



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2008

The past two weeks have seen a flurry of activity as final preparations were completed for the new school year—our tenth here at St. Joseph Seminary. The many projects being worked on have not kept us from having some time for respite. Especially when the mercury hit 100 on a couple days, we headed for the water. Now the seminarians are back and a new year has begun, with all the excitement and inquisitiveness that it brings.

We welcome our new readers and hope that you will enjoy our monthly newsletter. *The Guardian* serves multiple purposes: it publicizes the seminary, acquainting Catholics with the purpose of a minor seminary and eliciting their prayers; it provides a medium of communication for the students and faculty with their families and friends; and it also serves as a reminder of our need for your support.

As you can see by perusing *The Guardian*, it is not a theological treatise, but rather a review of our daily life. Readers get to peer inside the seminary and see things from the students' standpoint. These young men are

teenagers who have made the sacrifice to come here to pursue their vocation. Some will go on to become priests; others will discern a different vocation; but all will receive a solid and lasting spiritual formation.

Thus we welcome you to another year of sharing in our seminary life. May God grant that this year will be fruitful. We appreciate your time in reading our newsletter, and we ask the benefit of your prayers in return.

## Where does the time go?

by Nino Molina, graduate

August 15<sup>th</sup> is one of the special days for Catholics, because we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is not just a feast of our Blessed Mother—for me, it is also the anniversary of my arrival in this country one year ago.

I have lived in Idaho for one year, and now I leave for the major seminary. As I recall the past year, I cannot believe the time went so fast. Among the four seasons winter was the hard one for me because I was not used to the cold weather. I was shivering until spring, and sometimes even in summer, but my heart has always been warm with love for Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary. I am very thankful to Fr. Benedict and Fr. Gabriel, who were willing to help me anytime I needed their advice. Furthermore, they taught me how to live with God.

I can say to myself that I improved my English with the help of my teachers. I thank

## August/Sept. calendar

### August:

- 25–26 — Seminarians arrive
- 26 — Orientation
- 27 — First full day of classes

### September:

- 3 — Feast of Pope St. Pius X
- 5 — Mrs. Rosalinda Salgado's birthday (seminary secretary)
- 6 — Annual camping trip
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; chanted Vespers
- 12 — Feast of the Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers
- 15 — Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 24 — Feast of Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers
- 26 — Mid-quarter
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

them, and I also thank the Sisters, Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Salgado who cooked for us and were like mothers for me. I was also glad that I had kind and good fellow seminarians. For sure, I will not forget them—especially José, for the moments and time we spent with each other in playing basketball, snow skiing, doing assignments and so forth.

I love this place because it is quiet and peaceful. Besides that, the scenery also is so amazing and beautiful. Moreover, the parishioners here are so kind and helpful that it makes me not want to go but stay here longer. It is time, however, to further my vocation. I am not saying that I will become a priest but I try all my best that God gives me

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Boys Camp in July was a great success.



## Time

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that kind of vocation to save souls. God knows. I remember one of the sermons of Fr. Benedict and also the words of a nun who said to me: "Persevere, and He grants your wish."

I ask your prayer that God allows me to become one of His soldiers to fight the devil and save souls. Thank you and God bless you all. Please pray for me.

## My summer

*by José Castellanos, gr. 12*

This past summer break was an incredible one for me. Let me tell you a little bit about it. After the school year ended I left for Texas. I stayed there for about two days and then went to Mexico to visit my mom, my sisters, and the rest of the family. I was really excited to see all my family again and even to meet my new cousins, nieces and nephews. It had been a few years since I had seen many of my uncles, aunts, and cousins.

When I got there I gave my mom and sisters a really big long hug, then we started talking. We talked for a long time. We also ate after we talked and the food was so good! I think I ate twice as much as I eat here. We ate a typical Mexican food which is called *albondigas*, boiled eggs covered with meat around it and a type of salsa which has a lot more seasonings than salsa here. That gives you an idea of *albondigas*, which are really, really delicious. After that we talked some more.

On the next day we visited my grandparents and the rest of the family. They had prepared a big party for my visit. I was really amazed at all the new little kids I did not know in the family. There were about eight new children in the family and that was just on my mom's side. My grandma on my dad's side had 13 kids and on my mom's side 15, so I really have a lot of relatives. I also got to see all my uncles and aunts, some of whom I had not seen for a few years. I did not even remember what they looked like, but after I saw them and talked to them I remembered all of them, even their names.

I got sick to my stomach too — I think it was from eating vendor's food. But those taquitos were so good that if I went to Mexico again, I probably would eat some more of those taquitos (with their salsa, of course!)

Eventually time was up, the 3 weeks I was spending with my family in Mexico was over. One of my sisters, while saying good-bye said, "Oh, I thought this was a dream that you came and visited us; we did not know when you were going to see us again, so thank you for coming." I almost started to cry right there, but I said to myself: no, I need to be strong and give a good example to my sisters. So I just said yeah, yeah.

Then I went to visit Sandy in Texas. She helps me a lot. We had a very good time there; I worked a little bit there too. It was hot! In Texas I think the average temperature for every

day was 100 degrees outside. It sometimes was even hotter. Finally, my 3 weeks vacation in Texas was up and it was time to return to the minor seminary.

Shortly after I got back to the seminary we had the Boys Camp, and Bryan, Alex and I were the counselors. We had to watch all the boys and if they did something they were not supposed to do, we needed to tell them not to do it; it was actually fun! We also had a good time playing "Capture the Flag" and "Murder in the Night." There were 26 boys this year at the camp and it was great fun.

Well it's back to work now! And very soon school.

## Let us thank God for crosses

*by Angel Bryan Gamboa, gr. 11*

As the time goes by, we learn more and more interesting lessons. Just recently I learned a little story that had quite a great deal of wisdom. I thought it would be nice to share it, and it goes like this:

There was once a very wise man. He was known for always knowing what to do even in the most tangled occasions of life. This man had a disciple who had been following him for many years in order to be like him.

One day, an exceedingly poor family invited them both for dinner. That family lived on one single cow. By milking it they got enough income to feed the cow and themselves. The wise man went into the house, had dinner and left after giving the family some advice. It was nighttime when the wise man told his disciple: "I need you to do something for me."

"Whatever it is I will do it," the disciple answered.

"I want you to go right now and kill the cow of the family that fed us today."

The disciple wavered; he did not know what to do. He thought it would be very ungrateful to do that, after that poor family had fed them. However, he trusted even his life to his master, and so he went on to kill that poor cow. Afterwards they left the town and went on to their next stop.

After a few years, they came back to that very same place, and found out that the family, which was once so poor, had now a mansion and were quite wealthy.

This family again welcomed them. The wise man asked one question: "What happened?" they answered that somebody killed their cow, and in order for them not to starve they all went out and worked with all the strength that God had given them, and were very successful.

The wise man and his disciple left, and it was not until then that the young disciple understood why his master told him to do such a thing.

In the spiritual life, we represent that extremely poor family, and God is the wise man. From this lesson we learn that sometimes when calamities occur, it may seem like God is striking us. He does it because He wants the best for us.

So let us all thank God for all the sufferings that he sends us like the saints did, and above all let us ask Him for the grace to persevere.





*Over the past year a couple of the seminarians helped build a Lourdes Grotto at the home of some parishioners.*



*Sr. Mary Fatima took her vows as an Oblate Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary this past month.*



*One of the exciting activities of the Boys Camp was a hike to the top of Rathdrum Bald Mountain.*



*It was a bit chilly when the boys went tubing on the Coeur d'Alene River.*



*During a heat spell in mid-August, the seminarians went skiing and tubing one last time.*



*A rainbow breaks through the clouds behind the seminary.*



*Even Bosco got in the act when we went to the lake.*



## Support a seminarian

One of the necessary aspects to running the seminary is somehow managing to pay the bills. As you can imagine, most of our seminarians come from large Catholic families, many of whom can afford little of the tuition cost, modest as it is. At the same time, we would not want ever to turn away, for financial reasons, a young man who is being called by God to the priesthood.

To help resolve this difficulty, we have instituted the *Seminary Support Club*. Anyone can join by pledging a monthly donation to our seminary. We encourage you to include our seminary in your monthly budget plans. Along with each month's edition of *The Guardian*, a return envelope is always provided in our mailing. This makes it easy for you to send a monthly check for whatever you can afford.

Another means of helping the seminary is the scholarship program. Through this program donors who are financially able to do so contribute the cost of maintaining a seminarian each month. Those who would like to participate but are unable to afford the entire amount would contribute a part of the monthly tuition fee. This scholarship would then be matched with a deserving seminarian, who would thus become that donor's "adopted" seminarian. (The monthly fee for tuition, room and board per pupil is \$400.)

Similar programs have been in place in the Church in the past. Without such support, the work of seminary training could not continue. Imagine the blessing of helping a young man reach the altar of God, particularly a young man who would otherwise not have been able to become a priest! If you are interested in this program, please contact us, as there are seminarians who need a part of their tuition paid through the scholarship program.

Finally, we ask above all for the alms of your prayers. The 126<sup>th</sup> Psalm poignantly reminds us of the need for God's help with the words: "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it." Our seminary has thus far been successful only by God's help. I am sure that this new school year will not be without its crosses and trials. We can be sure, too, that the devil will not rest and leave us alone. So we ask that you pray daily, especially to St. Joseph, for the success of our seminary. *Spes messis in semine!*

## Remember the Seminary in your Will

Would you like to continue to support the work of forming future priests, even after you leave this world? We encourage you to think about listing St. Joseph Seminary as a beneficiary in your will. The seminary is incorporated in Idaho as a non-profit corporation. We depend entirely on the support of our benefactors to continue this work. May God bless you!

## Our precious vocations

"Father, how many boys do you have?" I must admit, this perennial question becomes a bit tedious. It seems whenever I travel away from the seminary, I must answer it numerous times. Many use it as a sort of conversation starter. On the other hand, it does express the interest of friends in the seminary, so I suppose that I should learn to expect it. So how many students do we have?

Well, since you asked, there will be, again, 7 seminarians this year. That seems to be a recurring number and it is a good one — 7 sacraments, 7 gifts of the Holy Ghost, 7 Joys and Sorrows of Our Lady and of St. Joseph, 7 days in the week, etc. We must always remember, however, that quality is much more important than quantity. On that front I am most pleased with our group this year. They hail from California, Hawaii, Idaho and Mexico. Would that more vocations came from our own nation! As you pray for vocations, pray for a priest from your own parish as well.

While the summer has been quiet, with most of the students gone, we have had several seminarians here for much of the summer. Their help has been greatly appreciated with the various projects. They also were involved in our annual Boys Camp.

As always, we ask for your prayers and support as we begin a new scholastic year. Be assured that we greatly appreciate your financial and spiritual support and pray for our benefactors every day. You are very much a part of this important work. May God bless you and your loved ones!

*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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