



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly Newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

May 2016

The month of May is one of great devotion to Our Lady. Every year, people prepare themselves for the Act of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary according to the method of St. Louis Marie De Montfort. This is a wonderful thing to do, for we give everything to Our Lady to dispose of as she wishes. She keeps all our virtues in a treasure chest, there to be safeguarded from our enemies, who want to take them from us. She is an ever-watchful, loving Mother, whom we should call upon when we are in need of her assistance. She will always come to our aid immediately, ready to defend us and place us under her mantle, there to be safe from all dangers.

Besides preparing for the Total Consecration, we have been working on making shrines to Our Lady in the classroom and in the chapel. We will be reciting our daily May devotions in the chapel in front of the statue of Our Blessed Mother, followed by the May crowning each day this month.

Recently, we have been busy getting all our spring tools in good, working condition, and also repairing Our Lady's outdoor shrine. Fixing the lawn mowers and weed-whackers took a good amount of time out of our recreation, but it's well worth it as long as they don't malfunction while in use! We want all of the work to be done well and with a good spirit. For if we all work together, we can get things done much faster, and then have more time to do other things, like recreation.

Fr. Anthony and some others have been working quite hard on getting things ready, not only for springtime, but also this year's summer Boys' Camp. Paintball courses are being cleaned up

and disc-golf courses have been cleared of brush. Many things are in progress to make this Boys' Camp a great success and fun for all! It will be a lot of work, but it will all be done for the greater honor and glory of Our Blessed Lord and His Heavenly Mother.

Couldst thou not watch one hour with me?

by Benedict Pulliam, gr. 9

Being able to spend time with Our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament, is one of the most amazing feelings that I have experienced. Just being in His presence fills me with a peace that I can find nowhere else. Just imagine, dear reader, Our Lord is there for you to talk to and to present to Him all of your troubles. He and His Heavenly Mother are the ones whom you can really count on to find comfort for all your sorrows, and I know this from experience. It's the best feeling to know that they really do listen to you. All we need to do is to ask and place all our trust in the Heavenly King and Queen, and they will do what they know is best for our welfare. That is where we need to cooperate with Divine grace.

Even Christ made a holy hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, with His apostles. "Watch ye: and pray that you enter not into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mark, 14:38). He begged His Heavenly Father to let His chalice pass from Him; however, He surrendered to the will of His Father and not His own.

May Calendar

- 1 – Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker; special observances
- 3 – Rogation Procession
- 4 – Mid-quarter
- 5 – Feast of the Ascension; Holyday of Obligation; seminary outing
- 11 – Ordinations in Omaha
- 24 – Benedict's 15th birthday
- 26 – Feast of Corpus Christi
- 29 – Corpus Christi procession
- 30 – Memorial Day; no classes; Queenship Procession
- 31 – Feast of the Queenship of Our Lady; renewal of Total Consecration

Nobody else knows what's going on between you and Our Lord, or what you're telling Him. Nowadays, people forget to thank Him for all that He does for them. He helps us quite often in so many ways, that it just seems like a normal day for us. For all you know, He could have helped you with that certain problem that seemed hard to figure out, but suddenly the answer came to you.

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The Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church during opening ceremonies of the Forty Hours.

Couldst thou not watch one hour with me?

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Making a holy hour is a wonderful time to thank Jesus for all the little things He does for us each day. Some prayers I highly recommend are the Fatima prayers: "My God I believe, I adore, I trust, and I love Thee...." This is a moment between you and God, a moment for prayer and making a complete resignation to His Divine will.

Mary's Greatness

by Clayton Wright, gr. 12

Ah, how great it is to have Mary as our mother! How thoughtful Jesus was when He gave us His Mother as He was dying on the Cross. "When Jesus therefore had seen his Mother and the disciple standing whom he loved, he saith to his mother: *Woman, behold thy son.* After that He saith to the disciple: *Behold thy mother.* And from that hour the disciple took her to his own" (John, 19: 26-27).

Our Queen and mother does so much for us: she dispenses graces, calms the anger which God has because of our many sins and is a protector of even the most sinful yet repentant people. Her love for us surpasses any mother's love, for we are her children and she wishes us all to love her Son. When one of us falls into sin she cries. When we are in temptation she comes to our aid. All we have to do is call upon her for help: *Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help and sought thy intercession, was left unaided.... O Mother of Perpetual Help....* So remember, in times of distress to call upon Mary and she will come to your rescue! No matter the danger, she will come!

The month of May, which is my favorite month, is the month of Our Lady. And what a good month for her indeed! For everything is blooming and full of green, signifying the crowning of the purest creature God has ever made, the Mother of our Redeemer and King. At the seminary and Mary Immaculate Queen Church there are traditions performed during the month of May, in which I will take part this year. Before Holy Mass there is a daily crowning ceremony. Shrines are also made in each classroom for a Blessed Mother so dear to us all. The 31st of May is the day on which we celebrate God crowning His blessed Mother as Queen of heaven and earth. We will also have a procession in which many hymns and praises will be sung and recited, both aloud and in our hearts.

There are many other ways we can honor so good a Mother, such as the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary and living the requests made at Fatima (wear the scapular, say the Rosary each day and be modest in all that we do). But the main thing that our Holy Mother wishes us to do is honor her beloved Son. But I feel that all of us, the Church Militant, can do better than that. We should all give both Jesus and Mary

the gratitude which we owe them by making fervent acts of thanksgiving and love.

Recreational Activities

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 10

In this article I will mention some things which we normally do. After all, having recreation is good after a long day of school and work. Lately we have been playing disc golf around the property. Its nine holes were designed by Fr. Anthony and seminarians a few years ago. Another game is Ultimate Frisbee. Then there is paint-ball or canoeing in the pond. Or you could just be like Clayton and me and jump into the water, which was foolish but fun. Around the seminary property there are woods in which there are a couple of paint-ball courses, large and small.

Inside the seminary there are lots of games to play, whether it's a board game or cards. Then there is ping pong and pool in which we have an annual tournament for each. Although there are many things to do in the seminary, I mostly prefer going to the gym to play basketball. Sometimes each of the seminarians does his own thing, but there are times during recreation when we all play a board game with some of the teachers.

Recently, Fr. Anthony has been planning a new disc-golf course that may be used during the summer Boys Camp. So for PE we seminarians and the high school boys have been working together to make different holes. There may be a lot of trees and branches or brush that need to be cut. We already have a few holes finished. It looks like it will be a nice course. Working to get this done is fun.

Recreation after school, however, is not every day. There are also chores to do, which are necessary. After dinner there is study hall for about two hours. Depending on the homework requirements, the time when you finish varies. Then there are forty-five minutes of free time, which is normally spent inside. Now that it is close to the end of the year (which seems to go by so fast) I hope everyone has a good remainder of the school year.

Who Were the Evangelists?

by Mark Vincent, gr. 11

Every time we go to Holy Mass, we hear the reading of the Gospel of the day. We also hear the name of the writer of that particular Gospel. We should all know the four great evangelists: Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We hear their names every day, but how much do we actually know about them? These are important men we should strive to learn about to the best of our ability. To their personages, God gave the gift of His inspiration. Since I cannot write about all four at once, I have decided to write about Saint Mark, whose feast was this past April twenty-fifth.

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Burning slash piles is just one of many spring chores at the seminary



The new stained glass windows add splendid color to our chapel.



One of our faithful parishioners is laid to rest in our cemetery.



Seminarians help to fill in the grave after a burial in our cemetery.



Believe it or not, this picture shows the landscape after an April snow shower.



High Mass for the opening of the Forty Hours several weeks ago.



Victor keeps guard over his domain, with spring flowers in full bloom outside the seminary classroom.

Who Were the Evangelists?

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Saint Mark was commonly referred to as the interpreter to Saint Peter. Tradition tells us that it was at the request of the Romans that he wrote his Gospel. However, the information he used to write it came from his experiences with Saint Peter. The reason was that he had not personally seen Jesus during his public ministry as Peter did. His Gospel is similar to the Gospels of the other evangelists—some even call his Gospel an abridged version of Saint Matthew's. It contains the same facts, but with two other historical instances, that are of the widow giving two mites (the smallest measure of money at the time) and Christ's appearance to His disciples on their way into the country. He wrote his gospel about ten years after the Ascension of Our Lord.

The time came when Saint Peter sent forth the disciples to found churches throughout the world. Mark was sent into Egypt about the year 60 and anointed bishop of Alexandria, the second city of the world after Rome. He made rapid progress in converting its inhabitants, especially among the Jews. His enemies being stirred up against him, he ordained St. Anianus bishop and left the city. From there, he went and preached in Pentapolis for two years. On returning, he found the city increased in the Faith and standing well in it. After journeys to Rome and other places, he returned to Alexandria where he found his enemies accusing him of being a magician. They had resolved upon his death, but God hid him from their watchful eyes.

On the feast of the idol Seraphis, he was discovered saying Holy Mass by some of those who had been paid to find him. In their happiness, they secured his feet with cords and brutally dragged him about the city all day, leaving flesh and blood upon the rocks. The same tortures were resumed on April 25 when he gave up his spirit to God. A church was built upon the spot where he was laid to rest.

Does not the courage and perseverance of the martyrs fill us with inspiration as we read the lives of the saints every day? Let us endeavor to learn more about the lives of the holy evangelists, whose names we hear every day, yet about whom we perhaps know very little.

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.

Busy Doing God's Holy Will

Of all the months of the school year, this month is the most beautiful. Spring is in full bloom, and it is the month of special devotion to Our Blessed Mother and of our outdoor processions. But it is also the busiest month of the school year!

Try as I might to get things done in advance, somehow there are always many duties which accumulate toward the end of the year, which for us will be June 3rd. All of this keeps us quite busy, but that is a blessing. Indolence is a curse that drags down the soul into mediocrity and waste of time. That last of the capital sins, sloth, is a common danger to which we are all prone.

So we thank God for all the activities and duties, seeking to diligently fulfill His holy will as we are kept busy in His service. May we all embrace our daily duties as the means of sanctification, calling to mind Our Lady's words, that the first penance which God requires of each of us is the penance of daily duty. It is also our means of sanctification and salvation. So let us fulfill our duties with generosity and love, always thanking God that He keeps us busy, for that is a blessing.

Be assured of a remembrance in our daily May devotions and prayers. May we all grow in our love for Our Blessed Mother this month. Thank you for your support of our seminary.

— *Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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