



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2008

Without a doubt, the highlight of October for us was the ordination ceremony at Mt. St. Michael. For each of us seminarians, this was our first ordination, and one that will never be forgotten. We also attended (and some of us served) Fr. Kryssov's first Solemn High Mass. These ceremonies were a source of inspiration that should help us in following our vocation.

In choir class recently we have been learning the melismatic chants for the Requiem Mass. In past years, we were not able to sing the entire Requiem Mass in melismatic chant, due to the difficulty of learning the more lengthy Gradual, Tract and Offertory chants. So we just sang these to a psalm tone. But this year we look forward to our high Masses during November, in which we will sing all the chants.

We also make many visits to our cemetery during November. The Poor Souls are forgotten by many today — let us, at least, not forget them. We are happy also to pray for your faithful departed loved ones. May we one day join them in the joys of heaven.

Forgive and God will forgive

by Alex Odom, gr. 12

Has someone ever said or done something uncharitable to you? Afterwards, did you feel the urge to even the score with that person? This has happened to me, and I believe that everyone has experienced the same. In that sense, this article will be applicable to many.

The Gospel of the 21st Sunday after Pentecost illustrates that we ought to be forgiving towards others as God is

towards us. The parable Our Lord gives to the apostles uses the example of the good master and the wicked servant. A master was collecting debts from people, when he came upon a slave who owed him a large sum of money. The servant begged his master to be patient and he would pay all. Moved by pity, the master forgave the servant his debt, but the servant did not exhibit the same kindness as his master. He met a fellow servant who owed him some money, and he demanded to be paid. The other servant begged him to be patient and he would pay all, but the servant had him thrown into prison until all his debt was paid. Now, the master heard of this and was enraged. He ordered the wicked servant to be tortured until his original debt was paid.

The kind master is a figure of God who forgives us our sins whenever we repent of them. We, however, are angry when someone slightly offends us. This offense is as nothing compared to how greatly our sins offend God, and yet God forgives us. Should we not, then, be forgiving? Wouldn't we be treating God unjustly if we weren't forgiving? Now, we don't need to formally forgive someone every time he offends us; but we should accept the small unpleasantness we receive, for the love of God. God will deal with us as we deal with others. Like the good master, he will punish us if we are not forgiving.

The next time someone is uncharitable to you, forgive him, if not out of charity, at least out of knowing that you are benefiting yourself. May God help us all to forgive others, as He forgives us.

November calendar

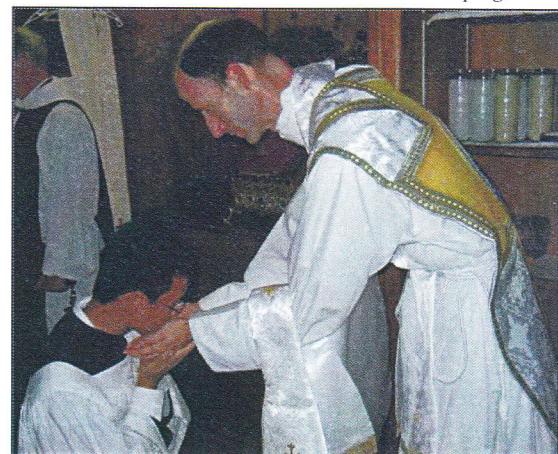
1 — All Saints' Day (Holyday of Obligation)
3 — All Souls' Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
14 — Seminary outing
21 — Feast of the Presentation BVM; chanted Vespers; annual talent show
25 — Bryan's 16 th birthday
27-30 — Thanksgiving Break; no classes

A reason to smile

by Forrest Nguyen, gr. 10

I've never really seen any group Catholic movement. I've seen small groups do small things; and individuals do individual things. All my life has been this way: isolated on an island called California. And though I've been surrounded by hordes of people, I've never seen a Catholic horde.

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One of the seminarians venerates the hands of newly ordained Fr. M. Bernard Welp, CMRI, following the ordination ceremonies.

Reason to smile

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I felt isolated and alone; I knew there were other Catholics in the world, but from what I'd seen, they were few and any outside my sight were a blurred dream — until the Fatima Conference.

Suddenly, I was floored with the vision of thousands of my fellow faithful. They crowded the churches for the Holy Mass. Looking up to the choir loft, I saw hundreds singing hymns I'd never heard before. Just walking down the hallway I was met by Catholics. And by the time I reached the meeting room, everywhere I looked, there they were: real Catholics. There were Catholic men and women . . . and . . . children. Catholic children! Seeing one of those innocents making the Sign of the Cross or holding a Rosary in their tiny hands was a sheer joy. I was so awed by this that all I could do was watch "alone."

Just listening to them was entrancing. All around me, they talked about Catholic things. My entire life has been a starvation for the sound of Catholic things! Catholics talking about Catholic things! I ate my fill.

Soon seeing, hearing, eating weren't enough, I had to meet these people. I spoke to a few; asked a few questions, and on every lip was a Catholic answer. As I spoke they'd smile their shining Catholic smiles. Passersby would smile, too. It was so charming, I had to smile as well. I still am.

Sacerdos in aeternum

by Marcellus Moylan, gr. 12

Certainly the best and most glorious event of the Fatima Conference this year was the ordination ceremony on October 7. A few of us seminarians were given the blessed privilege of being able to serve in the ceremony alongside sixteen priests and the bishop.

Two deacons received the Holy Ghost — the power to call God down upon the altar, the power to forgive sins — they were now "other Christs." *Tu es sacerdos in aeternum* came forth from the choir, sublime and powerful. That was truly awesome! And to be right there, seeing the sacrament of Holy Orders being bestowed, the *Adsum*, the prostration of the ordinandi, the imposition of the hands, the anointing, the concelebrated Mass, was a tremendous grace never to be forgotten.

When the beautiful ceremony was over, we were all eager to receive the blessings of the new priests. Then we kissed their sacred, anointed hands — those hands which, from that day on, would touch the most precious Body of Jesus; those hands which would bestow countless benedictions; those hands which would give comfort to the dying; those hands which would be the instruments of God's mercy and grace. Fr. Bernard Welp, CMRI, and Fr. Alexander Kryssov had made it to the priesthood. *Juravit Dominus et non paenitebit eum: Tu es sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem*

Melchisedech. (The Lord has sworn and He will not repent: Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech.)

Fr. Bernard is stationed at Mt. St. Michael to help the other priests with the large parish. How truly wonderful are God's ways! I am sure that He has some special plan for Fr. Alexander Kryssov in the conversion of Russia. Father is the traditional Catholic priest in Moscow, the city where once the heart of Communism dwelt in the country Our Lady said would eventually be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

Let us not forget them in our prayers, nor all of our devoted priests. Dear readers, pray for seminarians too, that one day these words of the Psalmist may be applied to us: *Tu es sacerdos in aeternum.*

"Pray the Rosary every day."

by José Castellanos, gr. 12

I would like to give you a summary of one of Fr. Benedict's Sunday sermons. He told us how the holy Rosary is a most powerful prayer. (When I am praying the holy Rosary I like to think of each Hail Mary as a bullet and every Our Father as a bomb that kills many devils.)

Father sadly told us that some families who once prayed the Rosary faithfully suddenly stopped praying it. That shows us how we should get into the habit of saying the Rosary devoutly. By praying the Rosary every day Our Blessed Mother will be always with us.

Father also told us that he knows people who converted to the Catholic Church. And when he hears their stories about how they were converted, most of the times it is that they prayed the Rosary, and Our Lady illumined them to see the truth of the Catholic Faith. (So by that we can see that Our Lady rewards extraordinarily those who pray the holy Rosary.) Of course, he also said that those who fell away from the Catholic Church were those who stopped praying the Rosary every day and eventually quit altogether.

This reminds us of a story: There was once upon a time a very devout man, who used to pray the Rosary every day. One day, outside his house, he found a monkey who was friendly and so he decided to take it inside his house. The monkey was very intelligent. It cooked and cleaned for him. He told a priest about this extraordinary thing that had happened to him. The priest was curious because this was a very abnormal thing, and he was asked by the man to bless his house.

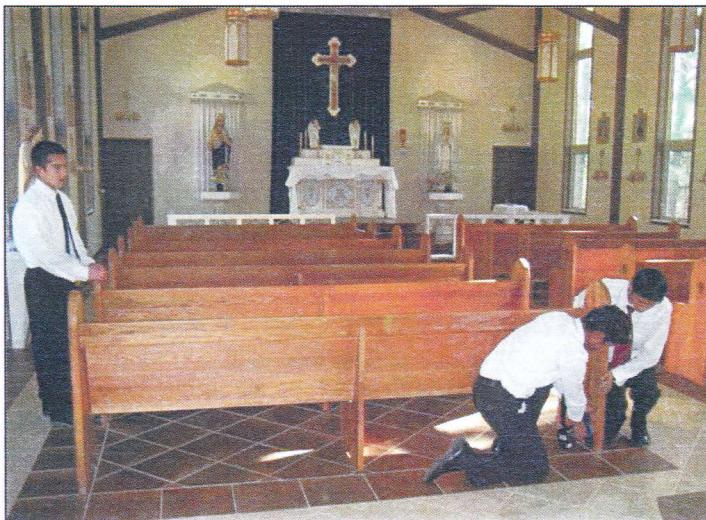
The next day the monkey hid as the priest arrived, causing the priest to start an exorcism. He asked the monkey in the name of God who it was and what it wanted. It revealed itself as a devil who had taken the form of a monkey and was waiting for the man to stop praying the Rosary just once (because he prayed the Rosary every day) so that it could take him to hell. From then on the man changed his life. He also continued to pray the holy Rosary every day for the rest of his life. I'm sure the man is in heaven, enjoying the beatific vision of God and his blessed Mother, Queen of the Rosary.



During the month of November the seminarians make frequent visits to our parish cemetery.



During October we prayed the Rosary publicly each day before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.



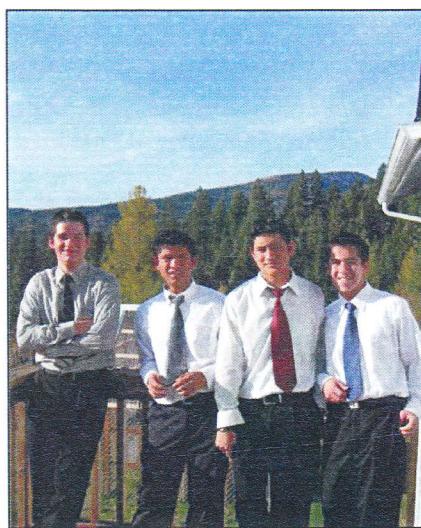
At last the refinished pews are returned to the seminary chapel.



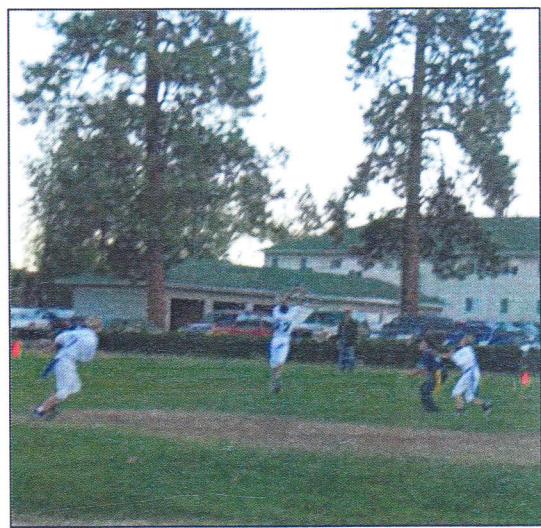
Alex writes his homework assignment on the board during Greek class.



José blows out the candles on his 18th birthday on October 18th.



A group of happy seminarians take a break from their studies.



A blur of football action from one of our recent games.

Difficult but enjoyable

by Juan F. Garcia, gr. 11

Every year we have Theology class. This year, however, we began the first quarter with a book on Bible History, which is a summary of the Old Testament. As usual, Father gave us homework; this time, however, he gave us a different assignment. This was to be an explanation and a drawing of something we liked from our Bible History. We could pick anything from the Book of Genesis up to the Books of the Machabees. To make sure nobody would have the same picture, Father wrote down which topic each had chosen.

The first thing I began drawing was this strange tower (for the Tower of Babel), which took me around three days to outline. Since I forgot my kindergarten talents, I'm not very good at drawing. When it was done it appeared like a big, stout, ten-level cake. I thought I wasn't going to do any better, so I just finished and started drawing the city. I wasn't sure how to draw an old fashioned city, so I copied it from a book. Well, when it was done it looked more like the city of Miami with all the iridescent color I added to it.

After that I was just going to draw some clouds on it, but I decided not to. So I took every blue color that was in my grasp and started drawing a sky. The deadline was approaching and I wasn't finished. I took a few pieces of paper and started rubbing the sky and shaking the table at the same time. "Easy Juan!" said Marcellus who was doing such a detailed work. He told me to move to another table. Once I was done with the sky it actually looked pretty nice.

Then I started painting my "cake," adding a bunch of dark colors. I completed everything the next day and eventually everyone else was done too. As I looked at the wall where the drawings were posted, I realized that they actually looked very nice — from a distance. I want to tell you that drawing is not our forte, but we do enjoy praying for you.

"Dead languages" are living here!

In the second scene of his play Julius Caesar, Shakespeare has Casca say of Cicero's words: "It was Greek to me." Although he did not invent the phrase, the bard doubtless made it famous. Our seminarians are starting to understand

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.

why the Greek language has been so derided as unintelligible, as they have added Greek to their other language classes (Spanish, Latin, and of course, English) this year.

Why study Greek? Not only are many words in our language taken from Greek, the New Testament was almost entirely written in Greek. Many theological terms are also in Greek. In addition to the study of the Greek and Latin languages, the seminarians are completing a college-level workbook on the origins of English words that have come from Latin and Greek. They are also learning Latin phraseology that can be used for spoken Latin. This way, these dead languages will not seem so archaic and unimportant.

A knowledge of Latin certainly helps in learning Greek. Like Latin, Greek has declensions and conjugations, and there are other similarities. The Medieval Latin proverb *Graecum est; not potest legi* (It is Greek; it cannot be read), may make sense to others. Let's hope, however, that after this year, our seminarians will no longer be able to say of something confusing: "It's Greek to me."

Again, we thank all of you for your prayers and support. We pray daily for you and are certain that God will abundantly reward you for your support. Let us all continue to pray that God will send us many more fine young men to be trained for the altar, to become *Other Christs*. 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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