



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

November 2018

The big event of the past month was the Fatima Conference at Mount Saint Michael. We were able to attend the lectures on Thursday and Friday, to serve the Bishop's pontifical High Mass, to attend the inspiring outdoor candlelight procession on Saturday, and to join in the boat cruise on Sunday. It certainly was an experience we will long remember.

Lately, we have been helping with various fall chores around the seminary grounds after school and on Saturdays. There have been plenty of dead leaves and pine needles to be raked, but we have also been picking apples and making apple cider. There is so much cider that we are freezing most of it to use over the next few months. The weather has been pleasant, but we know that will soon change, so we are making the most of the warmer weather outside.

We have also just completed the First Quarter of our school year and are hoping our report cards will bring a smile to our faces. Some of the subjects have been challenging for us (like Latin), while others are easier. It is a good feeling to know that we are already a quarter of the way through the year.

Now, during November, we turn our attention to the Poor Souls. We hope to gain as many indulgences as possible and to release many souls from purgatory. We also are privileged to have a cemetery within a short walk from the seminary, where we can make visits to pray for the Poor Souls. Let us all remember them especially this month, for we may one day be in their position, dependent on the prayers of other Catholics.



During October we prayed our daily Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

The Poor Souls in Purgatory

by Gabriel Riley, gr. 9

November 2nd is the commemoration of the Poor Souls. The reason they are named the "Poor Souls" in purgatory is because they are suffering souls. They are in purgatory burning, and they can do nothing about it until their release.

When it is time for your judgment,

November Calendar

- 1 – All Saints Day; no classes; seminary outing
- 2 – All Souls Day; attend 3 Masses and other special observances for the Poor Souls
- 21 – Presentation of Our Lady; chanted Vespers
- 22-25 – Thanksgiving Vacation
- 26 – William's birthday
- 27 – Feast of the Miraculous Medal; chanted Vespers

God will weigh your sins and compare them with your good deeds. If your good deeds weigh more than your sins, alleluia! You will go to a place of eternal happiness, known as heaven. If your sins weigh more than your good deeds you will go to a place of death, known as hell.

Now, we would never want to go to hell, would we? That is the reason we pray for the poor souls in purgatory. We pray that they may go to heaven. For when it is time for your judgment those poor souls that were in purgatory that you prayed for will also pray for you to earn your place in heaven.

When a person passes a cemetery he should say "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen." It is important that we pray often for the poor souls! Also, my mother's birthday is on November 2nd, so please pray for her too.

Dulcis Porcus

by Gabriel Davis, gr. 9

Try to picture, if you can, this world without bacon, or more specifically, “pigs.” We wouldn’t have pork, sausage, ham or even BLTs. Scary thought. Until I joined the Minor Seminary I never realized the care that goes into raising pigs. For it was my “honored” job to feed the pigs through most of the month of October.

After breakfast the race begins and I only have 15 minutes until class starts. To those of you that have never raised pigs, there is more to feeding them than merely feeding them slop and occasionally giving them water. First, I feed them soaked grain that I prepared the night before. While they are devouring their food, I try with all my strength not to spill any water on my church pants. I give them their water since by now their drinking trough is bone dry. Last but not least, I give them the slop from the seminary.

By the time I get back to the seminary my pants are filthy, my shoes are covered in mud, and class has already started. All this I do with pleasure because I know that one day I will be enjoying the fruits of my short labor.

The history of pigs is a brief one. The wild hog was first domesticated by the Chinese around the year 2900 BC. Hernando De Soto brought America’s first 13 pigs to Tampa Bay Florida in 1539. Pigs in early America were mainly produced for their lard. It wasn’t until later that farmers “for its higher profit” began raising pigs for their meat. Every year 120 million pigs are slaughtered in America alone.

I thank Sister Mary Veronica for the short time she let me take care of the pigs. From now on whenever I eat a slice of bacon, or a ham sandwich, it will remind me of the icy cold mornings I spent feeding those three pigs. (*Dulcis Porcus* translated from Latin means “delicious pig”.)

Great Gratitude for our Heroes

by Thiet Vincent Nguyen, gr. 9

As you know, this year of 2018 has come to the month of November. This month will be filled with many important events: All-Souls Day, Election Day, the Presentation of Our Blessed Mother, Thanksgiving, etc. This month is also the month to give our appreciation to our American veterans, especially this year, which is the centenary of the end of World War I.

Since the birth of America, there have been a number of battles in which our soldiers fought to protect our country’s liberty and independence. Our veterans have gained for their homeland pride and great respect.

From the Revolutionary War to the battles of the Civil



These pigs will be dinner (and Sunday breakfast) in the near future.

War, fought by Union and Confederate troops, to Pearl Harbor, the battle of Midway, D-Day, and Okinawa, fought during World War II, there have been many battles in our nation’s history. There were also the battles of Inchon, Khe Sanh, and the battle for Hue in the Cold War fought against Communism, with a huge number of men sacrificing their lives in Vietnam. Our American soldiers still fight to preserve the world’s peace and freedom. Many of them have suffered great illness, physically and mentally, due to the casualties of war.

I also want to mention two important veterans in the history of America and my country, Vietnam. President John F. Kennedy and President Ngo Dinh Diem both died for the same cause—to protect this world from the error and corruption of Atheistic Communism. Both were Catholics, and both were assassinated in the same year of 1963 in November. I ask you to keep them in your prayers in this month of All Souls.

To conclude the article, I would like to thank God for giving us brave soldiers who are protecting us. And I also want to give thanks to our American veterans who have done many heroic deeds, which not many men could accomplish. Above all, we should always pray for our soldiers, in order that they will continue their duty to protect our country. May God always bless them.

The Conference Banquet

by William Davis, gr. 8

The lectures have lasted all day. With one major break for lunch, I hadn’t eaten all day. I looked hopefully at the Fatima Conference schedule. What I saw reminded me that I soon would be attending the banquet. That was an

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There is plenty of raking here for fall chores on Saturday.



Before playing football the seminarians and boys do their calisthenics.



Playing a game at our neighbors' home.



The seminarians cleaned up the wood from some dead trees on the cemetery road.



The seminarians are amazed at the size of the apples this year.



The seminarians very much enjoyed the lectures at the Fatima Conference.

The Conference Banquet

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hour before the banquet was set to start.

After praying the Joyful mysteries, all of us went into what had previously been the lecture hall, but had now morphed into a beautiful banquet hall. After a few minutes of chattering with my acquaintances, Father Anaya, the emcee of the Fatima Conference (and coincidentally, also the priest that baptized me), announced that we would pray



Victor doesn't like getting a bath, but he bravely endures the punishment.

and then take our seats.

As the other seminarians and I took our seats our eyes caught the intricately folded napkins. A few minutes had passed, and then the food started to come, being carried in by uniformed students as waiters. They soon arrived at the table in which I was sitting. The first course was salad. What a salad it was too—it was delicious. It looked like normal salad but it tasted like ambrosia. Within five minutes I had cleaned the plate.

The second course of this so far superbly prepared meal was rice and ham rolled inside chicken and breaded. It was not a letdown from the first course. It was in larger proportions than the first course, so I had a harder time finishing it in a short time.

We waited a few minutes and then the third course came. It happened to be lemon cake for dessert. It must have been one of the best desserts I have ever had, no offense to my sister, who is a magnificent cook.

Be a Saint!

Although our focus in November is primarily on relieving the sufferings of the souls in purgatory, let us not forget that November begins with another important feast, and that is All Saints Day. This feast is very important for us, who are fellow members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

It reminds us that we have a duty to honor the innumerable saints in heaven, who are all dear friends of God. But it also reminds us that we too are called to be saints. "What? Me—become a saint?" you are tempted to say. Yes, God calls each of us to become saints. And if He calls us to sanctity, it must be possible to achieve it, with His help.

Let us love the saints. Let us learn about their holy lives and often invoke them. But let us especially imitate their virtues, in order that we might one day be with them in heaven. For indeed, we can become saints, if we truly will it.

The Liturgical Year with its annually recurring themes and feasts is full of spiritual beauty and rich with lessons for us. May we learn these lessons and thereby earn our salvation. We are most grateful for your support and prayers for our seminary. Be assured of our prayers for you and your families in return.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

O my God, Thou art the God of wisdom and good counsel, Thou who readest in my heart a sincere desire to please Thee alone and to direct myself in regard to my choice of a state of life, in conformity with Thy holy will in all things; by the intercession of the most holy Virgin, my Mother, and of my Patron Saints, grant me the grace to know that state of life which I ought to choose, and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Thy glory and increase it, work out my own salvation and deserve the heavenly reward which Thou has promised to those who do Thy holy will. Amen.

(Indulgence of 300 days, once a day)