



# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V, No. 1

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2003

## From the rector

In a few days, the currently quiet but busy atmosphere of the seminary will change dramatically. The energy and enthusiasm of adolescent young men seeking to do the Will of God, will transform this building once again. As we begin our fifth year here at St. Joseph Seminary, we recall that each year is an opportunity for spiritual and academic growth, for the development of minds and hearts according to the pattern of Christ.

The beginning of a new school year is like springtime. New faces and other changes bring an excitement that will help us to make a good beginning of the academic year. Four new seminarians will join our ranks: one from Washington, two from Idaho and one from British Columbia. In addition, His Excellency Bishop Pivarunas has assigned Bro. Michael, one of our religious Brothers, to assist me at the seminary. He is a welcome addition to our seminary staff.

In this issue of our newsletter, two articles explore the subject of vocations and the purpose of a minor seminary. We also will introduce you, especially our newer readers, to our seminary staff and facilities. Next month we will be back to our normal production, with articles written by the seminarians about what interests them in their daily routine. We are grateful for your prayers and support. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may He continue to guide and bless us in this important work.

## Where do vocations come from?

A vocation is a precious gift from God, a calling to a man or woman to leave all things and dedicate his/her life to the service of God and souls. The Gospel gives us several instances of vocations. There are, of course, the stories of the calling of the various apostles, who "left their nets and followed Him." Then there is the story of the rich young man. When he asked Jesus what he must do to gain the kingdom of heaven, Jesus told him to keep the commandments. That wasn't enough. He wanted to know what more he could do. Then Jesus, "looking upon him, loved him" and told him to sell all he had, give the proceeds to the poor and then to come and follow Him.

This story gives us an insight into what a vocation is. First it is an act of loving predilection on the part of Christ Himself: "Jesus, looking upon him, loved him." Second, there is a call, which often is difficult to perceive. Our youth today will not audibly hear Jesus inviting them. Rather, His call can be understood through prayer and guidance. Third, a vocation requires a great sacrifice — the sacrifice of one's own liberty and possessions, the sacrifice of the opportunity to marry and have a family. Finally, a vocation requires that the person so invited "follow Him." Years must be spent in training to acquire the virtues necessary to become Christ-like, to worthily represent Christ to the world.

We all know how desperately vocations are needed. Even one vocation

## September calendar

- 1 — Orientation
- 2 — First day of classes
- 5 — Mrs. Salgado's birthday
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; chanted Vespers
- 12 — Feast of the Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers
- 12-13 — Annual camping trip
- 24 — Feast of Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers; Peter's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael (no homework); Bro. Michael's feastday; Fr. Benedict's 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination

represents many souls that can be brought back to God by the prayers, sacrifices and labors of the priest or religious. What can we do to obtain more vocations? Pray. There is no other means given to us than this. Jesus said, "Pray the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into His harvest." Each vocation is the result of many prayers for this end. Certainly, we also must support the work of seminaries, which rely on the financial help of benefactors to maintain their operation. But primarily we do our part by prayer.

Finally, a word must be said to those parents who desire to be blessed with vocations among their children. There can be no greater blessing for a family than to have one or more of its members called by God to His service. Parents

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## Vocations

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who understand this truth ardently desire such a blessing. What can they do to obtain it? Of course, they must pray — and pray daily — that God will call one of their own to His service. They also must provide the atmosphere in the home that will allow a vocation from God to be recognized and to flourish. They must carefully eliminate any occasions of sin that could come through the media or from harmful companions or amusements. They must lead their children to God by good example as well as by their encouragement. And they ought to instruct their children in the value of a vocation and urge them to pray daily to know God's Will for them. On the other hand, parents must be careful to not push their children toward a religious calling that does not exist. Remember, a vocation comes from God, not from the parents.

Let us all do our part to pray for vocations and to encourage those youth who are seeking to pursue what they believe is the Will of God. Lord, grant us many, holy priests and religious!

## Our seminary building and grounds

Our seminary is located on a large parcel of ground belonging to Mary Immaculate Queen Church. While the entire property covers about 140 acres, only the southwest corner of 40 acres has been developed. On this land are four large buildings and a cemetery.

On entering the property, one drives by the orchard past the grade school on one side and the gym on the other. In a fork in the road, one either turns left to go to our parish church or right to go to the seminary. Each building is situated on an eminence overlooking the other buildings and playground area.

The seminary comprises half of a large two-story building. The other half is occupied by a large public chapel, and at the far end is the convent. The seminary portion is 30 feet wide by 80 feet in length. Upstairs there are individual dormitory rooms, offices, library and bathroom and shower facilities. The downstairs has the classroom, recreation room, restrooms, pantry, kitchen and dining room. Certainly, we are blessed to have this building.

A foot path connects the seminary and church, along which is a grotto of Our Lady and the new Sacred Heart shrine, which is under construction. An outdoor Way of the Cross lines the path from the church to the cemetery. The cemetery itself, established in 1972, rests peacefully on the highest point of the developed area of the property.

As you can see, our grounds are conducive to prayer and spiritual reflection. Perhaps the only thing that could be desired is an adequate grass field for sports — the lack of which necessitates regular trips during the warmer weather to the closest park. In general, God has given to us, I believe, an ideal location for a minor seminary. May He grant that it fulfill the purpose for which it was established.

## Meet our staff

The following is a brief introduction of each of our staff members and the classes they will teach this year at St. Joseph Seminary.



*Fr. Benedict Hughes,  
CMRI*

A member of the Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen, Fr. Benedict brings some 25 years of teaching experience to the seminary. Since his ordination in 1979, Father has enjoyed varied experiences ranging from giving public lectures and doing parish work, to teaching in both high school and in the major seminary. Fr. Benedict, who has a Master in Arts degree, is the rector of St. Joseph Seminary and will teach Theology, Latin, and English this year.



*Mr. Tim Duff*

Returning this year for his fourth year of teaching at the seminary, Mr. Tim Duff has nearly 20 years of teaching experience. Mr. Duff is a certified teacher who has earned a Master of Science degree in Secondary Education. He will teach Math, Science, History, Economics, Phys. Ed. and Choir.



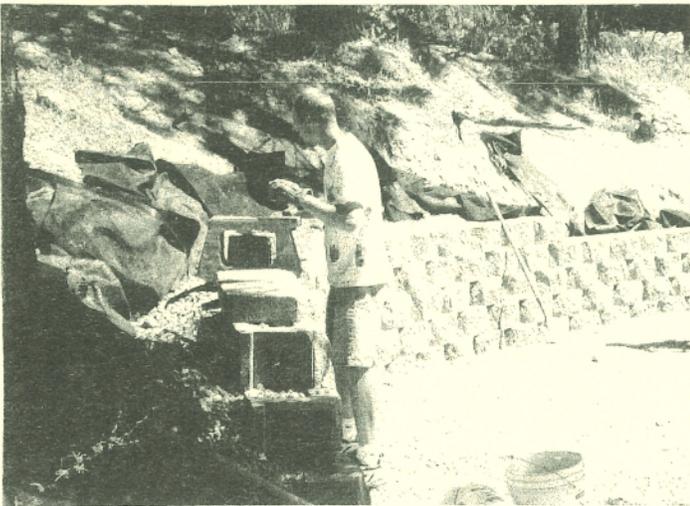
*Bro. Michael M. Knoll,  
CMRI*

Our new member on the staff is a most welcome addition. Brother Michael has been a member of the Religious Congregation for nearly three years. In addition to helping Father in supervision, Brother will be a big help around the seminary in doing whatever work needs to be done: sacristy work, cooking meals, cleaning, mechanics, grounds-keeping, etc. Brother's skills will provide the seminarians the opportunity to learn how to use their hands, as they help him with various tasks about the seminary.

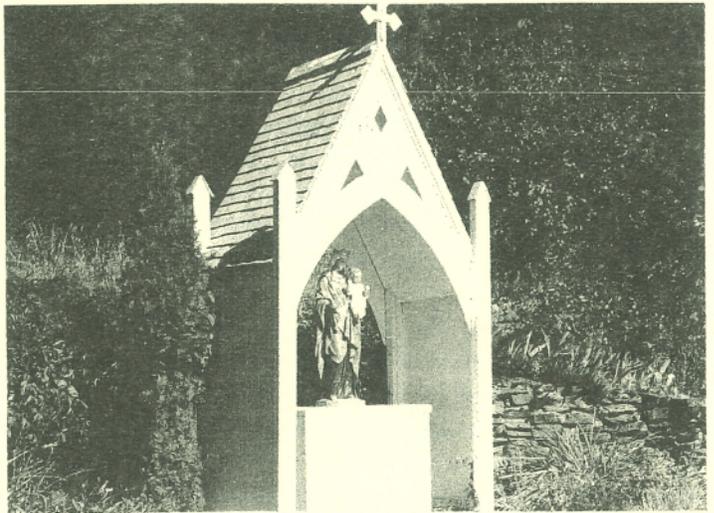


*Mrs. Rosalinda Salgado*

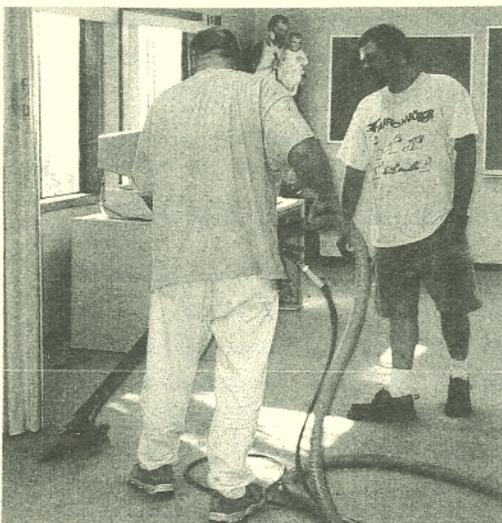
Mrs. Salgado begins her third year as our very valuable secretary. Perhaps she better deserves the title of do-it-all person: secretary, registrar, cook and teacher. Once again she will help out in the classroom by teaching computer skills to our seminarians.



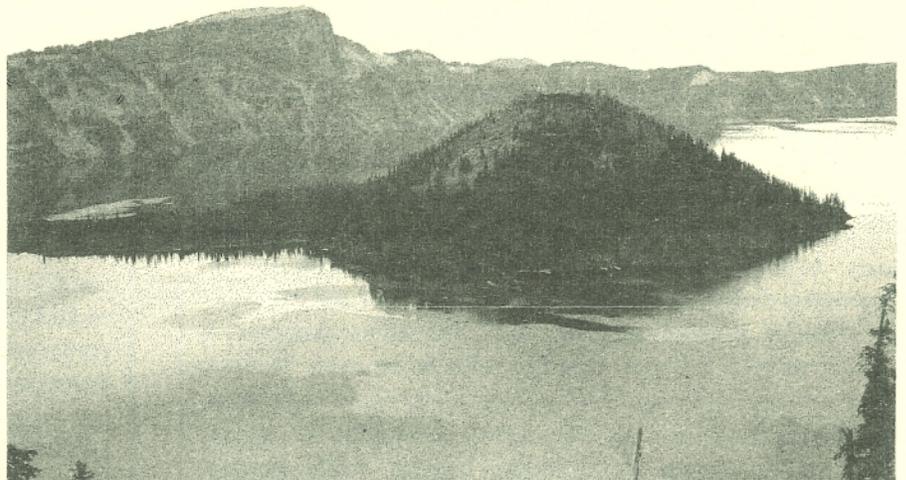
*Work on the new Sacred Heart Shrine at Mary Immaculate Queen Church is steadily progressing.*



*Our outdoor shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a focal point for processions and other devotions.*



*The carpets in the classrooms were cleaned over the summer.*



*A view of beautiful Crater Lake (Oregon) taken on a recent trip.*



*The seminarians often serve and attend Mass at Mary Immaculate Queen Church which lies just a few hundred feet from the seminary.*



*Our two-story seminary building is well suited for a minor seminary.*

## Why a minor seminary?

Proper formation in virtue from one's earliest days is a tremendous blessing. Holy Scripture tells us: "It is good for a man, when he hath borne the yoke from his youth" (Lam. 3:27). This quotation from Scripture helps us to understand the purpose of the minor, or preparatory, seminary. Here boys are trained from their entrance into adolescence in the paths of virtue.

In Session XXIII, the Council of Trent decreed that seminaries be established so that young aspirants to the priesthood could be formed in habits of piety and discipline from their earliest years. In our country prior to Vatican II, preparatory seminaries were common, for the Church realized that boys who are called by God need an environment in which they can preserve the precious treasure of their vocation during the turbulent years of adolescence.

A vocation to the priesthood is often compared to a seed. When a seed germinates the small plant needs to be watered, sheltered and nourished during the early stages of growth. So too a vocation is a delicate seed that must be nourished and protected. Not only must a vocation be protected from the foul breath of the world, but good habits must be formed in the young men who will become *Other Christs*. During adolescence — that crucial period of physical, mental and moral development — lasting habits, either good or bad, are formed. In a preparatory seminary, even more than in the major seminary, a boy's mind and character are shaped, and his life receives a direction which ordinarily proves final and decisive.

What is a minor seminary like? The minor seminary is similar to other Catholic boarding schools for boys. Students have a regimented life, which includes daily Mass and prayer, academics and recreation. The studies encompass the regular high school courses in Theology, English, math, science, history, foreign language, etc., but with a special emphasis on Latin and choir. Physical activity is also important, for sports offers an excellent means of character formation by its requirements for teamwork, responsibility and healthful competition. Needless to say, regular confession, spiritual direction and spiritual conferences hold a prominent position in the routine of the seminary. Personal responsibility, cleanliness, order, self-discipline and striving for excellence provide the hallmark of the seminary formation. In short, the entire program of a

## 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.

## Prayer to know one's vocation

Oh my God, Thou art the God of wisdom and good counsel, Thou who readeest in my heart a sincere desire to please Thee alone and to direct myself in regard to my choice of a state of life, in conformity with Thy holy Will in all things; by the intercession of the most holy Virgin, my Mother, and of my Patron Saints, grant me the grace to know that state of life which I ought to choose, and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Thy glory and increase it, work out my own salvation and deserve the heavenly reward which Thou has promised to those who do Thy holy Will. Amen. (Indulgence of 300 days, once a day.)

minor seminary has for its goal the preparation of young men for the major seminary, while it safeguards their vocations.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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