



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2014

Last week six young men gathered from four different Western states to begin a new school year at the seminary. Jordan, our lone senior, comes from Arizona for his 4th and final year. Dominic lives in nearby Washington and enters his 3rd year. Vincent, another junior, comes from northern California. The three new seminarians include two Josephs: one from southern California and one from northern California. Both are in the 8th grade. Then there is Mark, who lives in northern Idaho just down the road from the seminary. We are also praying for the two foreign applicants and hope that they will soon be in our ranks.

In addition to the students, there are three men who live here, teach us, and keep us in line. There is Fr. Benedict, the rector, Fr. Anthony, his assistant, and Mr. Gerard Keaveney, a new addition to the teaching staff. We are also blessed with the labors of our fine cooks and the secretary, all of whom assure that things run smoothly.

Our classes this year include theology and Latin (of course), math, English, biology, economics, speech and computer. And let's not forget P.E.! We also hope to have some organized flag football and basketball games, which were not possible last year due to insufficient numbers. All in all, it is shaping up to be a great year, and we count on your prayers to help us. We know that the year will pass by quickly, and so we are determined to make the most of it by cooperating with God's grace and working hard at our studies. Of course, we will also remember you, the members of our support club, in our prayers.

Ora et labora

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 12

The heat of summer has reached its climax and is now on a slow descent that will soon give way to fall weather. It's time again to start school. I keep trying to convince myself that I had a long break and that it's time to get serious about school. Indeed I had a good break and did a lot of things, but when I look back at my summer I think to myself, What did I do again? It went so fast that I felt as though I had never left the seminary. However, the beginning of the school year is my favorite part.

The beginning of a new school year is always exciting and filled with fun activities. It is also the time when our trees are loaded with fruit and just about ready to be picked. The plums are always the first thing we harvest. We have recently started to can the truckloads of plums that grow in our orchard. Soon we will be picking apples to make apple cider and apple sauce — a lot of hard work, but with its rewards.

We all get assigned different chores at the seminary. Some are enjoyable, others less so, but all are important. For example, you might get the task of taking out the trash, or being a sacristan (a privilege that includes setting up and taking down for Mass). Chores also include the weekly

September calendar

- 3-4 — Seminary outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene
- 5 — Our secretary's birthday
- 8 — Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; special observances
- 9 — Jordan's birthday
- 12 — Feast of the Holy Name of Mary; chanted Vespers
- 15 — Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 24 — Our Lady of Ransom; chanted Vespers; Mid-quarter; no homework
- 29 — Feast of St. Michael the Archangel

cleaning of the seminary. A crew is assigned to either the upstairs or the downstairs for one quarter of school and then they switch.

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The seminarians pose with Fr. Benedict during the first week of school.

Ora et labora

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But besides chores and school, we get to have a lot of fun at the start of the year. We go on a camping trip to a lake. Sometimes we do water tubing or skiing with some of our very generous parishioners. We go on hikes, have bonfires and visit a cabin which belongs to another charitable couple from our parish.

In conclusion, along with our rigorous and well-rounded schedule, we also get to have a lot of fun. All these wholesome activities help to refresh our constancy in persevering both in prayer and academics. It's good to be busy. If you're busy and concentrating on your work or play then you won't have time for the temptations of the devil. There is a famous saying of St. Benedict: *Pray and Work*. I think he was trying to stress in his rule the importance of keeping busy in wholesome activities. But don't we all need work and prayer even if we aren't monks or seminarians? I think the answer is yes, and I hope you do too.

The waves of wonder

by Dominic Pulliam, gr. 11

Imagine a clear blue sky day and a warm breeze wafting through the trees. This was the day we had, but then something happened we did not expect — a journey beyond the borders of St. Joseph Seminary, and before we knew it we were there.

There we were, gathering all the strength we could accumulate, holding onto the two things that would keep us from drowning, simple straps of rope between life and death, knowing that at any moment, with one wrong lean, one could fall into the aquatic abyss below. Rocking back and forth, side to side, and even almost flying was the feeling that we had. All we could see was the bright blue horizon, the wavy water, and a speeding boat. Have you guessed what we were doing? That's right, tubing! Thanks to Mr. LeStage we were able to go out onto Hauser Lake and enjoy the wonderful water, tubing and skiing.

The first two to enjoy this terrifying yet awesome ride were Joseph and me. Joseph had never gone before so I told him the basics — hold on tight and lean. The first part of tubing for us was cool but then something happened. As we were going over a wave I noticed my partner was no longer with me, and for some strange reason I started to laugh because I thought he was catapulted off, but then I found out his arms were in an awkward position on the tube and so he went into the water.

The next two were Joe and Mark. To my dismay Joe ended up falling off. After these two Vincent decided to try water skiing. After Mr. LeStage told Vincent what to do we started off and, to the amazement of us all, Vincent was up and skiing his first try. Looking like a pro, Vincent tressed like no one else his age. After about three turns it was time to

hand over the skis to another person of promising results . . . Joe. When his feet were firmly fitted into the rubber shoes of the skis, he was ready to set out on a wet adventure. On his first try he fell into the water. Then he tried again and made it. When the time came for us to stop skiing, another daredevil came to light — Timmy LeStage. Except he wake-boarded. He was a natural and very skilled in handling the waves.

Then the time came for us to depart. Full of excitement, we realized that this was not our last day of fun but only the beginning of a year of adventure for the six of us. At length we departed from the beautiful lake for the seminary, where we enjoyed a welcome home and a wonderful dinner.

The importance of a Catholic education

by Vincent Prado, gr. 11

If someone were to ask himself why it is important to have a Catholic education, he would be appalled at the stunning differences between a typical secular school in our modern society and a Catholic school with upright moral teaching. The fact is that nowadays almost all public schools have immoral teachings and, sorry to say, students.

Due to our corrupt society some of the teachings are totally against God's commandments. It isn't the fault of the student or the parents for allowing their children to attend for

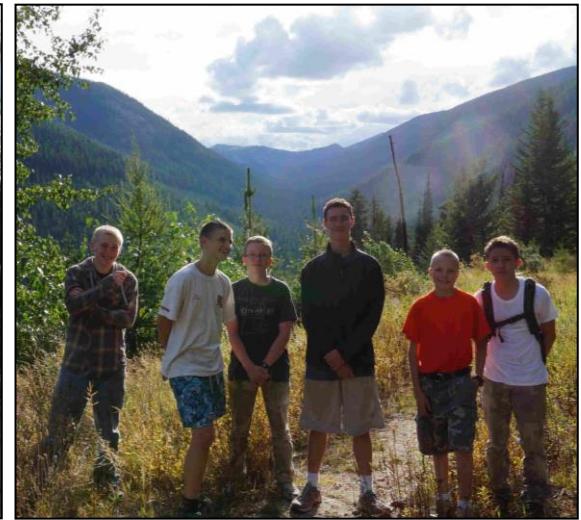
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One of the boys in the parish helps Fr. Anthony on one of the many summer projects completed prior to the school year.



There were plenty of plums to be harvested in our orchard this year.



Our recent camping trip took us, once again, to beautiful Mirror Lake.

We hiked in beautiful northern Idaho, not far from Canada.



The seminarians stopped at a fish hatchery on their camping trip.

Several seminarians get ready for their tubing and skiing adventures.



Dominic and Joseph, riding the wake at Hauser Lake.



It's Mark's and Joe's turn on the tube.



Vincent got up on skis on his first try.

The importance of a Catholic education

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they do not know any better. It is a ruse of the devil to trick people into thinking that this is the only form of education. It brainwashes students into thinking that what they learn at school are the right morals. There are some things that were greatly frowned upon decades ago but now are encouraged. And people have no idea!

These teachings are now pressed upon a student and he/she thus becomes another indoctrinated subject of immorality. Whoever it is now has no idea if he/she is doing wrong for they have been told it's okay. Drug use is prevalent along with the acceptance of same-sex marriage and you can only guess what else in public schools. And once he/she graduates, then it's on to college where the immorality problem is multiplied. Immorality is blatant and public, and no one lifts a lone finger to do anything because they simply do not care. But by then it is too late to distinguish between what's right and wrong. It becomes a part of their life. (I'm not saying that one shouldn't attend college; I am just pointing out the danger.)

We at St. Joseph Seminary have the ultimate privilege of having the complete opposite. Our education is the most perfect we could ever ask for. Filled daily with a marvelous balance between normal academics, prayer, physical labor and sports, we have every aspect of our lives taken care of each and every day. That is why *everybody* ought to have a Catholic education — because it is where goodness thrives. It is the place wherein morality prospers.

A saint a day

Spiritual reading is an important part of the daily routine at the seminary. The seminarians are given a list of books for each grade level and are expected to read at least one book per month. All the books on the list have been chosen due to their exceptional quality, calculated to inspire young men to live a life of virtue.

In one sense, you might say that spiritual reading is as important as prayer. Prayer is when we talk to God, but good reading is when God speaks to us. He inspires us, especially through the lives of His saints. We read about their struggles and victories and are encouraged to persevere in carrying our daily crosses as they did.

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 Latin, theology, 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.

Another of the wonderful practices we have at the seminary is that of reading every night, at the beginning of night prayers, the life of the saint for the following day. These heroes of our holy Faith have gone before us to show us the path to follow. By reading about their holy lives we are spurred on to imitate them, however feeble our efforts at the acquisition of virtue are when compared to theirs.

I heartily recommend this practice to you all. Look for a copy of Butler's Lives of the Saints or any good book with short biographies of the saints. These wonderful men, women, boys and girls are our elder brothers and sisters in the Mystical Body of Christ. They have gone before us and beckon us to follow. May we all learn more about them, that we might live like them.

Please continue to pray for our seminary. Your prayers are important, that these young men may cooperate with God's grace and grow spiritually. We are grateful for your support and assure you of our prayers in return. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may we all become saints!

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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