



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

July 2014

**A**t the conclusion of the school year, Most Reverend Bishop Mark Pivarunas visited our church in order to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. Let us pray for these young soldiers of Christ who will soon have to face the world as we know it. Also, around the conclusion of the school year, we held our annual Queenship procession. This beautiful tradition, which includes saying the rosary in procession to the outdoor shrine of Our Blessed Mother, is one of the main processions that we have here at the City of Mary. The other is the Corpus Christi procession, which was held this year on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Although it often takes place after school is out, it is the paramount procession of the year. Several days, even weeks, are spent in advance to prepare the lawns and set up the decorations along the pathway to both the shrine of Our Lady and the shrine of the Sacred Heart. Our parishioners certainly go all out to prepare for the event.

During the month of July the yearly Boys' Camp is held at the seminary. The camp is not only filled with wholesome fun and exercise, but also with spiritual encouragement. It provides Catholic boys with a chance to associate and interact with each other outdoors under the auspices of our dedicated priests.

We are now nearly half-way through the summer break. As we all know, rest and relaxation are good and necessary for both body and soul. But as with anything else, it must be done in moderation. For a student, especially a seminarian, it is also good and necessary to have in mind at least a general schedule, or time frame, for prayer and

just to get things done during the summer. Another good practice is to pick one short prayer to recite all day. There are many short prayers or ejaculations that can be said throughout the day to resist temptation; they need not be very long. The important thing to remember is to have the right intention. In other words, as long as you truly wish to avoid sin and do good, God will come to help you. One very good ejaculation is: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

We also strongly encourage the recitation of the rosary. And when it comes to the number of people praying the rosary, the more the better! Reception of Holy Communion is, of course, encouraged as well. What a blessing for those who are able to receive every day! During this month of the Precious Blood of Jesus, let us thank God for the blessings He has bestowed upon us and pray that we never grow cold or indifferent toward the most precious privilege of going to Holy Communion.

In conclusion, let us refresh ourselves in body and soul during the summer, being constantly watchful for the attacks of the enemy. Let us also look for a perfectly balanced schedule that avoids laziness, particularly in the prayer life, but will also reinvigorate us in body and soul.

## Ode to cooks

*Jordan Hartman, gr. 12*

**H**ere at the Seminary one seldom stops to wonder if the next meal will be prepared or not. For instance, I don't think I've ever caught myself thinking, "I hope the

## July calendar

- 7-11 — Annual priests' meeting in Omaha
- 13-19 — Annual summer Boys' Camp at the seminary
- 31 — Vincent's birthday

cook has remembered to fix our meal." And I've certainly never caught myself reminiscing on a time when one of our meals wasn't hot and ready for us when we sat down to eat. I never before realized how much more you can get done if you don't have to prepare your meal three times every day, all week long. If we, given our schedule, had to prepare all our meals, we wouldn't get half the stuff accomplished that is required of us. That would mean: being careful to not burn the food, providing a well-balanced diet, coming up with different meal plans . . . . The list goes on and on! But, thanks be to God, we don't have to worry about any of this because He has provided us with several punctual, dedicated and creative cooks.

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*Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the outdoor altar of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

## Ode to cooks

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Although the priest has the most solemn privilege of distributing our spiritual food, the cook has an important job as well. And that is keeping our body and soul together. But besides keeping us alive and healthy, by our food we are provided with energy to serve God. And how truly do we need energy to persevere in the spiritual life. It is a constant struggle that requires a constant effort. If we aren't progressing, we are regressing. If you think about it, we are constantly eating to keep up our bodily energy. Maybe this has something to do with *what* we are eating, but this isn't a health-food article, so I'll avoid that topic. We are truly weak beings who are subject to find energy and stay alive by eating food. Of course, as the old saying goes, "We do not live to eat, but we eat to live." We are commanded to eat that which is necessary for us to at least preserve our life and health. Likewise, we must also remember to humbly and gratefully receive our spiritual food, without which there is no salvation.

I know making a meal is no piece of cake — no pun intended — and especially when it comes to feeding several teenage boys day after day. In fact, God said, "In the sweat of your brow, you shall eat your bread." But that is why I am writing this article — not to tell you, dear reader, how helpless we are as cooks (because if the bottom line is that the food has to be at least edible, then I think we could handle it), but to honor our beloved and intrepid chefs who slave away all year long to keep us healthy in body and soul. God bless our cooks!

## Looking over my shoulder

*by Vincent Prado, gr. 11*

This year, stretching from late August until early June, the school year has brought many new thoughts, views, and memories to mind.

I remember my first day at the minor seminary. We got together, along with a couple of canoes, after meeting one another, and set out for a nearby lake. Just a few days later, we traveled to Lake Coeur d'Alene where we continued the fun. Very soon, though, that ended, leaving us to the nine months of school that lay ahead. "Well, since we can't avoid it, let's make the best of it," was our ceaseless thought. We have done that ever since with good-natured jokes, pranks, and stories. The weekends were filled with chores, outdoor games, and Sunday phone calls to our families.

From September to November our days were full of academics, chores, and frequent outings to nearby parks and lakes until the cold weather hit. Once snow blanketed the ground, we found new ways to pass the time such as: building extremely fast sleds, having intense snowball fights, several skiing outings, and roller hockey in the gym. There was always plenty to keep us busy — and we all want to be busy!

Whether it was academics, snow shoveling, or practicing basketball, there was never a dull moment.

Towards Christmas, there were two weeks that I spent with my family and friends at home. It was a necessary break for me, as this past school year was my first away from home. Of course, I didn't escape the totally natural home-sickness.

In January, one of our minor seminarians left for the major seminary in Omaha, Nebraska. We were grieved at the loss, but we were also very happy for him to continue his vocation. His absence meant that washing the dishes would be more frequent for all of us, as would the rest of his chores, but we were only too happy to do them in his honor.

The highlight of the year came with the ordinations of two priests in Omaha on March 25. One of the priests is our own Fr. Anthony. We traveled there via automobile: a 22-hour trip in two days. By the end of each day, grumpy with each other, we fell upon our dinner like ravenous wolves. But this excursion soon ended with our return to Idaho.

With that, the days flew by all the way to the end of the year. Although I have not told you nearly everything, I have given you a taste of what we have done this year. This leads me and everyone else to ask the question, "What will the next school year bring?"

## The L.O.T.R. writer

*by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 11*

Dear friends and readers, in this issue of *The Guardian* I would like to talk about a favorite author, at least to many of us: J.R.R Tolkien, of whom I am a big fan.

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien, born on January 3, 1892, in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to Arthur Reuel and Mabel Tolkien, was the older of two children. His younger brother, Hilary Arthur Reuel, was born in February 1894. John's father was an English bank manager.

Before he was even three years of age he was bitten by a baboon spider while playing in his mother's garden. Some think this incident is one of the reasons he added this in his writings, although as an adult he had no real fear of spiders.

When he was three he and his mother and brother went on a planned lengthy family visit, which ended abruptly when they found out that his father had died of rheumatic fever in South Africa. This left John's family without income. They moved in with his mother's grandparents in Kings Heath, Birmingham. When he was about six or seven he would play in the Clent, Lickey and Malvern hills and at his aunt's farm of Bag End, which later provided some of the settings for his fictional stories.

Tolkien's mother was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1900. She suffered many protests from her old Baptist friends, since she used to be a Baptist. When Tolkien was 12 years old his mother died at the age of 34 from diabetes at Fern College in Rednal, which she was renting. She was buried in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Churchyard.

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*The weather was perfect for our annual Corpus Christi procession.*



*Two children received Our Lord for the first time at the Corpus Christi ceremonies.*



*Fr. Anthony conducted the Corpus Christi procession in Colorado Springs.*



*Fr. Benedict (deacon) and Fr. Molina (subdeacon) assist Fr. Brendan Hughes as he celebrates a solemn Mass on the occasion of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.*



*Members of the Hughes family join His Excellency, Fr. Brendan, and the clergy and servers after Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in St. Cloud, Minnesota.*



*Fr. Benedict was able to visit the chapel at Fatima, marking the spot where Our Lady appeared.*



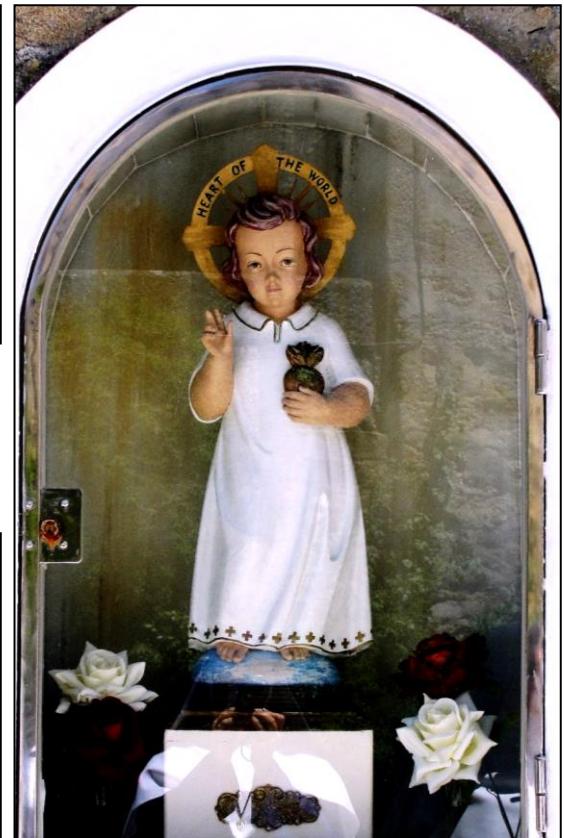
*This beautiful painting in the convent at Pontevedra, Spain, shows how Our Lady and the Christ Child appeared to Sr. Lucia, asking for the devotion of the Five First Saturdays.*



*Fr. Anthony enjoyed fishing on his vacation in Colorado.*



*Fr. Anthony enjoyed a week's vacation with his family in this remote area of Colorado.*



*This statue of the Christ Child in the convent marks the spot on the patio where the Christ Child appeared to Sr. Lucia.*

## The L.O.T.R. author

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Nine years after her death Tolkien wrote the following passage: "My own dear mother was a martyr indeed, and it is not to everybody that God grants so easy a way to his great gifts as he did to Hilary and myself, giving us a mother who killed herself with labor and trouble to ensure us keeping the faith."

During his early teens he and some friends made up a new language called Nevbosh and later invented another called Naffarin. He later used these in his books. When he was about 16 years old he and his brother moved into a boarding house. Here is where he met his future wife, Edith Mary Bratt. Although he was not able to talk, see, or correspond with her until he was 21 (because his pastor had forbidden it), they married in St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church.

During World War I he served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant. After the war he had four children — three boys and one girl. Tolkien was always devoted to his wife and four children and all were raised Catholic.

When he went to college at Oxford, he wrote *The Hobbit* and two volumes of *The Lord of the Rings*. These became very popular. During his retirement, from 1959 to 1973, he steadily gained greater public attention and literary fame from his writings. The attention became so intense that he had to take his phone number out of the public directory and moved to Bournemouth, a seaside resort.

His wife died on November 29, 1971, and he died on September 2, 1973.

## "Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother."

Every year we teachers get away from the seminary for a couple weeks for much needed R & R during the summer. Recently, I was blessed to lead a pilgrimage to Fatima and other shrines in Portugal and Spain. Although I had been to Fatima before, this trip was a particularly blessed one for me, as we also visited two convents where Our Lord and Our Blessed Mother had appeared to Sr. Lucia.

One of these apparitions occurred on December 10, 1925, in the Dorothean Convent in Pontevedra, Spain. The Child Jesus at Mary's side was elevated on a cloud of light. He pointed to the heart of Our Lady, which was surrounded with sharp thorns, and exclaimed: "Have pity on the Heart of your

"My Daughter, look at my Heart encircled with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you at least try to console me and announce in my name that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, recite the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to me." (Words of the Mother of God to Sr. Lucia on December 10, 1925)

Most Holy Mother. It is covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation." Our Blessed Mother then spoke and requested the practice known as the Five First Saturdays.

Our Lord again appeared to Sr. Lucia in the following December to urge her again to promote the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Then, while she was praying in the convent in Tuy, Spain, in 1927, she received another apparition of Our Blessed Mother, in which she received permission to reveal the first two parts of the secret of Fatima (the vision of hell on July 13, 1917, and the urgent need for devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.) Finally, while she was praying in the chapel at the same convent in Tuy, in 1929, Our Lady again appeared to Sr. Lucia to request the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

Our blessed visit to these two convents, scenes of such important heavenly messages, reminded me of the urgent need of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Do we take seriously this repeated request of Jesus and Mary of making reparation? I encourage you to be sure to fulfill the request for the First Saturdays. Even though you have likely made the Five First Saturdays, you can still fulfill Our Lady's requests every First Saturday, for the need of making reparation is very great. Let us, at least, remove the thorns which wound the heart of our loving Mother.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary bless each of you and your loved ones, and may they generously reward your support of our seminary. Please continue to pray for our seminary, especially for more vocations.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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