



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of St. Joseph Seminary

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From the Rector:

After a busy first week of June, the seminary has been relatively quiet. Following the graduation ceremony the boys said their good-byes and headed home for the summer – all except the older seminarians, who departed on the long-anticipated senior trip. They left with Father Philip for a two-week trip to Europe shortly after the end of school. Their itinerary has them spending a few

was back to Munich for the journey home.

Last week we had our annual retreat. Father Philip was the retreat master this year for the Sisters' retreat at Mount Saint Michael, while I welcomed our CMRI Brothers to the minor seminary for a private retreat. Altogether we had several priests, two clerics and four lay Brothers here at the seminary. It is nice to be able to use the empty rooms at the seminary for a retreat. Although we were few in

We also had a magnificent Corpus Christi procession on June 19. The weather was cool and threatened rain, but it remained dry and we were able to complete the annual procession without any difficulty. Each year during the Corpus Christi procession my thoughts go to those Catholic countries where this procession was held annually in every town and village. Would that those times might return! We are fortunate here at the City of Mary to have adequate room

on our grounds to hold this beautiful procession, whereby we honor the King of Kings in the Blessed Sacrament.

Now our attention goes to the preparations for the annual Boys Camp, which is less than three weeks away. In the meantime, however, we plan on using our summer leisure for the all-important R & R, and to catch up on projects before it is time to start planning for another school year. I again wish to thank you for your support of our seminary. Please continue to pray for our young men and for more vocations. May God

bless you and your families, and may you have a most enjoyable summer. In the service of Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph,

Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Our dog Victor joined the teachers and seminarians for a group photo at the end of the school year.

days in southern Germany before traveling to northern Italy (including Padua) and then on to Rome. Then it

number, it was a much-appreciated opportunity for all of us to review the principles of the religious life during the retreat.

The Seed of Hope

by Gabriel Davis, graduate

This is it. This will be my final *Guardian* article. Truly a bitter, but sweet moment. Bitter, because not writing articles means no longer being a minor seminarian. Sweet, because... because, there is really nothing sweet about not writing articles; I always rather



There were a lot of smiling faces at the seminary as the year came to a close.

enjoyed talking and writing about things we do around here. I know, in a heart-beat, I would stay another year even if it meant writing another article for every month. But alas, all good things must come to an end, and an end this is for me as a writer and you as a reader of my articles. May I not disappoint and live to see my title be discredited, in this Gabriel Davis' final paper. A paper on hope.

Now I should first explain that I will tie in the Holy Family later in my article with the hope of explaining the whole reason behind all of this. Why even have a seminary? Well I will tell you, hope.

Did you know that St. Joseph's Minor Seminary has a motto? It is *Spes Messis in Semine*, which translates from Latin into "The Hope of the Harvest is in the Seed." The harvest is Heaven and the seed is the formative years of childhood. This is the minor seminary's purpose: to water and straighten the seedlings to be planted in the field of life. Having helped plant seeds this spring, I know the difficulties of getting

just the right amount and type of water, sun and soil, to make the tender little seed to grow just right. Though many of our plants died, due to the late spring, I assure you that you would have to be a rotten seed in order to leave this place not having grown. After spending four years here, take my word for it – this place is a greenhouse for young boys.

Now where does the Holy Family fit in? It is our role model. After living under the same roof for nine months with a group, a family begins to evolve. Your superiors are parents, and your fellow seminarians are brothers. Thus a family is created. We imitate the Holy Family in a special way because it was the first Family to raise a Religious, Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest. Not only do we mimic, to the best of our efforts, this divine family but we beg each of its three most holy members to be as a guardian over our little family at the minor seminary. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we love you, bless our seminary.

A concluding remark, keep it simple. If there is one thing I have learned, though I believe I have learned probably more, it is to take one simple thing at a time. As I look back on thirty-six months of memories, I will simply say and conclude, though many more things could be said, *Deo Gratias*. Thanks be to God and to those who made all of this possible for me and for many more to come after. May the Holy Family forever watch as guardians over St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, the hopeful seedbed of priests.



The seminarians enjoyed some hiking in the Alps on their trip to Europe.



His Excellency and servers pose with those confirmed after the ceremony.



Children dressed in white dropped flower petals along the path of the Blessed Sacrament.



At his graduation, Thaddeus shared some reflections on his years at Saint Joseph Seminary.



At the end of the school year we always have a special dinner to honor the seniors before they depart the seminary.



The shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus served as one of the outdoor altars during the procession.



Father Philip stands in front of the basilica of Saint Mark in Venice with seminarians on the senior class trip.

The Perfect Place

by Thaddeus Kuck, graduate

As you may know, there are a great many evils in the world today. Even I who have only been in the world a short time have come to this realization. These evils have not only wounded Holy Mother the Church a great deal but also Christ Himself. We need men, chivalrous men, gallant men, brave men, and true men to combat these evils and be as shields for Christ and His Church. Men who will deflect the blows, the arrows, the swords, and spears aimed at the heart of Christ. But how do we get such men? How do we get men to spark with the love of God? And when they have sparked how do we kindle the spark to a flame and

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.

easier to come by this year for some reason. If they be by doing it the Little Flower's way or by doing it St. Nicholas of Flue's way, opportunities have come up plenty for both. Fr. Benedict makes it very easy to fulfill our daily duty by keeping us on a tight schedule.



Our graduation ceremonies concluded with the seminarians singing a few songs for the many guests and parishioners who were present.

then to a great fire for the love of God? To be honest I have no idea. But I can tell you this, at St. Joseph Minor Seminary we are the flint and the seminary is the steel that strikes us and creates the spark. The seminary gives us this mindset of giving all to God, no matter how hard it may be. It gives us the mentality of "No suffering is too great if it is suffered for Christ." The seminary gives us the dry grass and leaves of manual labor, prayer, sacrifice, and fulfilling our daily duty to build up the fire of love.

We have plenty of work, from milking the cow to sweeping the floor. During the weekdays Fr. Benedict likes to keep us busy by assigning lots of homework. On Saturdays, there is no shortage of work, especially with Fr. Philip around. He always seems to have some big project on his mind. As for prayer, we attend Mass every day, we visit the Blessed Sacrament as a group twice a day, not counting our rosary and Holy Mass. Our Hidden Treasure is only about fifteen paces from our rooms so we can make a visit as frequently as we like. Sacrifices have been a lot

But it is not only the seminary's atmosphere but the whole atmosphere of the parish. The parishioners are awesome examples to all of us. It seems like the church is always full but especially on first Fridays and Saturdays. It is like it is Sunday it's so full. They have shown me by their example how important the Mass is in our lives no matter if we are a clergyman or a layman.

The Seminary sets us up for life. We learn self-discipline and a good education. We are taught to try and to do our best. We are taught how to work and how to work hard, so no matter what we do, we can do well at it.

As you can see it would be hard for one here not to grow spiritually, to come close to the heart of Christ. It would be hard for one here not to hear the voice of God and obey it. We are few but we are a happy few. We are a small band of brothers that are striving to be the best. But this small band will meet the great many evils in battle nonetheless!