



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

June 2007

In another week we will begin our much anticipated summer vacation. Giovanni and José will stay at the seminary and work on a local farm. They will also be attending a driver's education course to get their driving licenses. Caleb and Matthew will go home for the summer. Juan and Bryan will go to visit friends or relatives for four to five weeks and then return here to continue working on their English and to help around the seminary.

Soon, things will become very quiet here, but right now, the atmosphere is busier than ever. We just returned from our annual outing to the Seattle area and saw a lot of interesting things. Now we are busy finishing up our school work and preparing for the final tests. But it hasn't been all work and no play. On a recent Saturday afternoon we held a water balloon fight. Everyone got soaked, but it was well worth it.

Next week we will end the year with the Corpus Christi procession. Everyone helps with the preparations and, of course, in serving. This is one of the best ceremonies of the entire year, when the Blessed Sacrament is carried on the procession route outdoors. It will be a nice way to end the year. We hope you all have a good summer and continue to pray for us.

Final field trip

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 10

As you probably know, we have a field trip before the end of the school year. This trip was longer and farther than all the trips we have made before because this time we went to Seattle. I will tell you briefly about this trip.

We left after lunch on May 14th and drove for five hours. We stayed at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Hughes. On our first full day in Seattle we visited the Space Needle, Pike Place Market and souvenir stores. The last thing of the day was to see a baseball game — the Mariners vs. the Angels — which was the highlight of the trip for many of us. This game lasted nearly three hours. Unfortunately, we had to leave before the game was over to avoid the traffic jam.

The next day we went to visit more places close to Seattle. The first place we visited was Deception Pass, which has a high bridge over a channel of water. Then we went down to the beach for lunch. Afterwards, we took a ferry from the island back to the mainland. After the ferry trip, we went to see the Boeing airplane factory, which was quite interesting to me. I learned how they make the airplanes and all the things that are needed to make them. Believe it or not, this factory is the biggest building in the world by volume. When the tour through the airplane factory was over, we went back to the house of Fr. Benedict's brother for a barbecue. Afterwards, we washed the dishes and then watched a funny movie. When the movie was over, we prayed night prayers as usual and then went to bed.

The next day was a sad day for me and for everybody else because we had to leave and start our way back to the seminary. So, we packed the van and started back to Idaho. After five hours of driving we arrived at the seminary. We

June calendar

- 2 — Bishop Pivarunas visits the seminary; Sacrament of Confirmation is administered at our parish church
- 6 — Final day of school; evening program and awards ceremony
- 7 — Feast of Corpus Christi; annual outdoor procession of the Blessed Sacrament
- 8 — Summer vacation begins
- 26–28 — Priests' summer meeting

unloaded and put away everything that was in the van. Afterwards we had free time up until night prayers.

I think this is all I can tell you about our field trip to Seattle. We really enjoyed going to this big city and we are looking forward to going next year also. We also want to thank the Hughes family for all the fun and the good food they gave us.



Every morning we greet Our Blessed Mother with flowers, prayers and a hymn.

The final month!

by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 9

This is the last month of the school year, and we are ready to begin the pool tournament. Not everyone competed in the recent chess and ping pong tournaments because some did not know the games very well. But everyone is playing in the pool tournament. We are also busy preparing to sing a High Mass next week and we will also practice for the Queenship Procession on May 31st. Also, Mrs. Salgado is going to give us two exams for which we must study. So we will be busy for the last month of school.

My feelings are mixed about what I will do after school is out. I am happy that I won't have to do homework, but I am wondering what I will do with my time. I know a little bit of what I will be doing. I will be spending a few weeks with Caleb's family in Colorado. It will be very interesting for me because it will be the first time I won't have anyone around to speak Spanish with. (That means more mixed feelings.) When I return to the seminary I hope to spend some time with Mr. Frank, the mechanic, so I may learn more around his shop. I also look forward to being a group leader at the Boys' Summer Camp in July.

God bless you all, and let us all have a fun, relaxing summer!

The dinosaur age

by Caleb Short, gr. 11

Here at the seminary we used to have two copy machines. We had a nice little one that wasn't too old, and we had another that was older than extinct dinosaurs. To make a short story shorter, they broke. The dinosaur had been broken for a long time but the little one upon which we depended broke just recently.

Fr. Gabriel and I spent a whole day trying to find out what was wrong with our prehistoric friend. Yes, we spent a whole day... and accomplished next to nothing. It was really terrible. We were sure that we had found the problem and did what should have fixed it, but nothing happened. Then we took out the "light sensors" that were apparently the problem and the terrible lizard did the exact same thing as before. So we gave up.

Fr. Gabriel wanted the sensors, motors, and other parts from the machine before it was thrown away. Some of us helped him to disassemble the machine. The floor around the machine almost disappeared. There were parts scattered everywhere. It was one of the most interesting things I have ever seen, but it was also quite a chore to clean up afterwards.

Finally, a new copy machine was brought in to replace the old ones. Just like any copy machine it just copies papers and that is about all. We just don't notice it because we seminarians don't use it very often. Hopefully, it lasts for many years to come. Here at the seminary we had two copy machines. From dust they were made and unto dust they

returned, just like we will. We have time, but it will end. Yes, we need to spend our time on earth doing what God wants us to do so that we can spend our eternity doing what we want to do. This is a test. Repeat . . . This is only a test.

Mother's Day

by Juan Fernando Garcia, gr. 9

The month of May is a memorable month of the Blessed Virgin. We celebrate the month by crowning the statue of Our Lady with a crown of flowers and praying the Rosary. At the seminary we construct an altar to the Blessed Virgin and each day one of the seminarians offers flowers to her. We all kneel before the shrine and pray to her for our seminary and benefactors; then we sing a hymn.

On the second Sunday of May we honored our Mothers. We called them to say congratulations and we prayed for them at Mass. Fr. Benedict invited his family to breakfast to honor his mother and his sisters who are mothers. The Sisters were also invited, for they are our spiritual mothers.

In Mexico we celebrate Mother's Day on May 10th. At dawn we sing a traditional song called *Mañanitas* to our mothers. Later, we go to Mass and then we make special food for our mothers. At school we also make a feast for them. The children perform traditional dances and raffle things like flowers, dishes or food. After the fun, mothers go to their homes and the celebration continues. Some people go to the cemetery to visit their deceased mother's grave or they offer a Mass.

The best thing about this day is that all the mothers have fun with family and friends. I hope you all had a Happy Mother's Day!

Our chess tournament

by José Castellanos, gr. 10

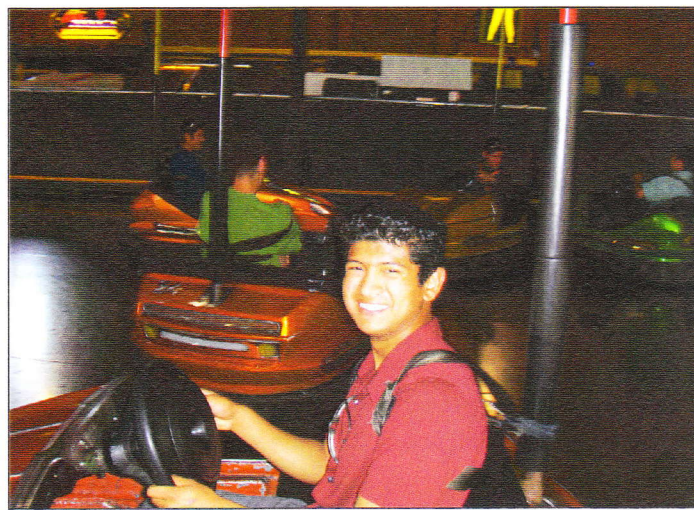
Can you imagine how it feels being in a chess tournament? Well, we have experienced how it felt. Although there are not many seminarians here, we still have a chess tournament each year. But just knowing that you are in the tournament and you have to win or be eliminated, makes you very nervous and excited at the same time.

We started playing the first games, and they were very intense. Some of us were winning and some of us were losing, but everyone tried very hard. We played matches of the best of three games, and I found it difficult to win the last four games. The last games that I played were with Bryan and Caleb. Everyone at the seminary is good at chess, but Bryan and Caleb are especially good players.

My first game with Caleb was very tough for me. Then after I played Caleb, I played Bryan and it was also difficult. He was close to getting me in checkmate, but he made a mistake. I also made some mistakes, but my goal was to win the tournament and I did it. The best part of this experience was that everyone enjoyed the competition.



Here the seminarians pose with the Seattle skyline in the background.



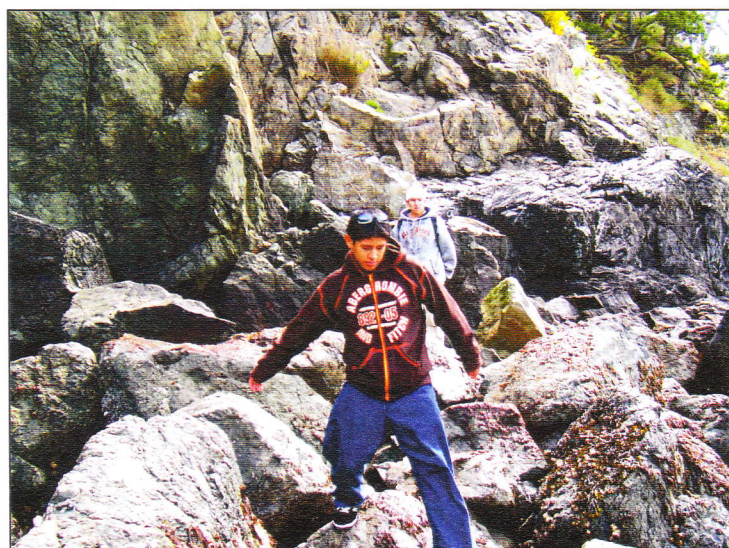
One of the many events on our trip was riding the bumper cars at Seattle Center.



The bridge at Deception Pass in Puget Sound provides a spectacular view of the swirling waters below.



Some of the Mexican seminarians had never played baseball before this past spring.



Climbing the rocks along the beach at Deception Pass was quite an adventure for Giovanni and the rest of us.



Juan enjoys riding the seminary quad.

Da mihi animas

Currently, we are making our annual novena to the Holy Ghost and preparing for Pentecost. This feast is a most important one because it recalls the birthday of the Church. The apostles indeed had a daunting task — to preach the Gospel throughout the world, and it was the Holy Ghost who strengthened them to fulfill this mandate.

The spirit of zeal for souls is a hallmark of the true Church of Christ. The Catholic Church, true to her founder, has shown this apostolic spirit down through the centuries. We see this, not only in the lives of so many of her missionaries, but also among the common faithful, who desire nothing more than to bring about the conversion of their families, friends and neighbors.

At the seminary we are currently reading the life of the indefatigable missionary Fr. Pierre Jean De Smet. This “Apostle of the Rockies” was heroic in his travels and his desire to bring the Gospel to the Native Americans. They loved him as a father and trusted him because they knew he loved their souls and sought no personal gain. Such examples are powerful incentives for our seminarians, as they prepare for the priesthood.

Priests must never forget that God has called them to the priesthood for others — not for themselves. The primary purpose of their vocation is the honor and glory of God; the secondary purpose is the salvation of souls. St. John Marie Vianney, sitting in the confessional for hours; Fr. De Smet, trekking through the wilderness in search of souls to convert; Fr. Damian, working with the lepers of Molokai; Fr. Pro, traveling around Mexico in disguise during the persecution of Calles — all exemplify the motto of St. John Bosco, *Da mihi animas, tolle cetera* (Give me souls, take all the rest.).

While we teach these young men Theology, Latin and various academic subjects, we pray that they especially imbibe a thirst for the salvation of souls, for that is the true spirit of the priesthood. If they learn that, then their education here has been a success. We ask that you continue to pray for our little seminary: for more vocations, for the instructors, and especially that our young men become zealous for the salvation of the souls for whom Christ shed His Precious Blood. May God bless and reward you for your support of this work!

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.



The shrine of Our Lady at the church is always adorned with many bouquets of flowers during May.

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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