



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly Newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

September 2016

Once again we find ourselves back in the normal routine, enjoying privileges most people have no access to. We have the Blessed Sacrament sheltered in the same building and are able to live in the company of religious priests. This year brings several new seminarians to our door. We have Kevin LeStage who lives literally next to our parish church, Mikael Leighty from Spokane, and Dominic Lehnens from Minnesota.

This year also brings many new different abilities and hobbies. Almost everyone is an avid chess player and pool shark. This means that we should be having a chess tournament this year, avoided for the past few years. With this flux of varying pastimes we are able to stay busy, avoiding idleness.

This year as usual, we began with an exciting trip to a cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene where we enjoyed swimming, canoeing, playing pool, board games, camp fires and many other activities which the surrounding area afforded. Next we spent the past weekend camping at the home of a couple of our parish who live in Bonners Ferry. There we enjoyed a pleasant wilderness atmosphere and hiking.

We also see coming up our annual plum picking adventure. We have two or three trees which relentlessly promise to fill our

canning room. Shortly after, the pears and apples ripen. The respite comes afterwards, as we enjoy the succulent fruit throughout the school year.

It is truly amazing how the summer has gone by so quickly. The trees are already changing colors and the garden is bringing forth its vegetables. But these things are accompanied by the flow of new seminarians, hopefully interested in the prospect of becoming priests. We would like to thank all our seminary benefactors who make all of these things possible. May you be rewarded for your generosity and may God bless you throughout this recently initiated school year.

The Purpose of a Seminary

*by Robert Kolinsky,
gr. 11*

What is the purpose of a seminary? This is a question which every seminarian should consider. Why are we here? Is it just a school or is there another reason? I find myself thinking of these things. The reason for a seminary is, of course, to help

September Calendar

- 1-3 – Seminary camping trip
- 5 – Mrs. Salgado's birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's Nativity; special ceremonies
- 13 – Public Rosary procession
- 14 – Kevin's 14th birthday
- 15 – Feast of the Seven Sorrows BVM; chanted Vespers
- 28 – Mid-quarter
- 29 – Feast of Saint Michael; no homework day

secure the vocations of young men to the priesthood. But what is a seminarian?

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School is in session for 2016 – 2017.

The Purpose of a Seminary

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A minor seminarian is a teenage boy who is serious about pursuing his vocation. And if that is the case, he should be interested in learning and being responsible, for the task of a priest is not an easy one. He should be obedient and be willing to take on and follow the seminary rule: for instance, finishing homework, being on time etc. A seminary basically is here to train boys into men. For this is what a priest must be. But we must cooperate at the same time.

Now the biggest privilege of being at the seminary is that we can receive the sacraments daily. On our free time we can go into the church and visit the Blessed Sacrament, which is in the same building where we live. That was a huge change for me, for I noticed a difference in the mind in going to Mass often. We have, of course, our daily Rosary and Office. But all these wouldn't help if a seminarian weren't attentive at Mass or prayers. There is the schedule which we follow, but then there is the part you must do on your own which is really where a seminarian proves himself. And this shows his interest in being at the seminary for the right reason.

The need for priests is urgent. That is what the seminary is here for. We can thank Fr. Benedict for putting his time for this purpose of attaining more priests, and preparing them (or I should say us) into having the qualities that a priest should have. For not many boys have what we have here. I had a good experience last year and my fellow seminarians and I look forward to a successful and holy school year.

Something Was Missing

by Mark Vincent, gr. 12

It is customary in the intermediate point of the summer that St. Joseph Seminary brings to the western states an opportunity for young Catholic boys to come and enjoy a camp under the guidance of a few priests. Not many seminarians in the past were able to attend and help with the summer boys' camp. That would be the reason why you have not heard much in past issues about that summer adventure. You see pictures of events and read that it was a success. But the problem is that no one has gone into detail about any of them. So let me share some of the details with you.

Orientation of the camp began on Sunday, July 24th. We discovered that we had 53 boys, well above the usual 30. After counting the number of boys, Fr Anthony explained the purpose and dedication of the camp to everyone. Saint Joseph was the patron and the Blessed Virgin Mary was adopted as our camp model. It just so happens that the number 53 matches the number of Hail Mary's in a Rosary. Things couldn't have turned out better after this discovery.

The five days of camp began with a Rosary walk and attendance at Holy Mass. The activities varied day by day. Sunday brought a trip to the nearby park where we played football, baseball, volleyball, basketball and bean bag toss. We found skilled material in many participants and also a healthy volume of sportsmanlike behavior. Monday morning brought a hike up to the campsite, as we shouldered logs and made the Stations of the Cross, to end with the erection of the cross and the enthronement of Our Lord in the camp. It was then that the camp opened up to an adventure everyone enjoyed.

Activities included paintball, *Redneck Olympics* (which included archery, marksmanship, shoe launching and disc golf), capture the flag, swimming and canoeing on Lake Pend O'reille, campfires, zip line and much, much more. What made everything enjoyable was the cooperation and attitude of campers and counselors concerning rules and responsibilities. Lack of this could mean disaster and possible injuries. Every day would end with a campfire and night prayers followed by the examination of conscience. Then would come the singing of the *Salve Regina* and the blessings of three priests before going to bed.

It was sad to see everything close up at the end of camp. Everyone had made several new friends and was starting to get attached to activities we had come to enjoy. As everyone gradually left, we began to appreciate the time we had to relax for a few days and live in the company of the priests.

I hope I have satisfied your interest in relating to you one of the untold events held annually here at the seminary. I would like to thank Fr Anthony, Fr Borja, Fr Geckle and everyone who contributed to the camp in any way. It was truly a great success.

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Dominic tries his luck playing "Master" Mark.



Robert helping to split logs.



Mark assisted his father in removing the floor and cabinets in our kitchen.



Lots of fun canoeing on Lake Couer d' Alene.



Holy Mass is offered every morning in the seminary chapel.



Happy 16th Birthday Mark!

Meet Our Staff

The following is a brief description of our staff members and their responsibilities at Saint Joseph Seminary.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI: A member of the Religious Congregation of Mary Immaculate Queen since 1972, Father Benedict brings many years of teaching experience to the seminary. In addition to teaching, he travels monthly to bring the Mass and sacraments to souls who otherwise would have no Mass to attend. Fr. Benedict is the rector of Saint Joseph Seminary and teaches Latin, math and theology.

Fr. Anthony M. Short, CMRI: Father Anthony complements his older companion by keeping up with the youthful enthusiasm of our seminarians. Ordained two+ years ago, he teaches choir and Physical Education, takes the boys on outings, supervises work projects, and hears confessions and provides counsel and direction to the young men.

Mr. Gerard P. Keaveney is a lay man who helps the priests by providing supervision and taking care of any tasks that need to be done. He supervises the use of the computers and also will teach geography and health this year.

Miss Mary Antonia Seale: is our regular cook, who keeps the seminarians happy and healthy. Every morning she arrives early to start on breakfast and is dedicated to her task of providing good nutrition to the seminarians. She also takes care of sewing needs and enjoys sharing her culinary skills with seminarians who want to learn how to cook.

Mrs. Rosalinda Salgado: Mrs. Salgado begins her 16th year as our indispensable secretary, registrar and all-around helper, often running errands or taking boys to appointments. Once again she will teach computer skills to our seminarians.

Mrs. Nancy Gallagher: Now in her 10th year as a member of our seminary staff, Mrs. Gallagher is a retired teacher, who has years of experience in teaching at every grade level. She not only teaches English and US History to the seminarians, but she also cooks for us on weekends and is a real mother to your young men.

Support a Seminarian

If you are able, we ask you to consider sponsoring a seminarian. As you can imagine, all our seminarians come from large Catholic families, many of whom cannot afford the entire tuition amount, modest as it is. At the same time, we would not want to ever turn away, for financial reasons, a young man who felt called by God to the priesthood.

To help resolve this difficulty, we have a scholarship program for our seminary. Through this program, donors who

are financially able and willing to do so, contribute the cost of maintaining a seminarian each month. Those who would like to participate but are unable to afford the entire amount can contribute a part of the monthly tuition fee. This scholarship would then be matched with a deserving seminarian, who would thus become that donor's "adopted" seminarian.

Similar programs have been in place in the Church in the past. Without such support, the work of seminary training could not continue. Imagine the blessing of being able to bring a young man to the altar of God as a priest, particularly a young man who would otherwise not be able to become a priest! If you are interested in this program, please contact us, as there are a couple of seminarians who need a part of their tuition paid through the scholarship program.

A New Year—New Opportunities

Already we have been in school for a week, during this, the 18th year of our minor seminary's existence. Through these years, despite ups and downs, we have continued the mission of our seminary to form young men who are seriously considering a vocation to the priesthood. We are grateful that you are a part of this mission, especially through your prayers for vocations, which are so desperately needed today.

September is an ideal month to begin a new school year. Not only does it mark the end of summer, but this month is filled with lovely feasts of Our Blessed Mother. And who could better understand the importance of formation for future priests than the Mother of the First Seminarian? Under the vigilant gaze of Mary, Jesus developed into manhood. She watched in wonder as the Son of God grew in wisdom, age and grace during those hidden years at the "seminary" of Nazareth. Every priest requires a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, a devotion which must begin in the early years of the seminary.

And so we begin a new seminary year under Our Lady's mantle. May we always strive to imitate her, however feeble our efforts. May she help these young men to grow in wisdom, age and grace—to become daily more and more like her divine Son.

We thank you for being a part of this work and ask for a daily remembrance in your prayers. We also encourage you to keep up with the activities of the seminary by reading the weekly blog on our website: www.minorseminary.org. The blog is updated every Sunday, with a new posting at or around 3:00 pm, Pacific Time. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may He continue to guide us in this important work.

-- *Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI*

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