



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2014

During the month of October we played seven games of flag football with two other schools. The games were very competitive and exciting for everyone. We have enjoyed them a lot, and we look forward to having more games next year. Now we are moving into basketball season.

Also during this month we attended the Fatima Conference. The theme was "Fatima and the Great Apostasy." The speakers were His Excellency Bishop Pivarunas, Fr. Benedict, Fr. Casimir, Fr. Dominic, Fr. Brendan, Fr. Francis Miller, Fr. Bernard Welp and Mr. Knight. The talks they gave were most informative, and we learned a lot.

We have also been praying the Rosary daily before the Blessed Sacrament exposed. This is a practice that has been followed at the seminary during the month of October for many years. Also, just last Sunday we celebrated the glorious feast of Christ the King. We always look forward to this feast, which reminds us to acknowledge the Kingship of Christ. We celebrated the feast with a High Mass with incense, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We always enjoy the opportunity to serve a High Mass with incense because of how beautiful the ceremony is.

We must also never forget the Poor Souls in purgatory. These souls need our help so that they can get to heaven. They cannot help themselves. If we help them, they will in turn help us by praying for us. A great way we can help these poor souls is by means of the Toties Quoties indulgence. What you do is to go into a chapel and pray six Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glory Bes. Then you walk out of the chapel, re-

enter and do it again. You can gain a plenary indulgence for a Poor Soul every time you do this exercise on All Souls' Day under the usual conditions.

Finally, the apples . . . . God, as we know, gave apples to men for their benefit as food. There are also some sayings with apples like "An apple a day keeps the doctor away" or "An apple a day keeps cavities away." Another, which I like, is "An apple a day will keep anyone away if thrown hard enough." But seriously, here at St. Joseph Seminary God has blessed us with a bunch of trees that never seem to run out of apples. We have been making apple sauce, apple cider, and also jam, all of which are quite delicious. But like everything we make, we have to work hard at it; sometimes it's difficult, but we get the job done.

— a seminarian

## Seasonal ruminations

by Jordan Hartman, gr. 12

It's that time of year again. The time of year when the leaves of many trees begin to turn the most magnificent hues: red, golden orange and many more. The time of year when gardens die and the last fruits and vegetables are harvested. The days grow dark more quickly, and colder too. Perhaps even the traces of frost are visible in the early morning. Ominous, dark clouds and blustery, northern winds augur a snowstorm looming up to strike in the near future.

Our back lawn at the seminary gets carpeted every year with a thick blanket of

## November calendar

- 1 — All Saints' Day; Seminary outing
- 3 — All Souls' Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 3-10 — Octave of All Souls; daily visits to the cemetery
- 19 — Daniel's birthday
- 21 — Presentation of Mary; Seminary outing
- 26 — Seminary Talent Show
- 27-30 — Thanksgiving Break; no classes

golden cottonwood leaves. The entire earth seems to fade into hibernation as, day by day, the once vivid, green plants turn brittle and brown. The pine trees alone retain a hopeful, green color in their harsh needles. These are some of the aspects, somewhat unprofessionally captured by my meandering observations.

Having reflected thus, I wish to broach another subject, using autumn as

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*Our sodality reception ceremony was held on October 13<sup>th</sup>.*

## Seasonal ruminations

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my analogy. The season mirrors the spiritual and temporal life of man in some aspects, one being that eventually we will all die — a necessary yet morbid contemplation at best. Yet in the majestic pine trees one can still glimpse hope. This thought can apply best to our modern times, since we now find ourselves in the “fall season” of the life of the Church. But we have God’s promise that He will never abandon us, provided that we do not abandon Him.

Another possible thought applying to our lives is that in the fall everything appears to die around us, just as in our lives we may face difficulties and hardships. Nevertheless, we must persevere, for our troubles will and must end, just as fall and winter must give way to spring. We should, however, rejoice in times of difficulties and hardships, for God sends these to us as tests by which we may each prove our love for Him. God, in His infinite wisdom, will never give us more than we can handle.

I hope, dear reader, that you too can meditate upon the plethora of examples reenacted annually for us by the seasons and take them to heart for the betterment of your spiritual and temporal life. I hope you have found my amateur reflections upon this season helpful and also wish you a most blessed autumn!

## Lessons of the Passion

*by Vincent Prado, gr. 11*

**H**ave you ever loved someone or something so much that you felt that your own heart would burst from sheer love? Now, multiply that feeling by a hundred, or even a thousand. Yet you’ve only begun to arrive at the amount of love that God has for each and every one of us. In fact our Creator loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us, to die a horrible death for our sins. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden the gates of heaven were shut against the human race. But God fulfilled His promise by sending Jesus Christ to save us all from sin.

We already know of the suffering of Christ, for we hear and read of it quite often. We are very familiar with all the pains of the Passion. Then why do we, time and time again, offend Him with our filthy deeds, our heinous sins. It is because we lack the love God has for us. It is true we cannot nearly obtain the same immense love, but we can at least to some degree give our love to God as best we can; we can at least cease to sin.

So many times during His Passion, Jesus could have given up or stopped some of the extreme pain which He had to suffer. In the Garden of Olives Jesus was tempted to escape the redemption. On the Cross the Jews mocked Him saying that if He were the Son of God He should come down from the Cross. No, instead He suffered every bit of pain over and

beyond what a normal man could do. He gave every ounce of His strength for our salvation. He gave all of this out of love.

So if you are tempted to think that when you have a problem God has forsaken you, think again. Think of Christ’s Agony in the Garden of Olives, His cruel scourging, His crowning with thorns, and His brutal crucifixion. Remember that Jesus thought of you then and that He always thinks of you. Remember that He died on the Cross for love of you and that He always will love you. Since love was given to us by God, let us return it to Him with wholehearted fervor. If we love Him with all our hearts, then we will not offend Him by sin.

## After-school activities

*by Mark Vincent, gr. 10*

**A**fter school here at the seminary, there is recreation, chores, and/or study hall. Now our recreations are what I will write about. First of all, it is football season right now and we get a lot of that in our schedule. On Wednesdays and Fridays we have been playing games with a team in Spokane, Washington (Mount St. Michael), and another in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. We have received our challenge boldly and are doing the best we can despite our small team. In other words, we are doing really well with football, having a few grade school and high school students to fill in the gaps.

Another sport we will start getting into fairly soon will be roller hockey on the pavement and in the gym. Everyone has confident feet in skates — at least those who have at least some experience on skates. One of the drills we do in our practices is a game in which the idea is to fling the puck in between the other person’s skates while constantly moving with or without the puck. It breaks out a sweat and is much like regular hockey, although it does not have the official rules.

Since football season is quickly advancing on us, it is time to prepare for basketball, soccer, and hockey, as sports to rely on for the winter. Volleyball is also a very involved game which usually brings in quite a few people. We have a few tall people who can easily spike the ball over the net.

Aside from team sports, we also have a good deal of indoor activities. There is chess, which is usually played by Joe, Fr. Benedict, and me. The best time to do these things is after school or between classes, when we have five-minute breaks. Two more indoor sports are pool and table tennis. There is almost always somebody playing pool; quite often there are a couple people playing table tennis. Don’t let me forget musical instruments. Jordan is usually composing songs on a program called Muse Score and putting them into effect on the piano.

Vincent and I play the guitar and practice together once in a while. All other seminarians have similar talents. For example, Dominic plays the piano and Joe plays the bass, although he could not bring it here to play in front of us.

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*Jordan and Dominic assist Father in preparing incense before the Gospel, on the feast of Christ the King.*



*The seminarians had the privilege of carrying Our Lady's statue during our procession in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary.*



*The seminarians are busy at the books each day during Latin class.*



*Dominic, the quarterback, gets the ball as another play begins on the football field.*



*Archery is one of the sports enjoyed at the seminary.*



*The seminarians enjoy spending time on weekends making movies.*



*On Saturdays and Sundays the cooks take a break and the seminarians prepare their own breakfast.*

## After-school activities

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You can see that we have a pretty well-formed schedule and that there is never a dull moment. I hope that you are just as busy and have an equal amount of fun. God bless you, and enjoy the last bit of beautiful weather before winter sets in.

## Gnats and nuisances

*by Joseph Vines, gr. 8*

Whenever I went camping in California, I would get so upset by the insects that flew onto our food or landed on our heads. Looking back now, I notice that it was really just a little thing I could have offered up. How weak I was! Now, at the seminary, I get more cheerful whenever I have to make my bed or do other chores I dislike. This is very important to think of, because when we die we will be saddened by all the little things we could have done for the benefit of our soul.

Screaming and crying we came into this world, but ending it we should be quiet and patient, not yelling or complaining. Rather, we should be like Our Lord on the Cross, dying patiently and forgiving. We should, as good Catholics, strive to be good models and imitators of Christ.

Our human nature is so weak that we need guidance on how to follow God's will accurately, like little sheep. St. Francis gives us a very good way of making sure we stay on the path of truth: "Preach the Gospel always; when necessary use words." How much better we would be in the eyes of God if we only focused our energy on getting ourselves into heaven by preaching (as St. Francis suggests) and doing good works for the greater glory of God.

I may catch myself watching other young men serve Holy Mass and picking out things they do as incorrectly assisting the priests. I think to myself, "Man, this guy should brush up on his rubrics!" Then, when it's my turn to serve, I proudly smile and think of how good a job I do. Instead, there is another server in the back trying to focus on the Mass and seeing me, he can't help but laugh inside. I will have to thank God after my next time serving, for the humiliation I get when I drop incense or trip on my cassock. Without this help, I would be still thinking about how good I am at serving.

We are all human and humans make mistakes. If you see some poor soul doing something seriously wrong then tell them or at least pray for them, but if you notice something

small in someone's way of life that bugs you, then offer it up or humbly ask them to stop.

Let us remember the life of our Blessed Mother Mary. In every statue of Mary we see that her mouth was always small and her eyes were very big. In this we think of how Mary was slow to find fault in everyone she met and quick to help those in need of her assistance. Mary didn't ask God to punish a person based on the way that person hurt her; she simply offered that sacrifice for the love of God and prayed for the unfortunate soul who would soon become her child.

## A "Holy and Wholesome Thought"

Several times during the year we include intention cards in our mailings, for you to use to send us the names of loved ones to be remembered in our various novenas and seasonal devotions. Of all these, the intention card for the Holy Souls during November receives the largest response. What a beautiful tribute to our love and concern for the Poor Souls, that so many send in the names of their loved ones to be remembered in our prayers!

We could say that concern for the Poor Souls is the mark of a faithful Catholic. Our faith teaches us that the faithful departed who are in purgatory cannot pray for themselves. They cannot receive the sacraments, nor gain indulgences, nor perform any other meritorious works. All they can do is suffer.

But we can help them immensely. If we could but listen to their voices, we would hear the most heart-rending appeals for help. How could we possibly turn a deaf ear to their pleas? Rather, let us do all we can, in true charity for these suffering souls. St. Francis de Sales assures us that all the works of mercy are contained in helping the Poor Souls. Let us do so generously, by means of the sacraments, prayer, sacrifices, devout attendance at Mass, charitable works, and by the gaining of indulgences. I also encourage you to consider making the Heroic Act, to alleviate the sufferings of these fellow-members of the Mystical Body.

Let us all resolve to use this month well, to release as many souls from purgatory as possible, remembering that "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (II Mach, 12:46).

Again, we thank you for your support and prayers. Be assured of our prayers in return. May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones, and may He assist us all to persevere on the path to heaven.

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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**St. Joseph Seminary  
15384 N. Church Rd.  
Rathdrum, ID 83858-7650**