



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. VIII, No. 9

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2007

April was a busy month, beginning with Holy Week. Each of us had ample opportunity for serving in these beautiful liturgies of the Church. Everything went smoothly, thanks to our serving practices. Just two weeks later we had our annual Forth Hours' adoration. Again, all the seminarians participated in the ceremonies and Holy Hours. Just last week we had our first outdoor procession of the Paschal Season on the occasion of the Greater Litanies. There will be more processions in the coming weeks.

During our vacation (Easter week) there were plenty of activities to keep us busy. One of the things we enjoyed was building a campfire in the evenings. We roasted marshmallows and hot dogs as Fr. Gabriel provided the entertainment with his harmonica. Everything went well until the hot chocolate container tipped and spilled into the fire. But it was a lot of fun, just the same.

Following our Easter vacation we have gotten back into the routine of school. The difference now is that there are only about six weeks left of school. These weeks are also packed with activities, such as our annual seminary trip to Seattle. Please keep praying for us, that we have a good ending to our school year.

May practices

by José Castellanos, gr. 10

Here at the seminary we have many activities in May because it is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. So we are getting prepared for it. One of the practices in May is praying the daily Rosary publicly at the church in the evening. (We usually pray the Rosary at

5 p.m. before supper, but in the month of May we pray the Rosary publicly at 7 p.m. so that the parishioners can attend.)

We also crown the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary before Holy Mass with a hymn that Fr. Benedict or Fr. Gabriel sings with all the people, and then Mass starts. In May we also take turns bringing flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. And we present them as we pray some extra prayers and a hymn before the classes start.

Here at the seminary we do the consecration to Mary each year on the feast of the Queenship, May 31st. We pray the consecration prayers each day of the month — both those who already made the consecration and those who are going to do it for the first time.

I like the month of May because we have extra prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and I enjoy praying them to Our Lady.

My Easter vacation

by Juan Fernando Garcia, gr. 9

This Easter vacation I had a good time. The thing I liked most was working with the mechanic, Mr. Frank Dunphy. He is a very good friend and parishioner at Mary Immaculate Queen Church. I liked working with him because he taught Bryan and me many things, such as: how to change the oil filter, check the oil under the hood, change tires and other duties necessary to repair a car.

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May calendar

- 1 — Feast of St. Joseph, model of laborers; High Mass; no homework
- 4 — Mid-quarter
- 14 — Rogation procession
- 15 – 16 — Annual Seattle trip
- 17 — Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord; Holyday of Obligation; no classes
- 23 — High Mass for seminary benefactors
- 27 — Pentecost Sunday
- 31 — Queenship procession; renewal of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary; Fr. Gabriel's 4th anniversary of ordination



The unveiling of the Cross is a moving ceremony on Good Friday.

Easter vacation

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He also taught us how to drive a car and a tractor. One time I drove the car and my friend Bryan drove the tractor. It was fun and easy. Later, he even took us to a Mexican restaurant and we had a very good time.

We also went with him to his workshop to learn things. While I was in his auto repair shop he taught me how to take parts off a car. After I took off some of the parts Mr. Frank opened the motor, taking off all the little and medium parts and taught us the name of each part. I did not learn too many because the motor has many pieces. I remember some names, but I want to learn all that is necessary.

Bryan and I also repaired the motor of the seminary 4-wheeler, according to the instruction of Mr. Frank. It is almost ready. It only needs some parts that we need to buy. Next Saturday, after Mass, we will go to finish repairing it.

Now we are back in school, but I am very happy we went to Mr. Frank's. We hope to finish the 4-wheeler soon so it will be ready for all of us to use.

Busted bicycle

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

Last year I had some extra money in my wallet. So I emptied most of it on a bike. I didn't spend very much money on it because I knew that I had to leave it here. The fact that the bike was cheap junk, is why this article even exists right now.

So far I have had the bike for a year. Everything was fine up until awhile ago, but then came the problems. It all started when "N" asked me if he could use my bike to go over to the church to look for someone. Hesitantly, I gave in. All of a sudden "N" came back with my bike, with the snapped chain dangling gloomily. "What did you do?" I asked. Actually, it was probably something closer to, "WHAT DID YOU DO?!!?!?!?" "I dunno, I was just riding and the chain broke," was the tragic reply.

It wouldn't have been all that bad if it was just the chain that snapped, but some of the chain-pulling teeth were terribly bent. It took me forever to fix them. (In my frustration and desperation I had to cut one tooth off because I couldn't get it to bend back.) I then put a new chain on and the bike was again in operation.

A week later I decided to bike up the hill. Everything was fine until I got to the other side. The worthless chain broke! So I had a nice little walk back up the hill. Fortunately, I was able to roll down most of the way back to the seminary.

Last year I had some extra money in my wallet. I emptied most of it on a bike, although I should have emptied it into the nearest trash can? I suppose that God was trying to teach me a few lessons. First, I learned to accept all crosses as coming from His hands. And second, don't buy junk from China!

My goals

by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 9

I achieved one of my goals on Wednesday, April 18. My goal was to run the mile faster than Fr. Gabriel and be the first one to finish our Physical Education run. I made this goal at the beginning of the year. I won the race by crossing the finish line half a second before Fr. Gabriel.

I have one more goal: to beat or tie Fr. Gabriel at adding fractions. I know I have a lot of studying to do, because I am way behind Fr. Gabriel.

I am now taking care of Bosco, our dog, and every morning before Mass and at night I put him in his pen. Sometimes, he runs behind the cars, or, if he goes outside after supper I have to run a lot to get him. Most of the time I can't get him, because he's fast and he always goes up to the mountain. So my new goal is to find an easier way to get Bosco into his pen.

Outdoor activities

By Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

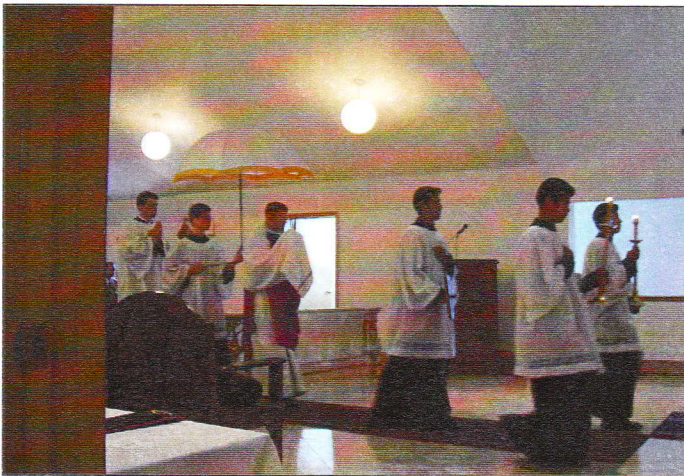
Winter season is over and now everyone here at the seminary is getting ready for the heat of summer.

Now that the weather is getting warm, we are having a lot of projects going on either outside or inside the seminary. One of the main projects that we were working on this past month was cleaning up all the green areas around the seminary and the Church. It was not an easy job because we had a lot of raking, cutting and burning of all kinds of stuff—branches from some of the old trees, pine needles, pine cones, etc. The two worst things of all were trying to burn all the burn piles and trying to get away from the smoke. It seemed that the smoke followed us wherever we went.

This project took us approximately four or five days of work. We had some trouble on our third day of work. I will explain to you what happened.

After a hard day of picking up and piling branches onto the burn pile, we decided to start the fire. We saw that it was not a big fire and it was not going to cause any trouble at all. So, we went inside to get something to drink and some recreation as well. Two hours later, one of the Sisters came to tell us that something was burning near the burn pile. Then immediately, José, Juan and Mr. Sullivan ran outside to see what was happening. When they got there they found that the whole area around the burn pile was already burned. They decided to put everything out, including the burn pile.

This new experience taught us to have more caution in all that we do, especially when we are dealing with fire. I also have to thank all the people who came to help us on this project because if they had not come to help us, this project probably would have taken much longer.



Father returns the Blessed Sacrament to the main altar from the altar of repose on Good Friday, accompanied by the servers.



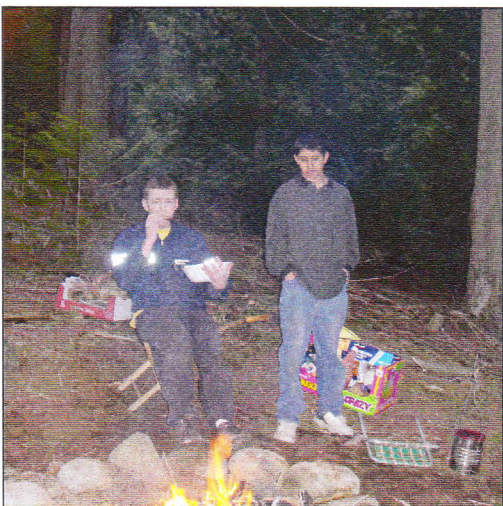
José and Matthew hold the large crucifix for the ceremony of the adoration of the Cross.



Fr. Casimir Puskorius prepares to chant the Gospel during the opening Mass for our Forty Hours' adoration.



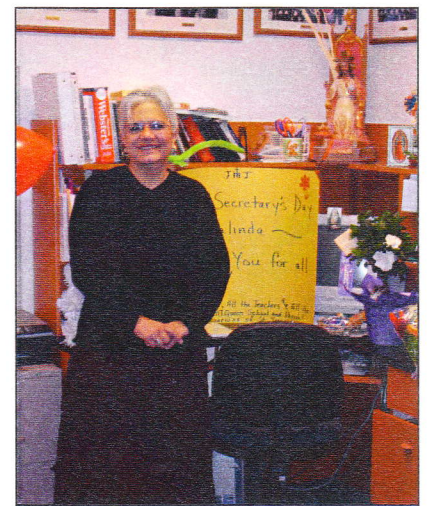
Chess is a favorite pastime here at St. Joseph Seminary.



During vacation we enjoyed nightly campfires.



Bryan learns about auto mechanics by helping Mr. Frank Dunphy tear down and repair engines.



Our secretary Mrs. Rosalinda Salgado was honored by all the schoolchildren on Secretary's Day.

Members of one Body

With two priests here at the seminary, there is hardly a weekend that goes by without one of us on the road. Our travels are to various missions in western Montana, southern California, and even New England. This travel, however, is a blessing in many ways. First, it provides the opportunity to work with souls who are so eager for the sacraments. We are thus constantly reminded of the tremendous need for priests—a thought which animates us to persevere in our efforts to form the priests of tomorrow.

Traveling to our Mass centers also gives us a break. Our lives here are so engrossed with the work of teaching and working with these young men, that a respite is good for body and mind.

But perhaps best of all, our missionary travels put us in touch with many of you, our supporters. Although it is not possible for us to travel to all of our Mass centers, it is very encouraging to hear so many of you comment on how you enjoy reading the newsletter and that you are praying for us. Those occasional comments are a source of encouragement. They also remind us that, as members of the Mystical Body, we may have different roles but nonetheless we are all members of the one body, the Church. We work together by fulfilling our roles to the best of our ability, to fulfill the mission of the Church.

And what is that mission? It is to bring about the greater glory of God by procuring the salvation of souls—our own salvation and that of other souls. Nothing can compare with the value of a single soul, for which Christ shed His most Precious Blood. May we always do our utmost, as members of Christ's Mystical Body, to promote the work of Holy Mother the Church.

I again wish to thank all of our supporters, especially those who were so generous in our recent Lenten Alms Drive, and those who donate regularly to our seminary. I wish that I could thank each of you individually. But I am comforted by the conviction that Our Lord, who said that each little act of charity will not pass without its reward, knows how to repay you as only He can. May God bless all of you and your loved ones.

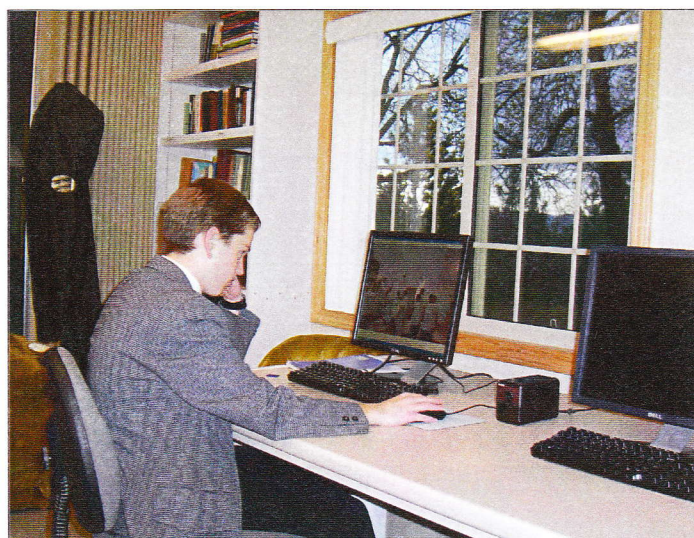
Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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.



Caleb takes on the important task of selecting photos for this issue of The Guardian.

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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