



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. V, No. 3

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2003

One significant event at the seminary during the past month was the reception of three new members into our sodality. The sodality here is titled the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sodality, with our secondary patron being St. Dominic Savio. A sodality is a wonderful way for the members to grow in their devotion to Our Lady and the Holy Eucharist.

The first sodality was begun in the Jesuit seminary in Rome in the mid-sixteenth century. Since then the movement has spread throughout the world and inspired thousands to better live their Faith. Here at the seminary membership in the sodality is entirely optional. Requirements for membership are not many, as seminarians have little time for additional prayers with their already heavy load of prayer, study and other activities. Please pray for the success of our sodality and that the members will grow in love for Jesus and Mary.

This final week of October is also the last week of the First Quarter of the school year. Next week we will receive our grades and are anxious to see how we have done thus far in academics. We also begin next week the important Month of the Holy Souls, who are so desperately in need of our prayers and sacrifices. This is an important time at the seminary, as our duty to assist our brethren of the Church Suffering is regularly emphasized here. Let us all be generous in remembering these poor souls, for we may well be in a similar need one day. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Faith of our fathers

by Peter Linder, gr. 11

The 2003 Fatima Conference theme was Faith of our Fathers. The various lectures honored those who labored at the spreading of our Faith and those who kept it even through the difficult times of late. During the Conference there were many different speakers including His Excellency, Most Reverend Bishop Mark Pivarunas.

On the first day I learned many things that I had not previously known about the apparitions in Fatima. On the next two days I enjoyed the two most helpful speeches that I was able to attend. The first was the one about the close link between science and the Catholic Church by Dr. Martin Hughes, and the second was the keynote address by the Bishop. In the speech about science I learned how untrue are the things that non-Catholics say about the Catholic Church being against science. I also learned that Catholic scientists have been the greatest contributors over the course of time to science and that many of the greatest scientists that ever lived

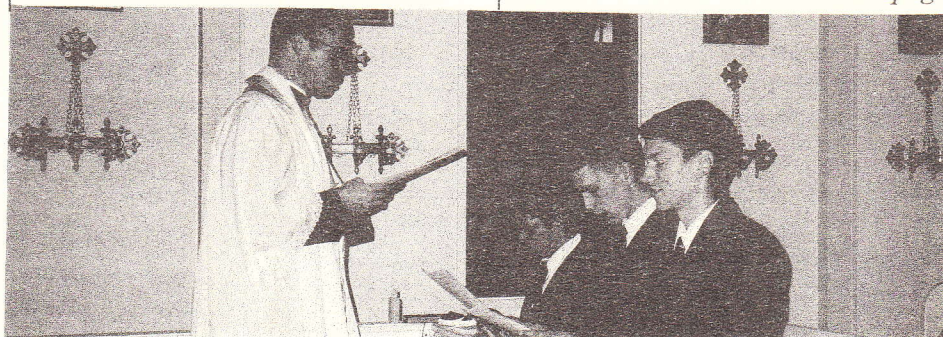
November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day: Holyday of Obligation
- 3 — All Souls' Day
- 11 — Cavan O'Sullivan's birthday
- 20 — First basketball game of the season
- 21 — Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; no homework
- 27-30 — Thanksgiving vacation
- 31 — End of First Quarter

were Catholic. The keynote address by the Bishop was very inspiring and left me with a tremendously better understanding of my Faith. The speech filled all the gaps in my understanding of the Faith and clearly pointed out the falsehood of all other religions.

The Fatima Conference is a really great experience. It provides many different topics and is a good means of

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Fr. Benedict receives three new members into the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sodality.

Faith

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increasing fervor in our Faith. I would like to eventually attend the entire Fatima Conference because it was very beneficial to me. The Fatima Conference is something that every Traditional Catholic should try to go to at some point in their life if they have the opportunity.

Sanctuary lamp

by Mr. Tim Duff

One of the clearest and most profound symbols of what a priest or seminarian should be, or any Catholic for that matter, is the sanctuary light. Of course, the primary purpose of the sanctuary light is to give witness to the True Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. And is this not the primary role of the priest — to give witness to the presence of Christ in this world by the Sacraments, by preaching, and, in short, by their very lives?

The sanctuary light also burns. Thus priests, seminarians, and all Catholics must burn with the love of God and not perform their duties out of mere habit or in a lukewarm manner. As the sanctuary light burns it consumes itself. This is what the priest is called to do, to consume himself in the service of God and neighbor. This burning light also give its light to all around who will but open their eyes to see. So too Catholics must let their light “shine before men” (Matt., 5:16).

In the *Mystical City of God* there is a wonderful passage regarding the sanctuary light. Speaking of the conversations held between Our Lord and Our Lady when He was incarnate in her womb, Venerable Mary says:

“In these colloquies and conferences the fire of divine love was more and more enkindled in the heart of most holy Mary; in her was exactly fulfilled the command of the Lord (Lev., 6:12) that in His tabernacle and on His altar should burn continually the fire of the holocaust and that the priest of the ancient law should see to its perpetual nourishment and maintenance. This precept was executed to the letter in the most holy Mary, for in her were jointly contained the altar and the new High Priest, Christ Our Lord, who nourished and augmented its flame day by day, by administering new material in favors, blessings, graces and communications of His Divinity; while the exalted Lady on her part contributed her ceaseless exertions, which were ineffably enhanced in value by the continual flow of the graces and sanctity of the Lord. From the moment in which this Lady entered into the world, this conflagration of His divine love took its rise, in order never to be extinguished on this altar through all the eternities of God. For as lasting as this eternity and as continuous was and will be the fire of this living sanctuary” (*Incarnation*, p. 200).

Let us ask Christ the Eternal High Priest to enkindle in our hearts the fire of His love, and let us be like the sanctuary light,

ever burning and consuming ourselves in the service of God and our neighbor, giving constant witness in our lives to the One who lives in the tabernacle of our hearts.

The real reason for shoes

by Brandon Odom, gr. 9

As the seminarians overcome countless obstacles during our daily life, one creature stands in our way — the stinkbug!

These vile creatures exist for the sole purpose of being squashed. It has been said that everything God has created was given a purpose. Well, the stinkbugs’ purpose is to provide penance for us seminarians. Every fall these pests seem to migrate to the seminary and stay there. They never seem to be anywhere else. You may have heard of bee spray or ant killer, but you’ve never heard of stinkbug spray or killer.

These horrible and revolting creatures come by the millions and cover the seminary and the surrounding area. Often during the course of the day we hear, “Who stepped on a stinkbug?” If Alfred Hitchcock were alive today, his most famous movie would not be “The Birds” but “The Stinkbugs.” When we walk down the stairs, it’s like walking through a hail storm! Part of P.E. class is squashing stinkbugs, and part of chores is sweeping their useless carcasses off the sidewalk.

Life must go on with or without stinkbugs. We would prefer, however, that it go on without them, and so we await the first hard freeze that will eliminate this odorous pest.

Fall chores

by Shea Davis, gr. 9

Throughout the year there are necessary chores which we must perform if we want to function properly, such as: gathering wood and picking apples, as well as keeping the seminary in good order by raking leaves and cleaning the garage.

Lately, we have been all over the seminary property gathering wood to heat the building and have filled the stacks with about five cords of wood. Bro. Michael has worked hardest of all of us to make sure we are ready for winter.

We have not yet started raking leaves because the largest tree has not finished dropping its overwhelming amount of foliage; but the raking promises to be a big project.

A few days ago we went down to the orchard and picked a massive amount of apples and put them in the root cellar. They’ll most likely last us several months. Hopefully, we can get Sr. Shannon to bake us some of her praiseworthy apple pies.

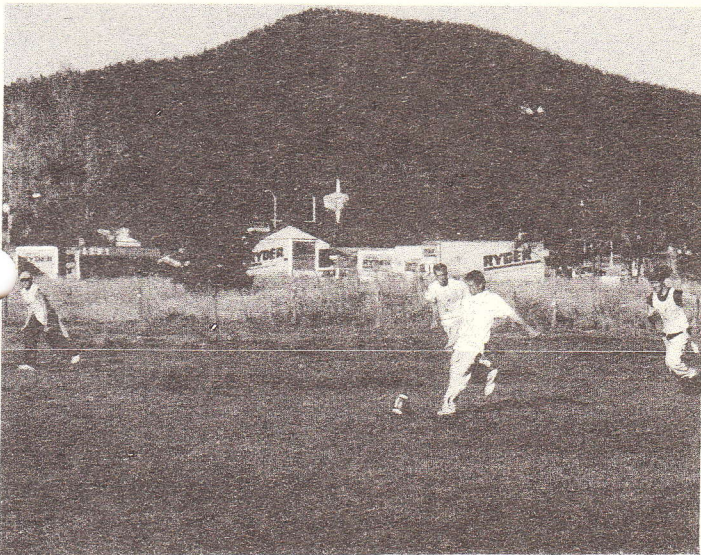
Eventually the chores will include shoveling snow, but we’re content with our wood project for now. We hope to get a ton of snow this year due to the shortage last year. Either way, when we do get snow, I’m sure you’ll hear about it.



Friends from Mexico pay a visit to the seminary.



Football practice at the city park.



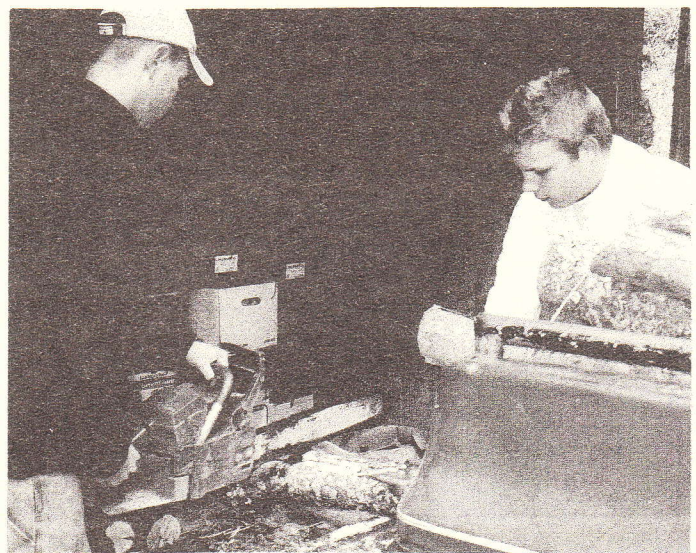
Brandon prepares to kick off in our first game.



On a kickoff return Peter makes a cutback to avoid his pursuers.



Mr. Duff reviews our plays for the next football game.



Shea and Seth help gather and cut wood for the winter.

Loud bells

by Chris Strain, gr. 10

Annoying and loud, that's how I would define the sound of the bells here at the Seminary. We have many bells here — a total of four that I can think of, two of which are annoying. Some people like bells, but the two main bells we have here would be disliked by anyone.

You jolt out of bed in the morning to a loud *CLANG!* which is followed by a foghorn-sounding bell. The two which I have just described are the wake up bell and the class buzzer. The latter is the most annoying because we hear it all day. For the first couple of weeks it sent chills down my spine, but believe it or not, after only six weeks had gone by, you wonder sometimes if it's gone off at all.

The best bell, however, is the meal bell. Oh, that one sounds good. And when Father rings it a second time, that means it's time for seconds. The last bell is rung at about 9:30 p.m. at the conclusion of night prayers. It is a more pleasant-sounding bell, which tells us there may be no unnecessary talking until morning. Although these bells are annoying we'd be in trouble without them.

Singing the Mass

“Singing is praying twice” — so runs the famous dictum of St. Augustine. Here at the seminary we are firmly convinced of the value of praising God with our singing voice, and that is why choir class is an important part of the seminary routine. Our students have choir twice a week, under the direction of Mr. Duff. Their primary focus is, appropriately, the music of the Liturgy — Vespers and High Masses.

Our seminarians sing frequent High Masses, including our monthly High Mass in honor of our patron St. Joseph. In November we will concentrate on singing Requiem Masses. When the seminarians sing the Mass, all the students of the lower grades are encouraged to join in the singing of the various parts of the Mass. For this reason we use a few easier arrangements, such as the Mass of the Angels.

One of my goals as pastor here at Mary Immaculate Queen Church has been to develop “congregational singing.” This means that the people join in with the choir. For a number of reasons, Catholics in the United States have been averse to joining their voices with the choir in singing a High Mass. Given our history in this country of the Protestant movement,

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especially the revival meetings, we tend to look upon congregational singing as somehow a Protestant practice. But what does the Church say? Pope Pius X in his *Motu Proprio* stated that the entire congregation should join in the singing, thereby taking that “active part in the holy mysteries and in the public and solemn prayer of the Church which is the first and indispensable source of the true Christian spirit.” The great popes of the twentieth century (Pius X, Benedict XV, Pius XI, and Pius XII) all strongly urged that every effort must be made to induce those present at the Holy Sacrifice to sing the Mass (cf. *Divini Cultus Sanctitatem*, 1928, of Pius XI, etc.). These popes teach that the purpose of the specially trained choir is not to replace the congregation, but to aid and encourage in every possible way the general singing, and to replace the people only for the more difficult pieces, which the general body of the faithful could not sing properly.

It is particularly inspiring at Mass on a school day when I hear the little children with their angelic voices — sometimes not perfectly on key — joining with the seminarians to sing the Mass. How God must be pleased with their innocent efforts. My hope is that they will one day be the adults who will not be ashamed to sing out at Sunday Mass with their full voices in praise of God.

During November we will pray daily for the Faithful Departed whose names you have submitted. Our seminarians will more frequently visit our cemetery to pray there for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Let us all remember that “it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins.” May God bless you and your loved ones. As always, we are most grateful for your support.

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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