



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2011

Dear seminary friends and benefactors,

The end of the school year has not brought a cessation of activities at the minor seminary. While the pace is certainly much slower than normal, there are still plenty of projects to keep us busy. Right now the seminarians are preparing and painting the remainder of the upstairs bedrooms. Last summer 10 of the rooms were textured and painted; now 6 of them remain to be finished.

Currently there are four seminarians here: Juan and Mathias, together with two visiting seminarians from Omaha. They have been a great help to Fr. Bernard and me with all the grounds work, care of the animals, and other projects. They will also assist in the annual boys' camp in a couple weeks as counselors. They have also been a great help with the liturgy, especially the recent Corpus Christi procession.

By far the greatest highlight of our month of June was the ordination of two new priests at Mt. St. Michael. Needless to say, all of us from St. Joseph Seminary were on hand for the moving ceremony. For the priests, it was a happy reminder of our own ordination; for the seminarians, an inspiration to continue the sacrifices necessary to reach the altar of God.

Although our June weather has been mostly cool, we know that the real heat of summer is around the corner. July and August will provide the seminarians with an opportunity to do some camping and swimming, in addition to the various summer chores we have lined up. Please continue to pray for our seminary, especially for more vocations. As of this writing, there are several young men still weighing their decision to enter the minor seminary. Pray for

them and for all those who have heeded the call to follow Christ.

We thank you for your interest and support. Please continue your much needed support and prayers for the formation of future priests, who will work in the Lord's vineyard. Be assured of a daily remembrance in our prayers. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you and your loved ones with an abundance of His grace and mercy.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

The Our Father

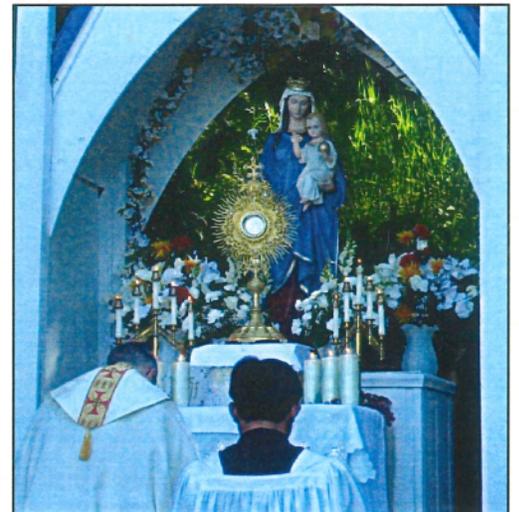
by Justice Ingham, gr. 10

The *Our Father* or "Lord's Prayer" has an undeniably great value, as Christ was its author. We can conclude that, due to the Divine Composer, such a prayer would have an enormous spiritual worth, seeing it so pleased God to institute it through His Son saying: "*When you pray, pray thus: Our Father Who art in heaven....*" Clearly, this prayer is one that Christ wishes us to pray. We can benefit greatly from a frequent recitation of this prayer. A great spiritual writer said that the *Our Father* surpasses all the desires of the saints, that it is a condensed form of all the beautiful sayings of all the Psalms and Canticles, that in it we ask God for everything we need, that by it we praise Him in the very best way, and that by it we lift up our souls from earth to heaven and unite them with God.

Our Lord, knowing our weaknesses, made His prayer unsophisticated and simple to memorize and recite. Frequent recitation of it is a good way to strengthen ourselves when undergoing temptation towards sin.

So the obvious importance of the *Our Father* must be considered and time provided for its recitation. We, the faithful should pray with certitude, knowing that the eternal Father will hear us, simply because it is the prayer of His Son, whom He always hears and of whom we are His members.

Also, St. Augustine, a great doctor of the Church, said that "a sincere recitation of the *Our Father* can eliminate one's venial sins." It is no wonder that the prayer which Christ established far outweighs those published by men. We must not disapprove of prayers written by saints, for surely many were inspired by Christ, but it cannot be that we prefer any of these over the prayer which was uttered by Wisdom Incarnate. For those who say *Our Lord's Prayer*, who comprehend and dwell upon those sacred words, weighing each of them carefully, may indeed call themselves blessed, for they find therein everything that they need or could wish for.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the outdoor altar.

Our goal

by Abram Sharkey, gr. 12

As we approach the end of the year,
we think back to what we have done,
we remember the classes we took,
when the school had just begun,

Our interest in certain subjects,
our distaste in all the rest,
though our preferences didn't matter,
as we labored before our desks,

Homework would be assigned,
before we could escape,
and so we would write it down,
with a pen we borrowed from a mate,

And then the bell would ring,
announcing freedom to all,
chairs would clatter over,
as we grabbed our bags from the wall,

In this way our lives continued,
throughout the dawn of our youth,
and though for some it is changing,
they realize the utmost truth,

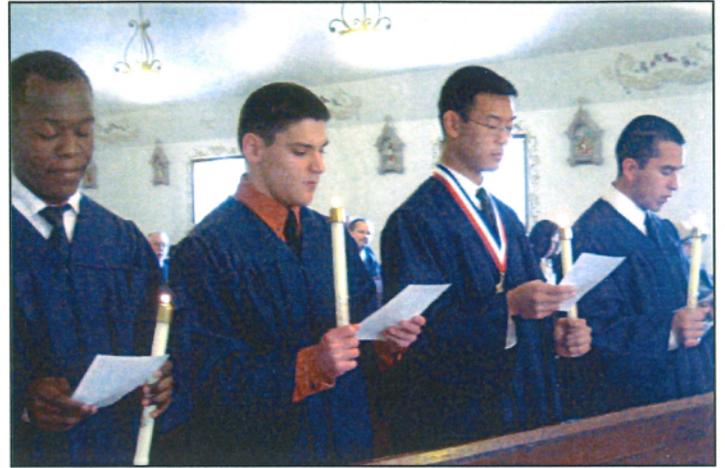
This life is but a school,
and we never cease to learn,
about God and His creation,
and the beauty at each turn,

For this is but the walk,
and heaven is the rest,
but we must strive to get there,
to meet the Redeemer blessed,

And so let us learn,
and make it to our goal,
forever to be happy,
in the arms of our love and our all.



Staff and students of the seminary posed for a group photo near the end of the school year.



After receiving their diplomas, our graduates recited the customary pledge to Christ the King.



At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, our graduates posed for a photo with His Excellency, Fr. Benedict and servers.



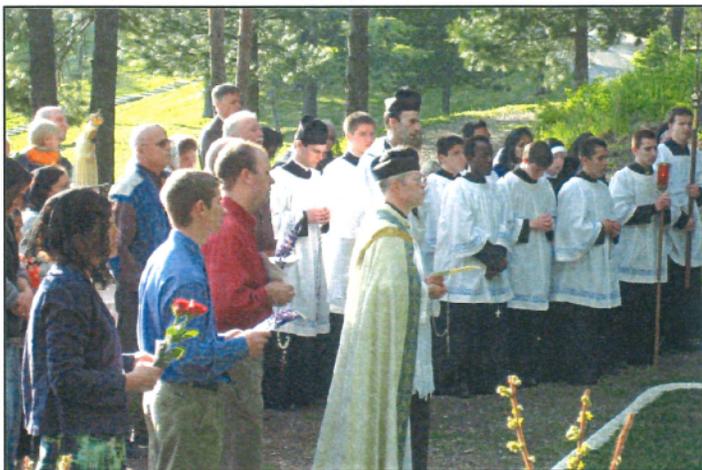
Our annual Queenship procession was held on May 31st.



The outdoor shrine of Our Lady as it looked the morning of the Corpus Christi procession.



The Corpus Christi procession approaches the outdoor altar at Our Lady's shrine.



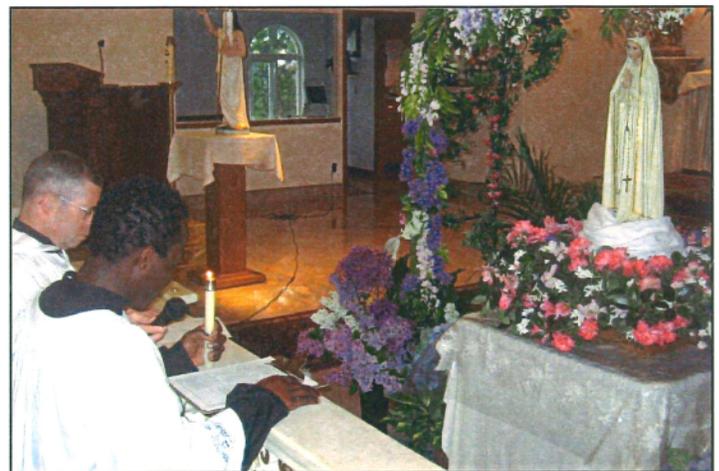
During the Queenship procession we paused at Our Lady's shrine for the presentation of flowers to Our Lady.



Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the outdoor altar.



The Blessed Sacrament, covered by the canopy passes through one of the outdoor arches during the procession.



At the conclusion of our Queenship ceremonies, Mathias made his act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

The dwelling place of God

by Mathias Nwankwo, graduate

It can be said that the tabernacle is the most holy place in the whole world. What makes it the most holy place? Of course, it is Jesus Christ who dwells in the tabernacle, that makes it holy. Why did Our Lord make the tabernacle His dwelling place? He made it His dwelling place, so that He can bring us closer to heaven through the daily reception of His Body and Blood in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

But why must we receive Our Lord? We must receive Him because He stated it. You remember Our Lord saying “*he who eats my body and drinks my blood will attain everlasting life.*” Not only that! This great sacrament is the cooperation between heaven and earth. It is the only way Our Lord dwells in us, and we in Him.

Oh, what a great mystery and marvelous work that He has confided to humanity! Oh, how great is His wisdom and knowledge! Just look at how His love is widely spread throughout the universe. Is it not proper that we receive Him often?

I think it is proper that we receive Holy Communion as often as possible. Even though sin comes our way, thereby making us unworthy or unprepared to receive Our Lord, do not waver. Rather, take this procedure: Go to confession. Perform your penances diligently. And commence as soon as possible to receive Our Lord again. For He is the only way to everlasting life.

“Non surrexit major”

One of the saints who provides a model of inspiration to seminarians is St. John the Baptist. It was he who prepared the way for Christ, disposing men’s minds and hearts by his prayer, preaching and example, to accept the Gospel. St. John pointed out the Redeemer to his followers, using words we recite daily at Mass: “Behold the Lamb of God...” For many reasons, this great saint is a model for seminarians, who hope one day also to lead souls to Christ.

Sadly, however, he is a saint little known and venerated in our country. Catholic societies of the Middle Ages fostered a much greater devotion to this saint, who along with St. Joseph are the only saints listed by Holy Mother Church in her litany after Our Blessed Mother but before the angels. The Church ranks them even above the apostles.

The reason for this is not hard to understand. St. Joseph, of course, had the singular privilege of being the foster father of



Father blesses the bonfire for St. John’s feastday.



Seminarians tear out the dry wall in the laundry room.

the Son of God, while St. John was Our Lord’s precursor. Their election to serve so intimately the Divine Redeemer merited for them unique graces, above all the other saints, with Our Blessed Mother alone excepted.

For these reasons, we celebrate the feast of St. John here at the seminary. Our Lord called him a “bright and shining light,” so this year we adopted the traditional Catholic practice of holding a bonfire on the eve of his feast. The Roman Ritual even provides a blessing for this bonfire. Several years ago a few courageous seminarians (unknown to their rector) thought they would try something novel to honor him on his feastday, so they ate some grasshoppers, recalling of course that the food of this saint was locusts and wild honey!

Let us all recall this great saint who received the greatest commendation from Our Lord, who said that of all men born of women, there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist (*Non surrexit major Joanne Baptista.*) May we share at least a little of his love for Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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