



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

March 2006

In our most recent spiritual conference, Fr. Benedict explained why we do penance during Lent. In addition to some group practices that we observe in the seminary, each of us submits a list of penances that we wish to obtain permission to perform during Lent. With just a few days left, we are all praying for a grace-filled Lent.

Our past month has been busy as always. Besides the normal routine, we have gone skiing twice and have had our annual ping-pong tournament. There have been some exciting games, but in the final championship match, Caleb outlasted Alex to win this year's tournament. We also have been adjusting to life with Bosco — our new puppy.

With Lent just around the corner, our thoughts are of making it our best one yet. We pray that you all will have a good Lent and that we will all understand better how much Our Lord suffered for us. May we never offend Him again!

A pilgrimage of success

by Chris Strain, gr. 12

A pilgrimage to Quito, Ecuador, was recently organized to visit the shrine of Our Lady of Good Success, and I was fortunate to be a member of the group. We also visited many other beautiful churches.

In the 1800's the Blessed Virgin appeared to Mother Mariana de Jesus Torres, a Conceptionist nun in Quito, Ecuador. This was not the first apparition of Our Lady under the title of Good Success. Previous apparitions had actually taken place a few centuries before in Italy, but this one was a

remarkable and wonderful apparition which very much affected the inhabitants' religious devotion.

On our pilgrimage to Quito, we also visited many magnificent churches and a fascinating statue shop. We were fortunate to be able to visit many shrines that were normally closed to most of the public. One was the miraculous picture of the Sorrowful Virgin. This picture is a copy of the original in Europe. In April, 1903, it cried, moved its head and blinked for 15 minutes in front of 36 students and teachers. It is only one of two that have actually done this.

One of the most remarkable of all the churches that we visited was the Jesuit church in the center of the city. As an antidote to the previous worship of the sun by the natives, the Jesuits had the church plated from floor to ceiling in pure gold. This same church houses one of the most graphic pictures of Hell, as well as the incorrupt body of a saintly Carmelite nun.

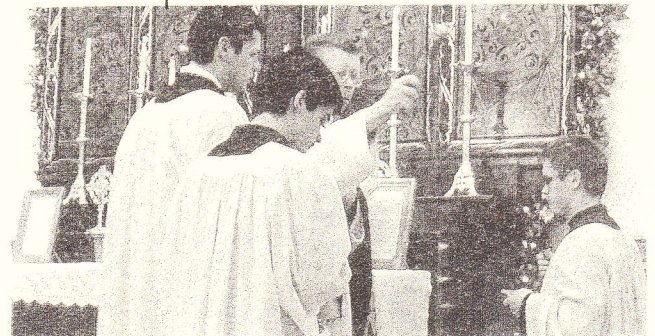
At the statue shop they make beautiful statues of all kinds and sizes from tiny angels to one of the Good Shepherd. That one is 18–20 feet tall. It is truly incredible because most of the plasterwork and all of the painting and sculpting is done by hand.

The most important event, however, was the visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Success. In this one convent there are nine incorrupt bodies of nuns and the miraculous statue of

March calendar

- 1 — Ash Wednesday; High Mass
- 10–12 — Annual seminary retreat
- 19 — Seminary-sponsored fundraising breakfast
- 20 — Feast of St. Joseph, seminary patron; no classes
- 28–30 — Third Quarter Exams
- 31 — Fourth Quarter begins

Our Lady. In the past the nuns have found dew on the hem of the statue's robes, from Our Lady's walks in the garden at night. Since Vatican II, however, there haven't been any recent occurrences of this marvel. Although devotion is still strong in Ecuador, it is evident the people have begun to adopt various aspects of the new religion. We had many crosses to bear, and these seemed to start the week before we left. Even so, the pilgrimage was wonderful, and the people were cordial, especially the guides. This pilgrimage was really a wonderful and spiritually uplifting experience.



All the seminarians had a part in the liturgy of the blessing of candles on February 2nd.

Come here, boy!

by Gerard Odom, gr. 10

What's black, cute and cuddly, and a pain in the neck? Our new puppy Bosco is all that and more! Let me tell you about him. He has a baby face and a pitiful whimper. His teething habits are destructive, he has poor bladder control, and his high-pitched whine is *almost* as bad as the bell!

On his arrival three weeks ago, Bosco hid in the best place he could find until Omar saw him. Now, the two are inseparable. After a week of warming up to everyone, Bosco began doing the one thing that Father feared the most. He began teething. Not a day goes by that we don't hear "bad Bosco!" Then, it's either into his kennel or outside for him. But that's not the only thing that gets Bosco in trouble. . . .

Bosco is unable to "hold it" until he gets outside. It's bad enough when he leaks a little bit at the sight of his own shadow. It's even worse when he does his full payload on the carpet, leaving a poor, unfortunate seminarian to clean it up. Usually, it goes in a pecking order, which means that Alex usually ends up doing the clean up. Fortunately for Alex, Bosco is getting better at holding his own.

Another negative factor of raising a young pup is the constant whining and barking for attention. Even when we put Bosco downstairs in his kennel, behind two closed doors, we can still hear his bark. On one occasion, we put him, cage and all, outside. But even that doesn't seem to help. The only one who seems not to mind the whining is Omar. He is either deaf or has more Christian patience than Fr. Benedict himself. That says a lot, given how much of Brandon Father has had to put up with over the past few years!

Despite all his shortcomings, we still cherish Bosco for his cute, cuddly nature. We hope that he will continue to entertain us for many years to come.

The new seminary mascot

by Omar Rincon

If you have read the previous article by Gerard, you know about our new puppy Bosco. I want to tell you more about our experiences with trying to train Bosco.

At first we took turns having him sleep in our rooms, but to our dismay he wouldn't let us sleep. He would bark, play or whine and keep us awake. Now that Bosco has been here awhile we do not have as many problems with him because he obeys Fr. Benedict and some of the seminarians. He makes me laugh when he is in the classroom with us, because he is playful and tries to bite us, but when Father comes into the room, he remains quiet and stays calm . . . until Father leaves the room.

He is a very amusing dog to laugh and play with. I am the one who spends the most time with Bosco. I take him outside to relieve himself; I bathe him and play with him. He follows me everywhere, playfully chewing on my pant leg. He is a rascal, but he is fun to have around and we all love him a lot.

When he follows us outside the first thing he does is eat the snow. He can't run very well, and falls or slides around and is funny to watch.

As much as we love Bosco, we are not his only friends. There is another dog, Rufus, who spends a lot of time here at the seminary. Rufus belongs to the Odom family and follows Zachary up to the school every day. So now when we are unable to play with Bosco, he has a companion in Rufus.

Gratitude for new experience

by José de Jesus Castellanos Cuadrilla, gr. 9

This month I feel very grateful. I am grateful to Fr. José Antonio Rodriguez for giving me the opportunity to live here at the seminary. I am grateful to Fr. Benedict because he treats me very well. I am grateful to Sandy Foster for allowing me to spend my Christmas vacation at her house. After returning from vacation we had an Epiphany party at the seminary and I received a lot of gifts: clothes, a camera, shoes, candy, a chess game and other things. For these things I am also very grateful.

It is fun to live here at the seminary with the seminarians and the priests. I like the games we play. We play basketball, pool, ping-pong and chess. When I first came, I did not like basketball very much, but since I have had a lot of practice, I like it a lot more.

There are many things I have done for the first time since coming here, but one of the most enjoyable was our recent experience of skiing. Since it was my first time skiing, I stayed on the small hill. Then Omar came and took me to the summit. I never thought it would be so cool to be at the top of the mountain and to come down so fast. I fell a few times because I didn't know how to stop correctly, but I still liked it a lot.

Another thing that I have done for the first time is to play ping-pong. We have now started a ping-pong tournament. Caleb is winning most of the games and this makes me happy because Caleb helps me a lot with my English. He helps me when I do not pronounce words correctly and he teaches me new words. I am grateful to have a friend in Caleb.

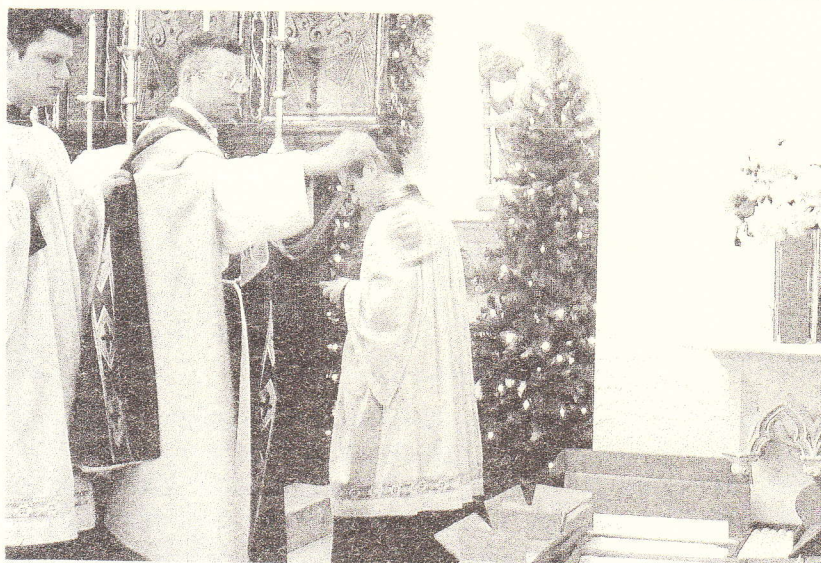
Pick one and pass it along

by Caleb Short, gr. 10

A yearly tradition here is to pick the name of a saint out of a bowl on the feast of the Epiphany as an extra patron for the year. I picked Pope St. Pius V. Since I wanted to learn a little more about him, I decided to do some research.

Michael Ghislieri was his name before he became Pope. He was born in 1504 in Italy. He became a Dominican at the young age of fifteen. (Wow! people grew up very quickly five hundred years ago). He was ordained a priest at 24 years of age. He taught theology for a number of years. When he was about fifty, he was made a cardinal and was later elected Pope.

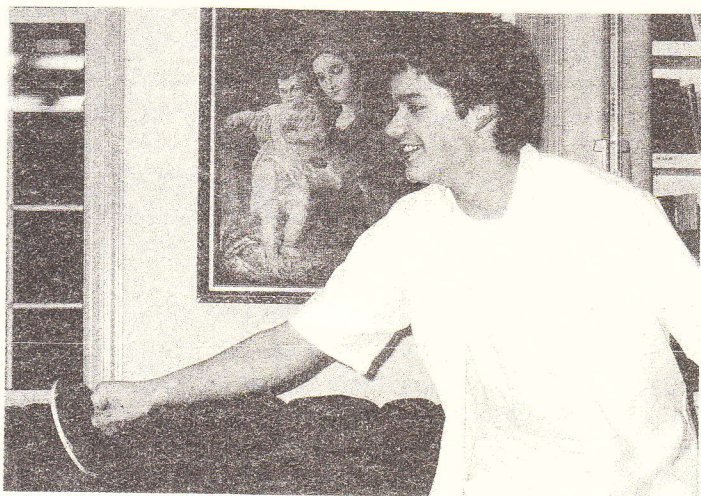
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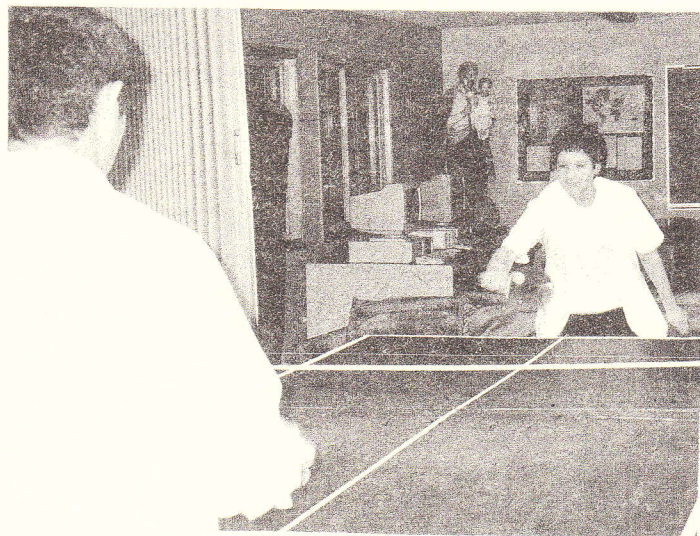
Brandon, as MC for the Candlemas ceremony, holds Father's cope during the incensation of the candles.



Alex, like the rest of us, was happy when Bosco arrived.



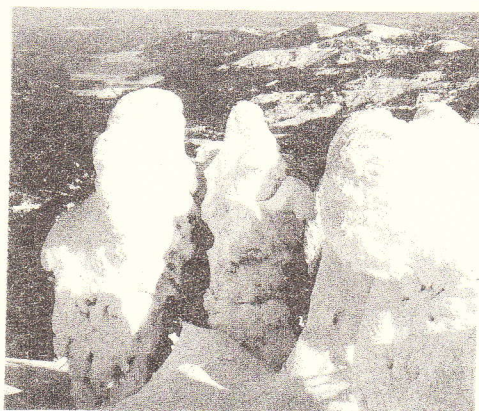
You can tell the games are getting intense when the players have to unbutton their shirts, due to sweating!



Alex came out on top, after his duel with José.



Caleb, coming as he does from Colorado, is an experienced skier.



The trees at the top of Mt. Spokane, shrouded in snow, look like ghostly sentinels.



Giovanni had fun, despite frequent falls.

Pass it along

continued from page 2

One of the most interesting things that happened during his papal reign was the Battle of Lepanto. The Turkish emperor wanted to conquer all of Europe. Pius V organized a fleet, led by Don John of Austria, to confront them. Any of the soldiers who seemed like they were going only for the sake of plunder were not allowed to fight. The Catholics set out and spotted the Turkish fleet in the harbor of Lepanto, and the next day joined battle.

The Catholic forces had about one hundred ships, but they were still outnumbered three to one. With much divine assistance the Catholic forces were victorious and the Muslims no longer controlled the Mediterranean. This never would have happened if the Pope did not beseech the people to assail heaven with the rosary. Pius V had a vision that showed him that his fleet had obtained victory, even though the ships didn't come back until two weeks later. His life teaches us, among other things, the power of prayer. If we rarely converse with God in prayer, our salvation will be doubtful. Let us especially pray devoutly the rosary each day.

A grand experience

by Giovanni Ortiz Aparicio, gr. 9

Is it fun to ski? For us boys from Mexico it is a new sport in which there is a lot of adrenaline because there is a lot of danger as you come down the mountain. When we started, I didn't know anything about skiing. Fr. Benedict decided to assign someone to teach each of us. My teacher was Caleb. He decided to first teach me on a small hill, which I learned is called the "bunny hill." He taught me how to brake and then decided to take me up higher. As we rode up the ski lift I saw small children from three to five years old skiing down the mountain with no problem. I was hopeful that it would be easy for me too, but it wasn't. It was very difficult. I never was able to brake correctly so I would fall . . . over and over again . . . all the way down the mountain.

Omar and José seemed to learn quickly and decided to go to the mountain peak. For José, the only problem was that he had not learned how to brake, so when he wanted to stop he had to fall down. Omar's problem was that as he descended the mountain, people would rapidly pass him and sometimes

cross in front of him. This frightened him and made him very nervous, so he would fall.

Before going skiing Fr. Benedict had an earlier Mass, so we spent the whole day at the ski resort. We skied, ate lunch, skied some more, and returned home for dinner. We concluded our day with prayers, we Mexicans being especially grateful that Fr. Benedict organized this fun day for all the seminarians. Is it fun to ski? Yes, even when a lot of time is spent falling.

Ite ad Joseph

It has been seven years since the foundation of our minor seminary, and with each passing year I become more grateful for the providential naming of our seminary in honor of St. Joseph. This great saint is often forgotten, perhaps due to his quiet, hidden role in the life of Our Lord. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why Jesus is so pleased now to honor him, by granting his every request.

You are surely all familiar with the Old Testament story of Joseph, son of Jacob, sold into slavery by his envious brothers. Providentially, he rose to the position of Pharaoh's assistant, for God blessed all the decisions of Joseph. When anyone came to Pharaoh for an answer, the ruler would invariably say, "Go to Joseph" (Genesis, 41:55). These words, spoken of the Old Testament Joseph, are applied by Holy Mother Church to St. Joseph. Go to him, she tells you, in all your needs.

Indeed, St. Joseph has multiple titles, but one that concerns us particularly, is that of patron of vocations. After all, St. Joseph lived every vocation. He was married and a foster-father, yet as the chaste spouse of Mary, he is also a model for those in the single life. But above all, having lived in the sweet companionship of Jesus and Mary, he is a model and patron for those who choose to give their lives to God as priests or religious. Let us then, especially during this month of March, pray to St. Joseph for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, for vocations are the fruit of much prayer.

We thank all of you for your support, and especially for your prayers for the success of our seminary. Please continue to pray for our young men who are preparing for the priesthood, and for many more vocations. May Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph bless your families abundantly.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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