltale sign of this particular virus is a persistent cough. Each of the seminarians has missed at least one day of classes due to illness, and even our cook has not escaped the general contagion. It does make one wonder why our first parents thought that apple looked so tempting.

Our basketball season recently concluded on a very positive note. Our team really came together towards the end of the season, as we won six of our last nine games. The final game was a resounding 81-72 victory against an excellent team that we had never previously beaten. That point total is the most we have ever scored in a regular single game. All in all, it has been a great season.

This past month also witnessed our annual ski trip—this year to Mt. Spokane. Although snow has been scarce this winter at the seminary, there is certainly adequate snow in the mountains. Most of the seminarians prefer snowboarding to skiing, and for some, this was their first-ever opportunity. We all had a great time.

As we enter the season of Lent we will remember you, our friends and family members, in our sacrifices and prayers during this important season. May we all come closer to Jesus

Crucified and develop a greater hatred of sin.

Lent at the seminary

by Philip Dunphy, gr. 12

Lent is a time for us to mortify ourselves through penance, extra prayer, and meditation on the Passion of Our Lord. This helps to bring us closer to Our Lord and also strengthens us spiritually. All of this is part of the regular Lenten routine at the seminary.

During Lent we each write out our own prayer and penance schedule to follow daily. This helps us maintain the spirit of Lent and allows us to make it a holy and penitential season. Along with our individual practices, we have common sacrifices (such as no afternoon snack) and a daily sacrifice we pick at random from the "sacrifice bowl."

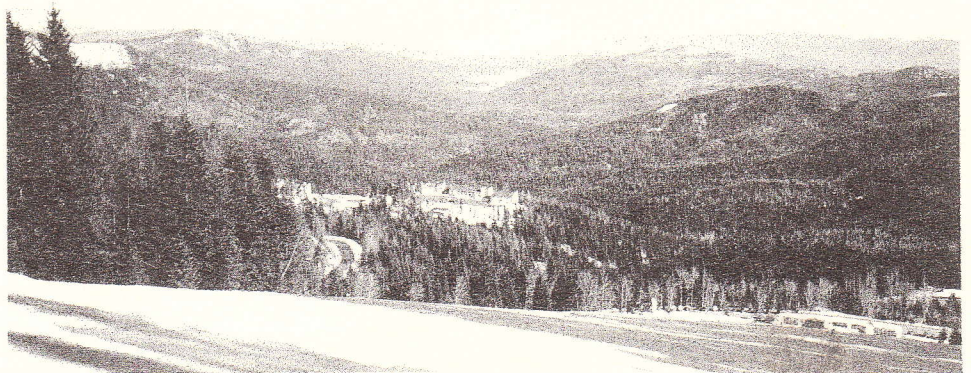
We also have our annual retreat during this time. The retreat consists of a series of spiritual conferences, all-night Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, spiritual reading and similar activities on the first weekend of Lent. This is a great benefit, especially since it occurs during

March calendar

- 3-12 — Annual ping-pong tournament
- 5 — Ash Wednesday ceremonies and High Mass
- 7-9 — Annual seminary retreat
- 16 — Seminary-sponsored parish breakfast
- 19 — St. Joseph's Day; seminary feastday
- 21 — Fr. Benedict's feastday
- 26 — Mr. Duff's birthday
- 26-28 — Third quarter exams
- 28 — End of third quarter

the Lenten season. Other practices include the Stations of the Cross every Friday, Sunday Vespers, and, of course, the services of Holy Week.

These various practices and activities really provide a spiritual boost for us at the seminary and help provide a good Lenten spirit throughout the season.



We enjoyed clear skies and a beautiful panoramic view of the mountains on our recent ski trip.

Great St. Joseph

by Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 9

St. Joseph was the foster father of Jesus. St. Joseph, a carpenter by trade, was a saint as well as a great husband and father. Before the birth of Christ, St. Joseph had a dream, through which the mystery of the Incarnation was revealed to him. After that Joseph knew that he was supposed to be the protector of Mary's honor and the father of the Child that was to be born. Later, Jesus was born in the stable, and the Three Wise Men came from the East to adore Him because they had followed a bright star.

Forty days after His birth Jesus was taken to the temple in Jerusalem. There was a man in the temple and his name was Simeon. To Simeon it had been revealed that he would not die until he should see Christ. One day while he was in the temple, he knew that the promised Messiah was present. The priest blessed Joseph and Mary and spoke about the blessings that had come to them.

Finally, an angel appeared to Joseph again and told him to flee into Egypt and stay there until Herod would die. After Herod died they went back to Nazareth and Joseph carried on his trade. He taught Jesus the carpenter's trade as He grew older.

Every year when the Passover came, the Holy Family made the journey to Jerusalem. When Jesus was 12 years old He was separated from his mother and father and they suffered great anxiety. Although they thought He was lost, Jesus was actually debating with the priests in the temple.

St. Joseph is an indication of the sanctity of family life. St. Joseph is also a patron of carpenters and of a happy death. He died just before Jesus began His public ministry. St. Joseph's symbols are the flowering rod and carpenter's tools.

Typing away

by Michael LeStage, gr. 10

At the beginning of the second semester, we started computer classes in place of geography and will continue this class for the rest of the year. All but one are taking the class which we have in the afternoon.

We are all fairly new at keyboarding but are getting along with it just the same. At times it can be frustrating learning where to place your fingers and what finger is assigned to which key.

The program is straightforward, and the nice thing is, if you aren't sure you've accomplished a lesson, you can retake it. Usually, it takes two or three times for some of us before it begins to sink in. If we score below eighty percent accuracy on a given lesson, we must repeat it until we improve. After each lesson we record our words per minute, our percentage and our adjusted words per minute.

This record is then initialed by Mrs. Salgado, our teacher, and we then go on to the next lesson.

Computer classes are quite a difference from geography. I can't say which I like more, but we are all improving and will soon be typing all our book reports, articles and essays, once we have learned it well.

Third place

by Matt Dunphy, gr. 11

Again this year our basketball team played in the annual basketball tournament in Kellogg, Idaho. Last year our team placed fourth in the tournament, so this year we were determined to do better, if not even win it.

Our first game was at 4:00 p.m. on January 31. We played a team named Northwest Academy, and, although we struggled a little bit, we ended up winning by 15 points. Our next game was scheduled for 9:00 p.m. In that game it was the same old story of losing it in the second half. The final score was a little lopsided, as we lost by about 25 points.

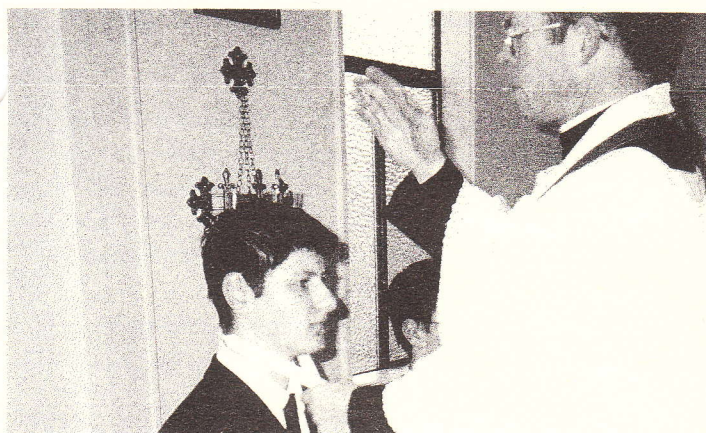
So we went back to our hotel room to get a good night's sleep before the next day's competition. Our game was scheduled for 2:30 p.m. against Rocky Mountain Academy, a team which had beaten us early in the season. As we had a lot of extra time on our hands until the game, we took a drive around the area and explored some old mining towns. When game time rolled around, though, we were ready to play.

Our team started with tremendous intensity. At the end of the first quarter we led 20-3, and at half time the score was 33-18. In the second half we slackened our intensity, which almost caused us to lose. The game eventually went into overtime with the score locked at 53 each. We were in the bonus, so obviously we got the ball to our best free-throw shooters. Phil was fouled twice and made 3 of 4 free throws, and also Jared went 3 for 4 at the charity stripe. With some big-time defense we won the game.

Thinking we were going to the championship game, we were informed that some team from Canada had beaten us out in the point differential process, so we ended up taking third. We were a little disappointed at third place but satisfied that we had played a good tournament.



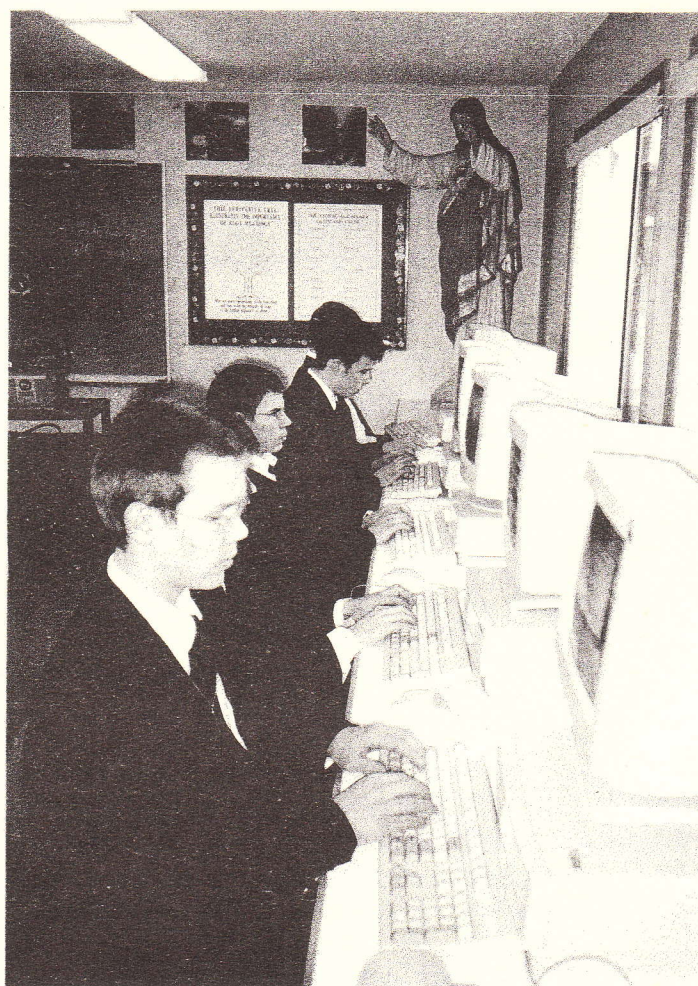
Some of our High Masses are sung by the junior high students, shown here being directed by their teacher Sr. Shannon Marie, CMRI.



On the feast of St. Blaise, Father gave the traditional blessing of throats.



On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, our mild winter weather allowed for an outdoor Rosary procession.



The seminarians work on their keyboarding skills during computer class.



Stephen and Cavan decided to join the class for beginning snowboarders.



Robert demonstrates his form on the snowboard as the sun sets in the background.

The annual seminary ski trip

by Stephen Brodman, gr. 10

The annual seminary ski trip came on February 12, and I don't think that Father could have planned it for a better day. There wasn't a single cloud in the sky, and the slopes had just been groomed. It was a fairly warm day, so the snow started to melt in some places and later re-froze when the sun went down.

This was my first snowboard experience, since there are no mountains back in Ohio. I kept falling down at first, until I became accustomed to moving and stopping with a snowboard. Almost everyone else was good at snowboarding or skiing. I stayed on the easy slopes all day long, because I knew that I wasn't quite ready for the more difficult slopes. I was especially deficient in keeping my balance when going fast. Almost everyone, including me, was sore by the time we left. Father, who is pretty good on skis, probably wasn't that sore except for some sunburn due to the sunny sky and thinner air.

We stayed for about seven hours, leaving at 4:30 p.m. Some didn't want to leave, but I'm glad we left when we did, since I had three hours of homework that night. We got a good night's sleep and went to school the next day. (It's a good thing we didn't have a basketball game after school the next day because we wouldn't have played very well.) We all enjoyed the day so much that Father decided we would have one more ski day in a couple of weeks.

"Pray the Lord of the Harvest"

The advent of the month of March reminds us that time is quickly passing with only a few months remaining of the school year. This month brings us the first buds of spring as we perform our Lenten penance and look forward to celebrating the Resurrection. But above all, for us at the seminary, March is the month of our great patron St. Joseph and the month of vocations.

During March we contact interested prospects as we look towards the next academic term. At times we receive a request for a young man to come and stay with us for a few days to check out seminary life. We ask your prayers, especially this month, for new vocations. For vocations are a tremendous gift of God. They are critically needed by the Church today, but

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.

they are obtained only at a great price — the price of many prayers and sacrifices.

You, our benefactors, have an important share in this work. Only in eternity will we learn how many vocations we have obtained from God by our prayers and sacrifices, and to whom those vocations were given. This is the *modus operandi* of the Mystical Body of Christ — each member helping the others by his prayers, sacrifices, fulfillment of daily duty and, in general, by his example. Thus, we each do our part for the benefit of the body as a whole. Are you doing your part, especially to pray for vocations? Let us always remember the injunction of Our Divine Master: "The harvest is great but the laborers are few, pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he send laborers into the harvest."

May God bless and reward you for your support, and may He grant to each of you a blessed and grace-filled Lent.

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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