

# THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V, No. 2

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2003

**B**y now we have all settled into the routine at the seminary, which took some adjustment at first. Four new seminarians have joined our ranks this year: Shea Davis is a freshman from Tacoma, WA. Peter Linder comes from Kamloops, British Columbia, and is a junior. Chris Strain (gr. 10) and Brandon Odom (gr. 9) are both from our local parish here in northern Idaho.

Our first month has already been packed with activities. Early September was very hot, which made it nice for swimming and some boating. But following our annual camping trip the weather turned cooler, a sign that autumn is at hand. We still are enjoying the outdoors, however, but — can you believe it? — some of the seminarians are already anxious for winter and snow!

We hope you enjoy our articles this month, which is the first attempt by some of us at writing articles. After describing some of our activities, we conclude with two articles written by seminarians after their first week of school.

So far we have had a good start, but we ask for your prayers as we continue to give our best efforts to make this a great year. We pray daily for all of the readers of our newsletter and look forward to seeing many of you at the Fatima Conference. May God bless you and your loved ones.

## Vespers: A great way of praising the Virgin

by Chris Strain, gr. 10

**O**ne of the many practices here at the seminary is Vespers. I would like to explain how this office is performed here at St. Joseph's. Usually, we recite

Vespers from the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception before the evening meal. On feasts of the Blessed Virgin, however, we chant Vespers from the Divine Office.

First, we are divided into two separate groups. The two groups alternate, each singing every other verse. During these Vespers we chant five psalms, after which we sing the Magnificat in the same manner I have just described. The celebrant then sings a few verses and a prayer, which concludes Vespers.

Vespers is a practice which we enjoy. We will chant Vespers on all the feasts of Our Lady during the year, just as we did on the feasts of the Nativity, the Holy Name of Mary and the Seven Sorrows, and as we will do in a few days on the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom. We will also sing Vespers on the Sundays of Lent.

The last and greatest trait of Vespers is its beauty. During the short time we are singing Vespers, we are praising Our Holy Mother with our voices, trying to make up for the blasphemies against her and her Son. Vespers is a great practice which helps us in the spiritual life. We should be grateful to be able to praise Mary in this manner, by which she is sure to reward us handsomely.

## Camping trip

by Cavan O'Sullivan, gr. 10

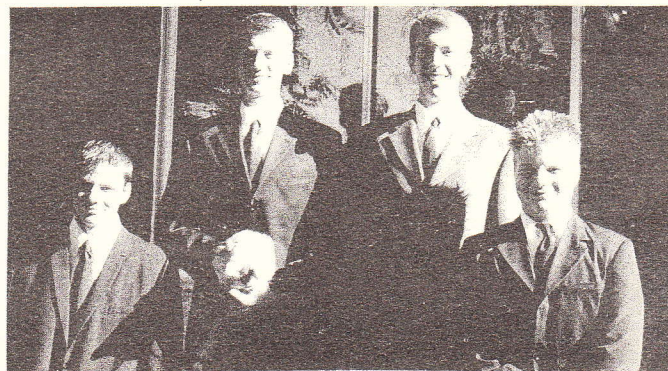
**I**n early September we went to Lake Pend Oreille to go

## October calendar

- 2 — Football game
- 3 — Mid-quarter
- 7 — Feast of The Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary; reception of new sodality members; no homework
- 8 — Football game
- 13 — Feast of Our Lady of Fatima; visitation of the seminary by Fatima Conference guests; evening candlelight procession at Mt. St. Michael
- 29-31 — Quarter tests
- 31 — End of First Quarter

camping. When we got there everyone got things set up. Afterwards, Brandon, Shea, Seth and I wandered down to the water. As we ran through the forest we all heard something hissing at us from the bushes. We found a bat, which was strange because it was still daylight.

*continued on page 4*



Our new seminarians (from left to right) are Brandon Odom, Peter Linder, Chris Strain, and Shea Davis.



## A long trip

by Peter Linder, gr. 11

On the 12th and 13th of September the annual camping trip took place. This year though, Fr. Benedict was unable to go because he needed to say a funeral Mass in southeastern Idaho. Father needed one server and he invited me. At first, I wasn't too excited, but then I realized it would be good for me to go.

The drive to Ashton in southeastern Idaho started at about 1:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon. We began the trip by reciting the whole rosary for a safe journey and the repose of the soul of Joseph Dinh, whose funeral was the purpose of our trip. The first half of the trip seemed to go by quickly because of the interesting scenery in Montana. After we ate dinner we almost hit a family of deer, but luckily Father steered around them and the mother froze just before she got to our lane. When we reached our destination we had traveled exactly 530 miles in 8½ hours.

On Saturday morning we arrived at the funeral home where Mass was to take place. It was a somber scene with the coffin open and about 25 Vietnamese family members dressed in black, sitting sadly and waiting for the funeral to begin. Once the coffin was closed and moved we set up the altar, and it gave everyone something better to think about: God and heaven. The Mass was different because I used a tiny little single bell, which was not easy to ring correctly, and some miniature cruets for the water and wine. After Mass, Father gave a sermon and then incensed the coffin. We then drove to the cemetery to incense the grave. The prayers at the grave with the incense were nice in the cool breeze, and a flock of birds, chirping loudly in the nearby trees, ended up being the choir.

Father and I returned to the funeral home and packed up the altar cloths, vestments, and other articles used for the Mass. We then went to the family's home to eat lunch and visit. I found the family to be very kind and hospitable to me and to one another. After lunch we headed back to the seminary, but we took another route. On the way back I got to see Yellowstone National Park for the first time. We traveled by an area where there had been a forest fire 10 years ago, which I found interesting after coming from a summer of fires in Kamloops, British Columbia, which is where I'm from. The city of Butte was neat to see, because of the huge white statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary called Our Lady of the Rockies, and because of the huge rocks that jutted out of the ground on the mountains near the road.

Overall, the trip was very beneficial for me, because I got to spend a lot of time with a priest and learn things from him. It was also nice to see other traditional Catholics who were strong, even though they don't have Mass often. Getting a chance to see a lot of new country was probably the most interesting part of the trip.

## A lot of fun but still sore

by Shea Davis, gr. 9

Recently, a generous parent of one of the seminarians offered to take a group of us on an afternoon boat ride on Lake Coeur d'Alene, a short car ride from the seminary. We gladly accepted and found that there could not have been a more perfect day to do so.

As we pulled away from the dock we enjoyed the pleasant cruising conditions. The experience of trying to play cards while the boat is jumping waves is quite a contrast with the feeling on land. As we enjoyed cold sodas, we took in the view and prepared to go swimming.

Soon after rounding Tubbs Hill, we jumped from the boat into the water which seemed to be the perfect temperature. As we swam we took in one of the objects of our fun — a 20-foot cliff from which it was 'mandatory' that we jump. After watching each other jump for the first time, we all had the hang of it and jumped numerous times.

One of the lake's greatest features was the 30-foot rope swing, which had been set up to carry a person a considerable distance above the water before he would plunge in from 20-25 feet in the air. Our only deterrence from this was the back flips, which, as I learned, are very painful when they are from 25 feet in the air. But that didn't stop us from swinging until our arms got tired.

As we headed back, not forgetting, of course, to thank our host, we thought about how much fun we had, and how sore we would be in the morning.

## My first week

by Brandon Odom, gr. 9

After one week, life at St. Joseph Seminary was nothing like I thought it would be. Some people had told me that it would be very difficult, so I came expecting the worst. They were right — it was difficult, but it wasn't nearly as bad as I thought it would be.

The first thing I thought when I woke up on that first morning was: "I am going to hate that bell!" Getting up in the morning is brutal. With the bell ringing I can barely read the morning offering, and I'm sure I'll make my bed right sometime.

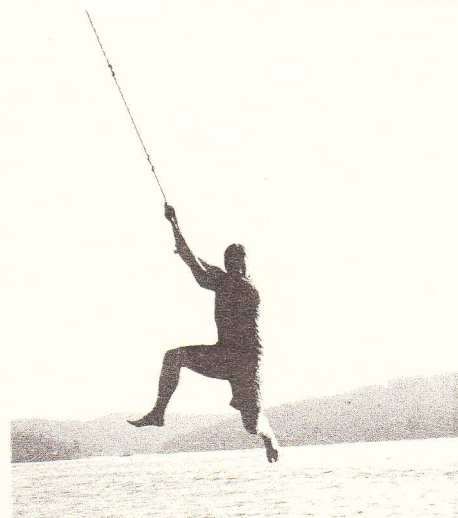
Once you get started the day gets easier (unless you didn't finish your Latin homework.) Latin class is going to be intense, and I'm worried about being able to keep up. Algebra has been the easiest class so far, but I have a feeling that will change very soon also. Typing class seems to be going smoothly, but the worst is history, which is at the end of the school day when all I want to do is to go outside.

One thing I do want to say is the meals are great (although the oatmeal was a little overcooked), and I hope I'll enjoy the rest of the year as much as I enjoyed the first week! (PS: No more detention!)





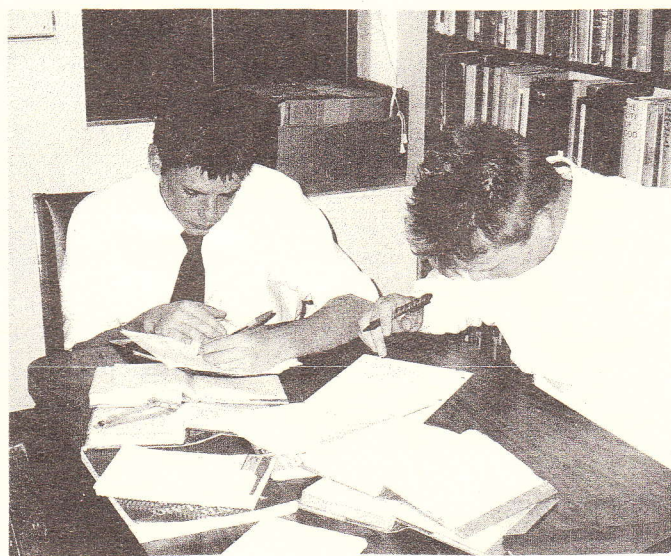
*At the seminary we chant Vespers for feasts of Our Lady.*



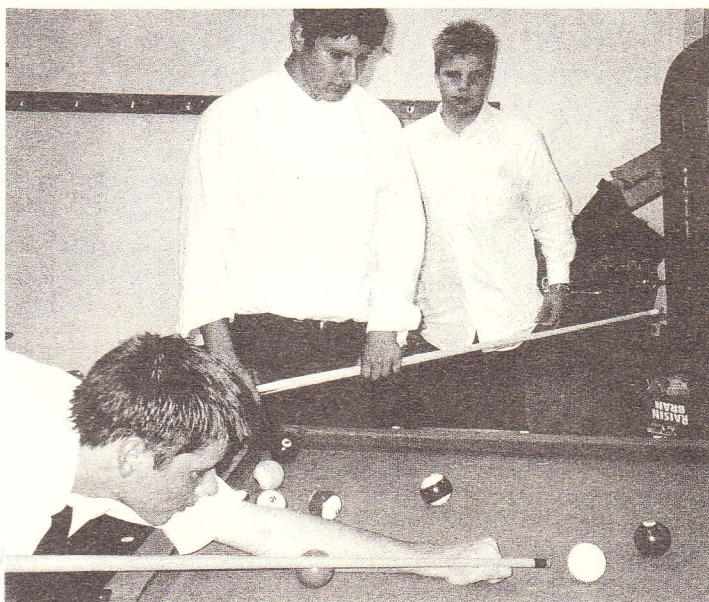
*Shea enjoys swinging from a rope into Lake Coeur d'Alene.*



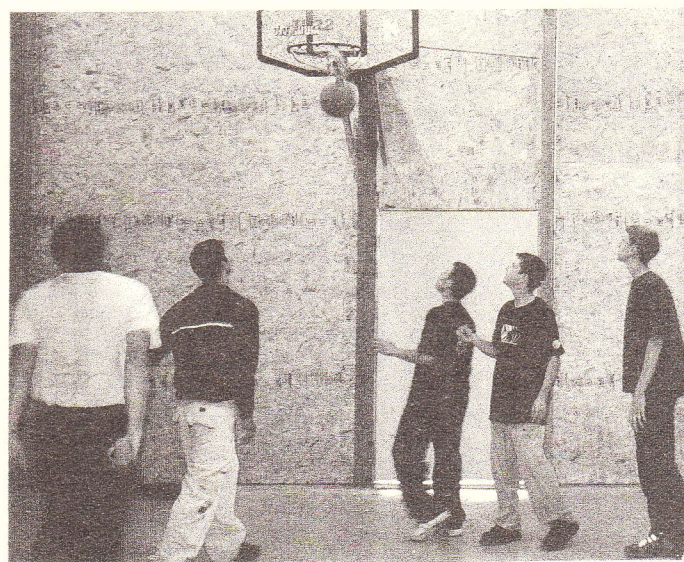
*Sr. Amada prepares the dinner meal for the seminarians.*



*Teamwork helps to make Latin homework easier.*



*The seminarians enjoy a game of pool during evening recreation.*



*Basketball is our favorite form of recreation.*



## Camping

*continued from page 1*

While on our way back from the trail near the lake we got lost but eventually made it back to camp. When we arrived there it was nearly dark. A couple of hours later someone came by our campsite to let us know that a bear was wandering around the area. With a nice roaring fire at our campsite, however, we didn't worry about the bear.

After dinner we told jokes and talked until about 10:00, when we said our night prayers. We eventually got to bed and woke up around 8:00 in the morning. After breakfast three of us went back down to the lake. When we returned we packed our gear and got ready to go out on the boat. After we had driven for awhile in the boat we went to the cliff we had visited last year, but no one wanted to swim because it was too cold. After an hour or two we headed back to the dock, and finally we came to the end of our camping trip.

## The best week of my life

*by Peter Linder, gr. 11*

**M**y first week of school in the minor seminary has been one of the best experiences of my life. I feel as though I have developed spiritually and academically, and even though I am far from home, I am still having lots of fun and not getting homesick.

The main reason I am having such a great time is because the people of the parish and school are so kind and hospitable. I also really like the prayers we say and how everything is centered upon God, as well it should be.

I have known many people in my short life who do not believe in God and some who have laughed at Him. So I have enjoyed my time here where people truly love God. I enjoy being around my fellow seminarians the most because they are not afraid to have a good time but also are aware that God is always watching.

The best thing about my first week has been the constant good example of the many religious and having the House of God attached to the building in which I live and study.

## Pray the Rosary every day!

**O**ur Blessed Mother appeared six times at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917. In each of these apparitions she asked for the daily recitation of the Rosary, which is certainly not too much

## 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.

to ask. Especially today, the Rosary is a very valuable prayer, a crown of roses we present to Our Lady, and through her to the Holy Trinity.

At the seminary we pray our daily Rosary during October before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. We also add the prayer of Pope Leo XIII to St. Joseph, our great patron. May we all during this month come to appreciate more the value of the Rosary. Let us pledge to Our Lady that we will fulfill her request to pray it every day.

Next month is the month of the Poor Souls. As we have done in the past, we will place your names of departed loved ones on our altar and remember them especially in all our prayers and Masses during the month. We encourage you to return the enclosed card with these names, for "it is a holy and wholesome thought to remember the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."

As we begin this fifth year of the seminary, we thank you for your support, for without it the work could not continue. Please continue to support us, both with your donations and your prayers. May God bless our efforts with holy priests, and may He abundantly reward your generosity.

*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.

**St. Joseph Seminary  
15384 N. Church Rd.  
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**