



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

June, 2025

**W**ould you believe it? It feels like yesterday when everyone arrived here for the first time full of energy and raring to know what the new year had in store; but alas, here we are writing the final issue of *The Guardian* for this school year.

From the conclusion of your first year at the minor seminary, you come to realize that there is not a busier and more event-filled month than that of May. As soon as we returned from our amazing and edifying trip to Omaha at the beginning of the month, we were met by our yearly Jog-a-thon fundraiser, which never ceases to cause muscle aches that will last the rest of the year.

Not long after, our seniors presented their long-awaited senior projects, in which many strenuous hours of effort, research, and writing had been put. Among all these events, however, the biggest highlight for us seminarians during the month of May was our yearly camping trip, which contained some of the most memorable moments of the entire year.

As we approach the final days of this school year, we reflect on the many benefits and graces which we have received over the past year, and we thank God and Our Blessed Mother for all the good that they have shown to us. We are very grateful for the interest and support that you have

shown to us over this past school year, and we will continue to remember our gracious benefactors in our daily prayers. May God bless you!

## The Right Hand of the Lord

by Louis Albin, gr. 10

**D**extera Domini fecit virtutem: dextera Domini exaltavit me. ("The right hand of the Lord has wrought strength: the right hand

## June Calendar

- 2 – Marcel's Birthday
- 15 – Father's Day
- 17-19 – Annual Religious Retreat
- 22 – Corpus Christi Procession
- 27 – Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 29 – Annual MIQ Parish Picnic



*The staff and seminarians posed for a group photo near the end of the school year.*

of the Lord has exalted me.") These words from Psalm 117, sung in a wonderful polyphony by César Franck, were the highlight of my second year here at the seminary. This hymn was sung during the Offertory of the First Solemn High Mass of Fa-

ther Martin Marie, CMRI.

By the grace of God and the support of our benefactors, this was the first year at the seminary where all of us minor seminarians have been able to go to the ordinations and First Solemn High Masses of the priests in Omaha.

It was an indescribable feeling for each of us as we watched the ordination of Fr. Martin, with whom we have lived, worked, prayed, and recreated for several years. He is now one of those who can truly be called the "right

hand of the Lord." The First Solemn High Masses were very beau-

tiful, and we were able to sing in the choir and serve for some of them. During the rest of the week, we visited with many people, including the families of the other religious. We got to meet many new people and see others whom we rarely get to see.

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We stayed at the house of our generous benefactor, Mr. Dan Hanson. I would like to tell you more, however, about my personal experience there.

As for me, my favorite part was the singing. The choir at the ordinations and first Masses was probably the best in which I will ever sing. From the beginning of this year, my dream was to go to Omaha for ordinations. At first, my only hope was to learn all the music being sung, and I hoped that Fr. Benedict would allow me to go as part of the choir. Around the time of March, I dedicated every free moment that I had to practicing the polyphonic Masses and other songs that would be sung there. In the end, Father informed us that we were all allowed to go, but meanwhile, I made an important connection between my journey to Omaha and our spiritual journey to heaven.

I looked forward to the trip to Omaha perhaps more than I ever have to anything else, and I was willing to work for it in the hours I spent learning the music. This is the attitude we should all have for our heavenly goal. We should have this eagerness for the Beatific Vision every moment of the day, and we should be willing to give anything to receive this reward. In the end, ordinations were so glorious that one can hardly help but thinking of our future goal. It was truly a glimpse of heaven.

**The Beauty of Pentecost**

by Alexei Ibañez, gr. 10

In the month of June we celebrate the beautiful feast of Pentecost. This is the day on which the Holy Ghost descended upon Our Lady and the Apostles. This event gave the Apostles the graces necessary to preach the



*One of the seminarians crowns Our Lady's statue with fresh flowers during May devotions.*

Gospel of Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Redeemer. Without this event, the Catholic Church would not be what it is today. Pentecost is also a liturgical season in which we can strive to grow closer to the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost plays an important role in the life of the Church, for without His guidance, we could achieve nothing. He has guided the Church through both hard and peaceful times; and the Church constantly implores His help.

The assistance of the Holy Ghost is seen most prominently in the Church's current turbulent times. He helps souls enter the true Church and turn away from their past sins. Without His aid, we can achieve nothing.

Sadly, the Holy Ghost is often forgotten or neglected. He helps us attain the eternal Kingdom of Heaven and grants certain gifts and virtues to those who are greatly devoted to Him. The gifts of the Holy Ghost are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. These gifts, bestowed upon us by the Holy Ghost, are powerful aids to help us attain our true home of Heaven. Each one strengthens and empowers us to fight the temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil. We must never forget to pray to the Holy Ghost, since He is our most prominent guide on this pilgrimage here upon Earth. His aid is so powerful,

and if we just remember to call upon Him, we can achieve all that we need.

Let us never forget to pray and ask for the assistance of the most abundant Dispenser of Graces. We should never be afraid or too lazy to call upon Him. The Holy Ghost will answer us if we call upon Him. Let us not delay, but rather invoke Him as soon as we are in need of His graces.



*A little bit of rain did not deter us from the usual May 13th procession.*

I would like to conclude by thanking Mr. Dan Hanson and the others whose hospitality we received while we were in Omaha. Thank you also to those who sponsored us in the Jog-a-thon; your generous donations helped us to be able to go. Finally, thank-you to all who helped to support the seminary in any way. It has been a wonderful year, and you can be assured of our prayers.





*Believe it or not, this is an exercise during choir class.*



*The beautiful scenery of southwestern Montana provided the perfect background for hiking.*



*The outdoor volleyball net has seen plenty of activity over the past month.*



*Each day of the camping trip began with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.*



*Our seniors worked hard all semester on their senior project, which included a power-point presentation.*



*The seminarians joined the young students in the annual jog-a-thon fundraiser.*



## The Boon of Virtuous Friendship

We read in the book of Ecclesiasticus: "A faithful friend is a strong defense; and he that hath found him hath found a treasure" (6:4). This truth highlights one of the greatest blessings of the minor seminary: the seminarians find companions for their teenage years who share their faith, goals, and moral values. This benefit of the minor seminary cannot be overestimated.

How often parents have found all their diligent efforts to raise their children in the fear and love of God undone by bad companions! We are all social creatures. Teenagers, especially, place a high premium on youthful



*We celebrated two birthdays during the month of May.*

companions, with whom they can converse and join in common activities. But where can parents find such good friends for their children, especially in these times?

This quandary faces many Catholic parents today, who search in vain for good companions for their children. Make no mistake: your children will find friends with whom to associate. In time, they will become what their friends are.

For me, it is a joy to watch our seminarians at their recreational pursuits. Even such mundane activities as washing the dishes or milking the cow are made light and easy by companionship. Over time, each year's seminary group becomes a cohesive unit, developing bonds that will last a lifetime. As the school year winds down, the parting for summer is bittersweet as they say their good-byes and head for home.

As we conclude one school year, we are already looking forward to the next. Please join us in prayer for more pious young men who will join our ranks. From these young men, may God deign to draw vocations to serve Him at the altar! We appreciate your prayers and support for this purpose. May Jesus and Mary bless and reward you and grant many blessings to your families!

— Father Benedict Hughes, CMRI

### **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.



*Everyone poses for a group photo after the jog-a-thon.*

*The Guardian* is published monthly for the enjoyment of our benefactors and for the family members of our seminarians. This Newsletter is free upon request.

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