



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

October 2007

October is here. At the seminary, October means cooler weather, flag football games and leaves turning colors. It means the daily Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. October means picking apples and making apple cider, chopping and stacking wood, and raking leaves. It means the Fatima Conference. At the seminary, we like the month of October.

Our year has begun well at the seminary. We have two new seminarians, one from the Philippines and one from Hawaii. We also expect a third newcomer, who has not yet arrived. Another wonderful addition to our seminary is Mrs. Nancy Gallagher. She joins our small staff of the priests, the Sisters, and our secretary Mrs. Salgado. Mrs. Gallagher lives in the apartment above the Sisters' convent and helps with cooking and other work at the seminary. We appreciate her help!

We have all been busy with studies. Maybe it's because the teachers want to lay a good foundation during September for the entire year, or maybe it's because we have not had homework for so long. Whatever the reason, it seems that we have been quite occupied with our assignments, leaving little free time during the week. It does take awhile to get used to homework again, after the summer vacation.

We hope you enjoy our articles, as we tell you about our life here as the year rolls on. Please be sure to pray for us, and we promise a remembrance of you in our daily prayers. God bless you all.

Fifty a day keeps the devil away

by Caleb Short, grade 12

We Catholics pray it every day, or at least we should. We put our whole heart and soul into praying it, or at least we should. Yes, it can be difficult sometimes. It is supposed to be that way. What am I writing about? I am writing about the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Our Lady gave the Rosary to St. Dominic in 1214 to use to conquer the Albigensian heresy. In modern times she has asked at Fatima that at least five decades be recited every day. Who could even consider refusing this simple request of God's own Mother? Perhaps it may seem boring to say the Hail Mary again and again, every single day. Are we forgetting that the Rosary honors Our Lady? She said that is the way she likes it; why shouldn't we believe her?

It was the Rosary that saved Europe from the Turks in the Middle Ages. At the battle of Lepanto, the outnumbered Christian fleet destroyed the Turkish fleet just because Catholics in Europe were praying the Rosary. If more Catholics were devoted to the Rosary today, just imagine the good that would result!

We seminarians attended a public Rosary walk in Spokane recently. There were about one hundred people who showed up for it. We marched right through a public park praying all fifteen decades. It is rather interesting to see how people reacted to it. Some seemed scared, others started walking really fast, and others

October calendar

- 7 — Feast of the Holy Rosary; procession
- 8 — José's birthday
- 11 — Feast of the Divine Maternity, chanted Vespers, no homework
- 11 – 14 — Fatima Conference events
- 28 — Feast of Christ the King, renewal of seminary enthronement
- 30 – 31 — Final exams; end of First Quarter

seemed surprised. I'm sure there are some good people out there who are being misled. Hopefully, this will bring some converts to the True Faith and help our little part of the world wake up to reality.

Let us devoutly pray the Rosary every day to please Our Lady, who only desires that the Will of God be accomplished. Fifty a day keeps the formidable devil away. If we all pray our fifty-three Hail Marys every day, who or what will be able to stop us from converting the world for Christ and gaining a treasure of graces for ourselves?



In September we joined in the public Rosary walk in downtown Spokane.

The benefits of hard work

by Giovanni Ortiz, grade 11

Bucking bales and changing irrigation lines were the two main things that kept us busy all summer long, not to mention some minor duties.

José and I spent our summer here in Idaho helping on a farm that is about 20 minutes away from the seminary. When we started working our main job was to change irrigation lines. It was not easy at all because these lines were about ¼-mile long or even longer. Let me tell you the purpose of all this and how it works.

Since Idaho is a place where almost everything dries up during the summer, many farmers must have an irrigation system to be able to water the fields to get profitable crops. However, this requires a lot of labor, because the pipes must be changed twice a day, in the morning and in the evening.

There are two different forms in which irrigation can be done: one is by using wheel lines and the other is by using hand lines. Wheel lines are long pipes with metal wheels that are screwed together and have a motor in the middle of the line that moves the entire line. Hand lines are pipes that are hooked together to make a straight line and they must be unhooked and hooked every time they move. All this changing of lines took us between two and two-and-a-half hours in the morning as well as in the evening because we had to move more than three lines every day.

Bucking bales was also one of our main jobs after we were done with irrigation. The first few days it was a little hard for me because I was not really used to lifting 80 or 90 lb. bales. Especially when we had to load four or five tons of hay, it seemed to me endless hours. As the time went by, however, it occurred to me that it was getting easier to buck bales of hay.

I think that working on this farm, changing irrigation lines and bucking bales, helped me to see and take my daily duties with more responsibility and seriousness.

A Colorado vacation

by Angel B. Gamboa, grade 10

This was a very good summer. I was planning on going to Colorado during the first three weeks and then coming back to Idaho for the remainder of the summer, but then the Short family invited me to stay there for the entire summer (which was really nice of them), and I accepted. I was pretty busy but I also had lots of fun. I met some very nice people and did many different and interesting things.

We did some hiking and some camping, so I had a really nice time at the Shorts' house. I learned many new things during this summer that I probably would not have been able to learn in any other place.

During this summer I had my first time working with drywall. I learned one more thing: never make mistakes in the beginning because that gives you too much trouble later on. The better we do in the beginning, the easier it will be in the

future. It also saves time, money, and work, just having the diligence to do our best. I am grateful to the kind people who let me work at their house, even though I'm not the most skilled worker.

One of the things that I enjoyed most was that I was singing with the choir almost every Sunday. On Fr. Anaya's sacerdotal anniversary, the Mass was really beautiful, the choir was large, and the pipe organ was huge, which made it sound magnificent.

I thank God for all the blessings that He gave me this summer, although I do not deserve them. No one deserves God's blessings, but in His infinite goodness and kindness He gives us all these wonderful gifts. I am grateful to the Short family, and all the people that I met, for all the kindness that they showed toward me. Thanks to every one. God bless you! I shall pray for you.

First impressions

by Marcellus Moylan, grade 11

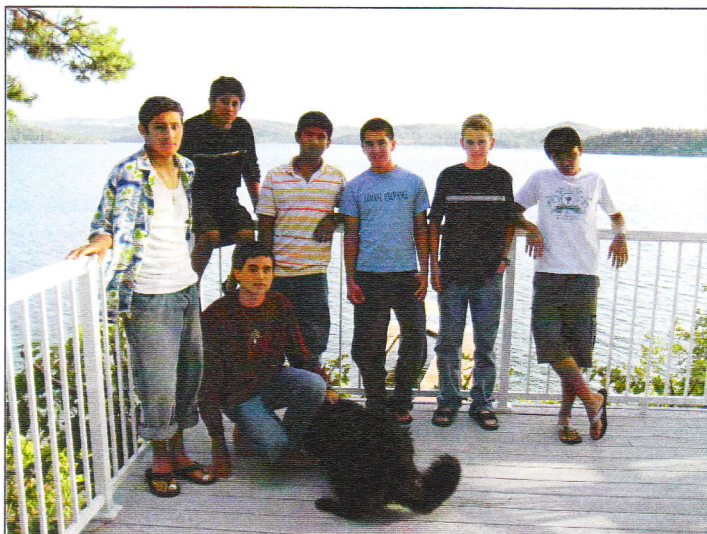
I felt sick. The layover in Oakland dragged on. The four hours gave my mind excessive time to dwell upon the new adventure facing me. Excitement and dread upturned my stomach. Perhaps things would be too lax at St. Joseph Seminary. Maybe they would let too many things go and allow worldly influence to creep in. Or perhaps they went to the opposite extreme and would be overly strict. My imagination kept throwing wild ideas at me that only made me sicker. So I prayed, taking confidence in the fact that God had put me on this path.

At 9:30 p.m. I arrived in Spokane where I met Fr. Gabriel. "Well, Marcellus, he certainly does not look like a monster," I told myself. I felt so much more at ease. During the ride in the van as we conversed, I began to relax. In about half an hour we were on North Church Road. 'City of Mary' it read. "So there is more than just a seminary in this place," I thought as we drove up past the sign.

Fr. Gabriel showed me my room. It was small but I was used to that. Moreover it had a welcoming feeling to it: there were religious pictures, crucifixes, and a Holy water font, and the furniture was attractive to me for the sole reason that it had been previously used.

When I saw the kitchen and the classrooms, I realized the small dimensions of the seminary, and liked it for it was not frightening. It felt rather like a home. After calling home, I went into the small chapel adjacent to the dining room and thanked the Lord for a safe arrival. Then I thought how wonderful it is to live in the same house, under the same roof as our loving Creator.

It was late and I tried to get some sleep, but I could not. I was no longer scared but my body did not want to rest. So as I tiptoed up the hallway I noticed all the pictures. The one of St. Alphonsus I particularly liked. The large crucifix at the other end of the hallway also attracted me and I kissed Jesus good night.



Group photo at Lake Coeur d'Alene.



Mrs. Nancy Gallagher has been a great help to the Sisters in the kitchen.



Getting a bath is not one of Bosco's favorite activities.



The seminarians enjoy a game of cards.



Giovanni takes a turn on the water skis in early September.



The newest addition to the seminary? A goat.

“It is cold!”

by Nino Molina, grade 12

All the continents of this world have different weather. There are areas that are low in temperature, especially the North Pole and South Pole and the countries that are near them. If there are low temperatures, there are also high temperatures like in the countries that are near the equator. The Philippines are one of the countries near the equator.

I am a Filipino. I have lived 18 years in the Philippines. Since my birth I have lived there. This country has a high temperature, although in the rainy season the temperature can be a little cooler. Moreover, the Philippines has only two seasons: the rainy season and the summer season. We use Celsius to know what the temperature is, rather than Fahrenheit, like in the United States. Before I flew to America I prepared thick clothes such as a jacket, sweater, etc., which we don't use very often in my country. I knew that here in America, there are four seasons: summer, autumn, winter, and spring. That's why I prepared that stuff, especially for the winter.

When I arrived in Seattle, I stayed there for two weeks before coming to the seminary. There was no time when I wore a t-shirt because the wind was cold even though it was summer at this time. Furthermore, even when the sun came out, it was still chilly. I wore two jackets when I slept and turned on the heater in my room. Every time I woke up in the morning and went out of my room I was shivering. I said to myself, how much colder will it be when the winter comes? That was my first week, but later on I became acclimated. But nowadays, I am still wondering how I can survive the wintertime, because in my whole life I never experienced snow. Despite all of these things, I know I can overcome this hardship because “*PINOY AKO*.”

Therefore, I am able to say that weather is part of our life and also it is part of the nature which God made. So, we need to use it in a good way, by accepting what God sends us and not complain.

We all need guidance and direction

At the seminary there are many exercises to nourish the spiritual lives of the seminarians: daily Holy Mass and

Communion, common prayers, frequent opportunities for confession, daily spiritual reading, etc. One of the most important of these various exercises is the weekly spiritual conference. Several times during the week there will be short sermons at Mass, but once a week there is a full-length spiritual conference directed exclusively to the seminarians.

During these sermons we have the opportunity to speak to our young men about topics that concern them, such as daily striving for holiness, the various virtues and how to practice them, discerning one's vocation, etc. The class is very important, since the spiritual formation of a future priest is of much greater importance than his academic formation. These weekly addresses are carefully planned, so that in the course of the year each important topic is covered several times.

Another closely related practice is that of seeking spiritual counsel. Each seminarian chooses a spiritual director, to whom he has recourse at least once per quarter. We all need spiritual direction, for as the *Imitation of Christ* points out, *he who has himself for a spiritual guide, has a fool for his director*. We can counsel others, but we often cannot see clearly the path we ought to take, without the guidance of a good spiritual director.

True, instruction and guidance in the spiritual life are not the same as putting the lessons into practice. We all fall far short of our goals. Yet, the frequent reminder of how good Catholics — especially seminarians — ought to live, goes a long way to helping a young man achieve these goals. As always, we ask your prayers for this important work, and that these young men will be formed according to the model of the Sacred Heart.

One last thought: The Guardian has been published monthly since the minor seminary began, more than eight years ago. We are approaching our 100th issue, which will be published in less than two months. To commemorate this milestone, we are planning on reprinting favorite articles from past issues. If there is any article that particularly appealed to you, which you would like to nominate for reprinting, please send us your suggestion.

Again, we thank you for your support, without which, this work could not continue. May God 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.

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