



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

December 2016

December is a short month, with our Christmas vacation coming up soon. During this month we try to observe the proper spirit of Advent, as we prepare for Christ's birth. We also enjoy the first snowfalls of the winter season and look forward to skiing next month. Basketball in the gym provides recreational activity, as we prepare to compete in a few games this winter. Finally, we keep busy with our studies and our daily seminary life, always trying to cooperate with God's grace as we seek to do His holy will. Please keep us in your prayers, and may God bless you!

Patroness of the Americas

by Robert Kolinsky, gr. 11

As we approach the feast of the Birth of Christ, there is an important feast to remember. This is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This particular day is of great significance to the land of the Americas, for it is the day on which the miracle took place which led many natives in Mexico to the faith.

It was in the year 1531 on the ninth of December when Our Lady first appeared to a poor Aztec Indian named Juan Diego as he was going to morning Mass in Tlaltelolco. He heard the sound of birds singing which was unusual during this time of year. He followed the sound to the west side of the hill of Tepeyac, when all of a sudden the music stopped and there was complete silence in the air. Juan waited for the slightest noise and heard the voice of a woman calling him by name.

As he reached the rocks on the top of the hill he saw a beautiful Lady glowing from head to feet. The Lady then asked

him where he was going. Juan answered that he was on his way to Mass. She told him that she was the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and that she wished a church to be built in this spot in her honor. So she sent him to the Bishop. He then hurried on his five mile trip to Tlaltelolco (now Mexico City).

Juan was received by the bishop, and he told him everything that had passed. The bishop was unconvinced. It was now sunset when Juan returned to the Lady. She instructed him to return to the bishop the next day which he did, to the bishop's annoyance. Juan told him again his vision. Still not completely satisfied but very impressed, he asked for a sign. Juan returned and the Lady sent for him to come the next morning.

Due to the serious illness of his uncle, Juan Bernardino, Juan Diego stayed the next day to take care of him. His uncle feeling that he was going to die sent Juan to fetch a priest for the last sacraments. On his way Juan had to pass the hill of Tepeyac, and not wanting any delay he went around the hill on the east side hoping not to come across the Lady. This plan, however, did not work for she came to the east side and approached him.

Juan then asked her to forgive him for not coming, for his uncle had become ill. She told him not be afraid and that his uncle was well at that very moment. She also asked him to take the flowers that were nearby and bring them to the bishop. Now Juan had what was called a tilma into which he put the flowers. He brought them to her, but she was not satisfied. He had thrown them in there, so she carefully with her own hands rearranged them. He then went directly to the bishop. The smell of the

December calendar

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| 2 — | Mid-quarter |
| 8 — | Feast of the Immaculate Conception BVM; Holyday of Obligation; no classes |
| 9 — | Basketball game |
| 12 — | Feast of Our lady of Guadalupe; special observances; basketball game |
| 16 — | Novena for Christmas begins. |
| 21 — | Half-day of school; Christmas Vacation begins after classes |

flowers made such a heavenly aroma that a commotion went on in the building at such a lovely scent. He explained again to the bishop and the others who were there what happened and he then opened his tilma. The flowers fell to the ground beneath the tilma. This was not what he had planned, but he then saw the bishop and the others kneel down. He then discovered that a picture of the Blessed Virgin had been imprinted on the tilma.

continued on page 2



On a recent outing near Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Patroness of the Americas

continued from page 1

They then went in procession with the tilma and soon they had plans to build a church on the sacred hill. Juan later came back and found his uncle perfectly fine. Our Lady sometime later appeared to Juan Bernardino (Juan's uncle) and asked to be called Our Lady of Guadalupe. Within seven years after the miracle eight million Indians had been baptized. She provided an astounding message to the native people, and thus she is called the Patroness of the Americas.

The Loving Spirits of God

by Dominic Lehnken, gr. 10

God has made many angels to dwell in His presence. He made nine choirs of angels, including: Archangels, Virtues, Thrones, Dominations, Principalities, Powers, Cherubim, Seraphim, and Angels. These angels praise Our Lord and bow before Him because He is their King and Lord. God made these angels in order to share His happiness with them. That is why he made us, too. Most of these angels were faithful to God, but some were unfaithful.

These unfaithful angels we call bad angels or devils. They were condemned to hell forever, where we will go if we do not obey the Commandments. These devils try to make us fall into sin so as to make us suffer like them. But, if we follow God's commandments, we have nothing to worry about. They will not be able to pull us to hell for all eternity if we pray to our Blessed Mother and our angels. God not only made the angels to dwell in His presence, He also made the angels to dwell in our presence, and these are called Guardian Angels.

Your guardian angel should be your best friend. They guard us from many dangers, some of which we are not even aware. They guard us from numerous sins. If it weren't for them, we would fall into many grievous sins which we would never have otherwise committed. That is why we should be very grateful to our angels.

People these days don't thank their angel or even pay the slightest attention to him. Everyone should pay at least some attention to their angel every day. Our angels do so much for us, but in return for their many favors to us, what do we give them? A good Catholic would give his/her angel as much attention as possible and thank him every moment of the day for the many favors he grants to us. We should pray to our guardian angels not only during our morning and night prayers, but frequently throughout the day.

So, in your everyday life, thank your angels; pray to them every day. They are among our best friends, so treat them like you would treat a good friend on earth. For every sin you commit, it is a terrible grievance to your angel and an even worse grievance against God who made them. So spare your angels and God from this terrible grievance and pray to God and your angel to prevent you from falling into any sins, especially mortal sins.

The Children's Saint

by Kevin LeStage, gr. 9

St. Nicholas was born sometime around 280 in Patara, Lycia, an area that is part of present-day Turkey. He lost both of his parents as a young man and used much of his inheritance to help the poor and sick. Helping others seemed to be his greatest virtue. In fact, he was almost legendary in his own lifetime for charity.

His fame started to spread as bishop of Myra. There are many accounts about St. Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, St. Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. On the third visit, the man saw St. Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. He also reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned and sentenced to death.

He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s, which turned away from the practice of honoring saints. St. Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland. The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas, December 6. It was a common practice for children to put out their shoes the night before. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that St. Nicholas had left there for them.

St. Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread all over the world. So, what can we gain from this happy, charitable saint? Well, one thing I find is that charity seems to be a virtue that brings happiness to everyone it touches. So, let us pray to Saint Nicholas for his love of others and his desire to serve them, for if we follow in his footsteps, we shall be with him one day in the joys of paradise.



The seminarians helped to stack wood on the convent deck, to keep the Sisters warm this winter.



The seminarians led the procession to the cemetery on All Souls Day.



There was no shortage of leaves for raking this fall.



Our gym is small, but plenty adequate for indoor activities during the winter.



Fun at the local bowling alley.



O Salutaris Hostia!



“Horsing” around (on a moose!)

Shifting Beauty

by Mikael Leighty, gr. 10

Spring is gone. Fall has had its run;
And the gateway to winter is near.
Yes, December is nigh and all must
walk her path.
November has laid the leaves;
December will blanket them in
snow.
Nature has halted and retreated far
away.
Winter must have her day.

Birds will no longer sing their song
for us;
They have left to sing elsewhere.
The cold will bring no flower till
spring;
Only snow for the trees to wear.
But let us not become dismayed.
The flowers have not had their
last.
And birds will come to sing again.
The beauty we seek is hidden
beneath
This cold, icy mask.

In fact December is the most
important member;
Of filling the spring with wonder.
If we looked at flowers all year;
And the birds could sing their
song;
Without the winter to send them
thither;
It is we who would grow cold.

December is not a cloud;
That casts a shadow of gloom.
She makes us wait till that joyful day;
When the flowers will have our
company.
She knows in her wisdom how easily
we take;
Granted the things of God.

And so, to remind us of His
wonderful works;
She lays aside all verdure.
But the beauty is not abolished;
Nor has it left at all.
For when the snow seasons the earth;
New beauty is given to us.

The snow like sugar glazes the earth.
The trees glisten white.
The frost bites with bitter cold;
But leaves extraordinary sights.
The trees withstand the mighty frost;
Like giants in a strife.
They teach us to stand against all
odds;
and brave the hardships of life.

Winter is not an end;
It is a portal to the new.
Never have we heard;
that seasons are an end.
We rightly say they only change;
For Spring will have her day again.

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.



Basketball is played in our gym with great vigor and enthusiasm.

translation of the Holy House of Loreto, the house in which the Word was made flesh. Again in just two days we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The miraculous image of the Virgin of Guadalupe reminds us of the antiphon of the Divine Office, which refers to her who “comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in array.” Finally, on the 18th, just one week before Christmas, we have the feast of the Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

So we see that Our Blessed Mother is a very important part of this liturgical season. And how could it be otherwise? For without Mary, there would have been no Christmas, no birth of the Savior. May Our Blessed Mother assist us to prepare our hearts to receive the Infant Jesus at Christmas, for He yet seeks hearts that love Him—hearts that are patterned after that of His holy mother. May Our Lady lead us to her divine Son.

Thank you for your prayers and support of our seminary. We assure you of a remembrance in our prayers and wish you a most joyous and blessed Christmas.

With Joyful Expectation

Advent is a season of joyful, yet penitential, anticipation of Christmas, and we have Our Lady as our perfect model. Imagine what must have been her ardent yearning for the birth of her Child during those 9 months! Fittingly, we have a number of feastdays of Our Blessed Mother during this season.

We begin with the great feast of her Immaculate Conception, which prepared her to be the worthy mother of the Redeemer. Two days later we observe the feast of the

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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