



THE GUARDIAN

Vol. XXI No. 7 Issue #247

Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

March 2020

All is well at the seminary, as we enter the holy season of Lent. We have all planned out our penances for this season and are resolved to spend it well. We have also learned to chant Sunday Vespers and will be doing that each Sunday of Lent. We hope you all will have a good Lent.

A couple of weeks ago we had one last ski trip. Now spring is in the air, as the snow is melting and the temperature is warming. We continue to enjoy our recreations (lately, volleyball is a favorite) and are striving to do well in our studies.

Soon, we will arrive at Holy Week, followed by our Spring Break. But until then, we want to make a good Lent and will continue to pray for all our benefactors. May God bless you!

Head of the Holy Family

by Joseph Strain, gr. 9

For this *Guardian* issue I would like to write a few known facts about St. Joseph, one of the highest saints in heaven next to Our Lady. There seems to be very little that we know about him. We have heard one well-known quote, "Joseph, the husband of Mary, and of her was born Jesus, who is called Christ" (Matthew, 1:16). Another quotation says: "And Jesus himself, when he began his work, was about thirty years of age, being—as was supposed—the son of Joseph" (Luke 3:23).

It is likely that St. Joseph was born in Bethlehem, but that is not certain. It is also assumed that he died in Nazareth before the public life of Our Lord. But what took place during this span of time during his life with the

Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus?

The Bible tells us very little about the life of St. Joseph. We are told in the chapters of St. Matthew and St. Luke that he was a carpenter by trade, a just and pious man, a good husband and father, and also well-instructed in the scriptures. One of the key facts that we know is that he was of the house of David.

We know that after the marriage of St. Joseph to Our Blessed Mother, Caesar Augustus decreed a census. Everyone went to the place where his ancestors had lived, so Joseph went with Mary to Bethlehem. This must be the reason why it is assumed that Joseph was born in Bethlehem. And we also know that about twelve years later he went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover with the child Jesus and His Mother. Jesus was lost for three days and on the third day they found Him in the temple. And it was then that they were reminded that He had to do His Father's will later on in His life.

Why did God choose Saint Joseph to be the foster-father of the Son of the Most High? God had planned from the beginning who would be the foster-father of the Son of God and the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *St. Joseph, pray for our families!*

Don't Bury Your Talents!

by William Davis, gr. 9

On the Saturday before Ash Wednesday we had a talent show up here at the City of Mary. It was meant as a pre-Lent celebration, and I think we all enjoyed every minute of it. There were 15 acts total, and three

March Calendar

- 1 – Conclusion of seminary retreat
- 5 – Basketball game
- 14 – Evan's 18th birthday
- 17 – Saint Patrick's Day talent show
- 18 – Anthony's 15th birthday
- 19 – Feast of Saint Joseph, seminary patron
- 20 – End of Third Quarter
- 23 – First day of Fourth Quarter
- 25 – Feast of the Annunciation; chanted Vespers



The short outdoor procession of candles on Candlemas Day.

of them received prizes. I shall not describe too minutely the acts themselves, other than to say that they were all marvelous.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Don't Bury Your Talents!

But I wanted to go into more about the talents in the show and in life. In life, God gives us all talents, gifts to use in life, so that we may reach the eternal reward of the “talent show” of life. That show on Saturday left me feeling good. And after it was over, Father blessed the religious items that had been won as prizes, and I attended. But as he was blessing the items I thought to myself about an excerpt from St Paul: “They run to obtain a perishable crown, but we, an imperishable one.” This made me think that, although we use our talents in a show, how much more useful would they be in the show of life. We must use our talents to gain the eternal crown. We must be like the servant to whom the master gave the 5 talents (notice how it says “talents”), and he traded until he had gained 10 talents. We must not, however, be like the servant who receives one talent and buries it for fear of losing it.

We all have talents of some sort, but sometimes it seems that some have more talents than others. Those people have a greater responsibility to cultivate those talents and make them grow. So we must run to obtain that imperishable crown, and a very good way to do that is by finding out what your talent is, and working on it until it is a boon to you and to your fellow men. Do not bury your talent. You must use it for the greater good of your soul, but don't show off. Don't use your talent in a way that will make you prideful. May God let us multiply our talents so that we may be an inspiration to our fellow men!

Our Daily Routine

by Thaddeus Kuck, gr. 10

Here at the Seminary
We rise before seven
Get ready for the day
And pray to go to heaven.

Then we have breakfast
After we go to Mass
Go collect all our books
And prepare for class.

With Fr. Philip
We have Latin One
He might assign some homework
But then we're all done.

In between classes
We might play some pool
We have a little break
So that's pretty cool.

Then we have Fr. Benedict

He teaches us math

If you don't get your homework done

You will suffer his wrath.

The next class is easy

It's Mrs. Gallagher's

She teaches English

To us amateurs.

Fr. Benedict teaches Theology

But we will finish soon

We go to the Chapel

And say prayers at Noon.

Mr. Keaveney teaches science

To us after lunch

He is pretty nice because

He gives us candy to munch.

Next we have Government

I think it is really fun

But because we talk so much

We don't get that much done.

We have Physical Education
Monday, Wednesday, Friday

If we don't want to

We have to do it anyway.

P.E. ends the school day

We wait for a new

We have a little homework

But that's all we have to do.

The Big Day

by Evan Estrada, gr. 11

Oh boy! It's that time of the week again. One of the most wonderful days, Laundry Day. Believe it or not, we are blessed with three days of the week with this wonderful event: Tuesday with colored clothing, Wednesday with whites and to finish it off we have Thursday with blacks. I also hold the amazing honor for helping on Tuesday. Some of the other boys volunteered to help with the other days, but they are so kind that they often just let me have the honor of doing the laundry—just Father and me. It can be hard to work with the other seminarians due to the fact that when they put their clothes in the hamper they leave them all askew and leave it up to me to reorganize it for them.

Continued on page 4



The performance of "The Four Yorkshire Men" at the talent show was a big hit.



The staff and Sisters joined us for dinner at the end of the Christmas season.



Evan, Jesse and Gabe prepare dinner on a weekend recently.



Saturday chores recently included cleanup after a winter storm.



Haircuts are one of the regularly-occurring mundane tasks at the seminary.



Benediction in our church on First Saturday, February 1st.

Continued from page 2

The Big Day

At the end of school, we usually have all of the laundry washed and dried and ready to be collected by its owner. Sadly though, we sometimes have owners who abandon their clothes by leaving them there and not claiming them. And by Rosary time Father has the sorrowful job of banishing the unclaimed laundry into the Lost and Found box, where it will stay for many days before being reclaimed by its owner. It is quite the most beautiful sight to see someone saying 6 decades of the Rosary to reclaim his socks.

Then, once every 2 weeks, we have the “Big One”. What is this big one, you may ask? Well my most loyal readers, it is when we wash sheets. Yes, you heard it right, sheets. Everyone puts out his sheets and blankets to be cleaned and have the washing machine clean away all the dust mites and loose dandruff. It is a big job, but it's honest work, and I'm willing to do it for the greater good of the seminary. After all, who else is responsible and brave enough to do it? I am (or at least that's what the other seminarians tell me when I ask them for their help). At the end of the day I like to ask myself, what would we be without clean laundry? I personally would not like to think of such a horrible thing, but in some places they are just that way. Well, my fair reader, I say it's time that I finish this article. Until next time, God bless and have a most wondrous day.

Guardian and Protector of the Catholic Church

It has often been said that Saint Joseph is a patron saint for every Catholic. Each of us can look up to him in some way as a model—of family life, of labor, of mental prayer, of chastity, of love for Jesus and Mary, etc. He is a special patron saint and model for so many reasons.

One of the primary reasons for invoking Saint Joseph today, however, is that he is the patron saint of the universal Church. Since Saint Joseph protected the Christ-child and Our Lady by taking Jesus and His mother into Egypt to protect His life, he also protects the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. We know all too well that there



The seminarians sing Jesu Rex Admirabilis at the parish talent show February 1st.



Joseph and Jesse battle it out in the championship game in our annual tournament.

are many “Herods” today who wish to destroy the Church, just as Herod sought the life of the Child Jesus. We must invoke Saint Joseph for his protection, and especially that we will persevere in the true Faith and not be deceived by the wiles of the devil.

Every year in March we pray special devotions to Saint Joseph each day. We hope that you will join us in honoring this great saint, perhaps by reciting his litany or some other prayer during March in his honor. May Saint Joseph help each of us to persevere and to grow in our love for Jesus and Mary.

You are all remembered in our daily prayers at the seminary for our benefactors. We are most grateful for your support and your prayers. May the Holy Family bless your families.

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI