



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

January 2008

At the seminary we have had a good Advent. The time has passed quickly and our Christmas vacation is at hand. Most of the seminarians will be leaving for vacation with their families or friends, while a few will stay at the seminary and spend shorter periods with families in the area.

We have had a lot of snow this past month, a new experience for some seminarians. Everyone here likes the snow, although we could do without the shoveling. We are especially looking forward to a couple of skiing opportunities in the next couple of months.

Our basketball team is doing well, going 3-2 (3 wins and 2 losses) for the month of December. Believe it or not, the most memorable game was one of the losses. The reason is that we had to come from behind and nearly won. In fact, one of our players had a chance to win with the final shot, but it just barely missed going in. The game was a good one because Fr. Gabriel, our coach, made some changes to our defense and then we started to catch up. So now we are playing better defense and hope to do better next month.

Two farewells and one hello

by Caleb Short, gr. 12

When I first came here I told myself to use my time well, because I would not be here very long. That is what I told myself, but I felt like it would be forever. Now I am wondering where the time went. It went way too fast. Anyway, I need to tell you that my

time here at St. Joseph Seminary has come to an end.

During my two summer breaks, Fr. Benedict allowed me to do some extra schoolwork so that I would be able to graduate a semester early. After I graduate, which will happen as long as I don't flunk any tests, I will go home for Christmas break. Then I plan to go straight to Omaha where the major seminary is located. I just thought it would be good to let you know why you won't be seeing any of my articles in *The Guardian* anymore.

What else did I get out of the seminary besides the wonderful classes? I received the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. How many people get to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion every day? Not many!

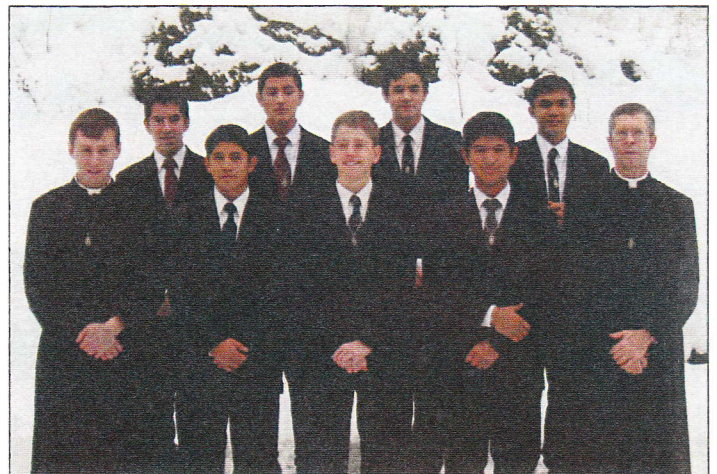
I will dearly miss St. Joseph Seminary. If I do have a vocation, it is still present because of the seminary. I sincerely hate thinking about what I would be like if I hadn't come here. The seminary has made a decent person out of me. By now the world would have destroyed me had I not come here.

I have two farewells and one hello to offer. I have to say goodbye to my home here and then another one to my home in Colorado. Then comes Omaha, which will be

January calendar

- 3 — Classes resume
- 5 — Blessing of Epiphany Water
- 6 — Feast of the Epiphany; blessings of chalk and of gold, incense and myrrh; Epiphany ceremonies
- 10 — Gift exchange and seminary Epiphany celebration
- 15 — Basketball game
- 16-18 — Semester exams
- 18 — Semester break
- 22-24 — Priests' meetings
- 25 — Ski trip
- 29 — Basketball game

totally new for me; I still have never been there. Please pray that I will do God's Will for me, and I will continue to keep all of you in my prayers.



Priests and seminarians pose for a group picture, shortly before the Christmas break.

Christmas away from home

by Nino Molina, gr. 12

Every year, we celebrate Christmas to remind us that Our Savior Jesus Christ came down to earth to save us from sin. Moreover, it reminds us also to commemorate Christmas with all the members of the family in order to obtain the graces from the Holy Family. It is more joyful and meaningful if we celebrate Christmas with the whole family.

For this Christmas, however, I will stay here at the seminary because the plane ticket is too expensive to go back to the Philippines. I know the customs here and the way you celebrate Christmas are different from where I come from, like the food, the time difference between here and my home in the Philippines, and most of all the Mass — in time I will get use to it.

This will be the first time in my life that I will celebrate Christmas Day far away from my family. It is fine for me even though I'm far away from my family, because I have a second family now: the seminary and my benefactors. I treat the seminary now as my second home, and my benefactors are my second family.

It is because I am following my vocation to the priesthood. So I need your prayers so that God may help me to achieve that state in life. Furthermore, I am happy, although alone, without my real family, because I know God is always by my side; He provides for everything and makes up for my imperfections. He is my best friend. I can say that He is more than my family, my home, and my country. That is why He is my everything. Hopefully, He is the same for you.

“The Priest who failed”: challenges

by Marcellus Moylan, gr. 11

The long-awaited movie on the North American Martyrs is completed. We began filming a little over a month ago, after having finally decided that we were going to go on with the project. Finding, or sacrificing, time was the first challenge that we faced. Next came the lines that we had to memorize. I think this was especially hard for Nino, a second-language English speaker, and for Caleb, the main character, who had a multitude of lines. Consequently the second scene required many tries to finally get finished.

While Bryan was filming the third scene, sparks and smoke from the campfire blew at our clothes and in our faces. Some lines were hard to hear so Caleb and I re-recorded over these parts. Although the scene in the chapel and the vow was no challenge to film, it required a lot of patience from Caleb because it needed a lot of editing on the computer. The touching scene where Fr. Chabanel departs from Fr. Garnier we redid, as we did not like the first try.

For the sixth scene Bryan, Juan, and Giovanni put food dye on their faces and dressed up as Hurons. Their Mexican features made them look like genuine Indians. Then we went up the hill to film in the places where there was some snow.

The worst challenge that we faced in these last scenes was the biting cold. But God blessed us because it started to snow, which greatly added to the quality of our film.

I think everyone's favorite scene is the last one: the martyrdom. Giovanni put all his passion into his part — that of the apostate Huron. His portrayal of the apostate's malicious hatred plus the violent scream as he strikes Fr. Noel Chabanel came across for a superb effect. The martyr, who believed himself a failure on the missions, then sinks to the snow-covered earth as the beautiful music of the *Sanctus* marks the end of our little production.

Watch your step

by Giovanni Ortiz, gr. 11

Snowstorms have recently hit the mountains of Idaho. The past few days we got several inches of snow.

It is so incredible and wonderful to wake up one morning and see that everything around you is covered with white. However, it is not that incredible when you have to deprive yourself of 30 minutes of your precious sleep to get up and shovel snow off the walkways and the steps that go up to the church. Nevertheless, here at the seminary each one of us has to take a turn shoveling as an Advent penance and as a way of preventing accidents which are more common during this time of year. Walking is especially risky when the snow hardens up and becomes ice, causing a lot of slipping and falling. We learned this because one of our parishioners, as he was leaving the church last year, slipped and fell down on the icy asphalt, breaking his leg. We don't want that to happen again!

Something like this also happened to me last year; although it was not that bad. As I was leaving the gym after a P.E. class to make my way back to the seminary, I realized that the ground was covered with white, but I did not realize that underneath this coating there was a thick layer of packed snow and ice. As I was walking, I started to lose my balance and fell to the ground hitting my left eyebrow. I began to worry because I started to feel a lump forming and it was getting harder for me to open my left eye. I went to the hospital and the doctor told me that everything would be all right. I had a black eye for several days. Ever since that happened I have been extremely careful where I step.

I hope you all have a really nice and safe Christmas and a happy New Year. May God Bless you and Our Lady keep you.

Examination of conscience: a sermon summary

by Angel B. Gamboa, gr. 10

One of the most important exercises of our spiritual life is the examination of conscience. It is very important to see our faults during the day and review them at least before we go to bed. To make a good examination of conscience

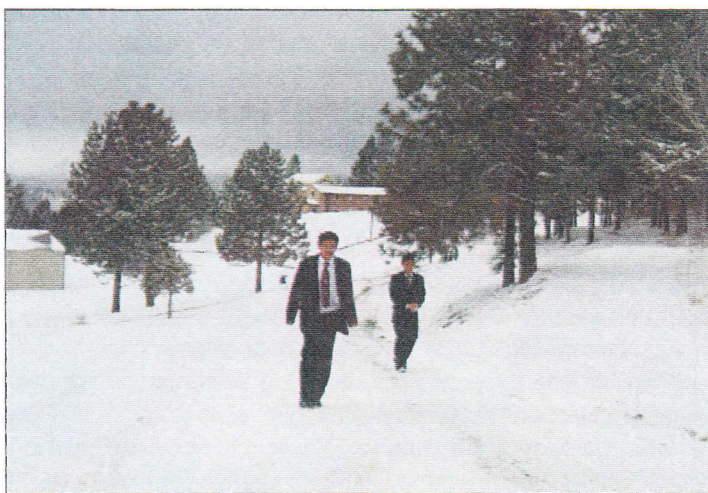
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The Sisters and staff members joined us for Caleb's farewell dinner.



Some of the cast members pose after completing the filming of our latest movie.



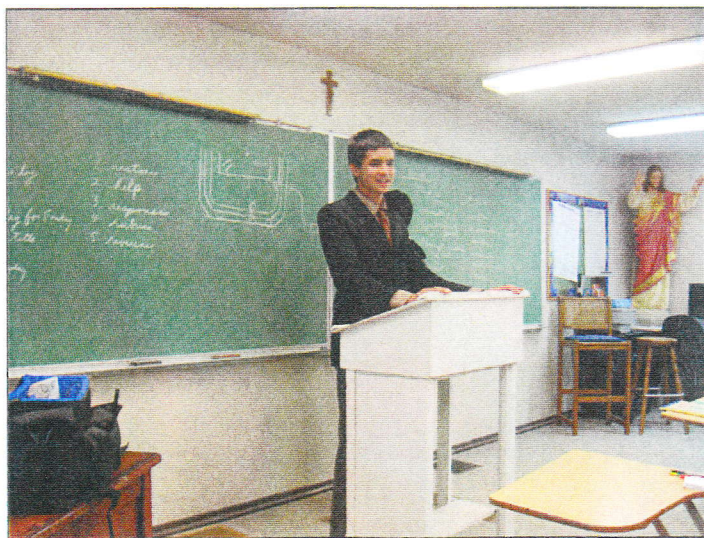
Walking back to the seminary after Mass at the church.



Bosco loves the snow.



"Coach" Fr. Gabriel offers some advice to Marcellus during a break in the action.



Marcellus prepares to give a speech in class.

Examination of conscience

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there are three things that we should consider. First we should always thank God for all his numberless blessings. If we think about it, we will find out that most of the time when we give something to anybody they will always say thanks, and it is a very important duty to accomplish. Our Lord, like us, wants to be thanked by us for the blessings we receive, and the more we thank Him, the more we shall receive.

The second part of the examination is to examine our conscience to see our faults and sins of the past day. There are different ways of doing this: it could be chronological (and this means going in order from the moment we awaken until the time of examination), or it could be done by going through the commandments of God and of Holy Mother Church. During our examination we should ask ourselves if we were true to our Catholic Faith throughout the day and did we fulfill our duties as parents, sons, teachers, employers or employees (or whatever our duties are).

The third part is to make an Act of Contrition. It is very important to have sorrow for our sins, not only because we fear God's infinite justice, but also because we love Him for His own sake, and that is what is called perfect contrition. When we make an act of perfect contrition, we get many graces from God. To make an act of perfect contrition we need first to be sorry for our sins because we love God. We also need to resolve not to commit those sins again. Also, we have to be sorry for all of our sins, for every single one.

The examination of conscience is a means of spiritual growth because we see our faults and mistakes; therefore, I encourage you to examine yourself every single day, and your soul will be more and more perfect every time.

How quickly the time passes

There is one big cross that comes with this precious duty of forming young men, in hopes that many of them will become priests one day—that is the fact that they must move on. It sometimes seems that they have finally reached the point of maturity and responsibility when you realize that it is time for them to advance and time for a new group to take their place. (The seminary, like life itself, does not remain static.)

You have read Caleb's article about his early graduation and departure from the minor seminary to the major seminary.

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.

We wish him well and are happy at his advancement, as much as we are disappointed to see him go. These thoughts remind me of the importance of using our time well, because it passes so quickly.

These thoughts also remind us that progress means change. Sometimes, change is painful for us, but there can be no progress without change. In fact, we are always changing, whether we wish it or not. God alone cannot change. Let us, then, embrace the crosses that God sends us and bear them with patience. Remember that He loves us and He knows what He is doing! It is for us to accept the crosses and the joys which God sends us that we might change for the better.

With the departure of one seminarian come thoughts of his "replacement." We are always praying and looking for more seminarians, but in today's "self-centered" society it is more and more difficult to find young men who will respond to God's call. This is where your prayers come in. Please remember this intention daily, that Our Lord will send more laborers into His harvest.

All of us here at St. Joseph Seminary are grateful for your support and prayers. We pray for all of you and wish you a most blessed New Year of 2008. May the Holy Family bless you and your families.

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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