



# THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

July, 2025

**S**hortly after senior graduation on May 31st, the seminarians departed for the summer. That leaves our community of religious (three priests and four brothers) as the only inhabitants of the seminary. Needless to say, it is a lot quieter here than it was during the school year!

This change allows us to enjoy our annual retreat. We were joined by several other religious for a few days of quiet and prayer. An annual retreat is a requirement of Canon Law for religious and is a much-needed opportunity to renew our spiritual life.

The summer also provides the opportunity to spend time with our religious family, reminding us of the psalm: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (psalm 132:1). We cherish the bonds of charity that unite us as members of a spiritual family. During the summer our religious also have an opportunity to visit their families. In general, the summer is a wonderful time to relax.

Soon we will turn our attention to the annual Camp Saint Joseph for boys. In just a few weeks some 60-70 boys will gather from far and wide to enjoy the daily activities of the summer camp, which always includes

daily Mass and prayer, as well as many recreational events. Hopefully, it will also be an opportunity for boys who have an interest in the seminary to see our campus and to become acquainted with the priests and brothers who staff our seminary. Please remember to pray for more vocations!

May this summer be for all of you a time of relaxation and of the joyful living of our precious Faith. Please



*Priests and Brothers gathered for a group photo on the last day of our retreat.*

continue your prayers for our seminary. May God reward you for supporting us. We pray daily for all of you.

In the service of Jesus,  
Mary and Saint Joseph,

*Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI, Rector*

## Our Final Hurrah

*by Henry Harris, gr. 12*

**A**s minor seminarians we are in the progress of finishing or for some of us starting our high school years and as you know, the number one thing that high school boys love is No School.

One of the big outings that we have at the end of the school year is our annual camping trip. This year our trip was arranged by Fr. Gabriel, who took us to the Bitterroot Mountains in Montana. Here we stayed on the shores of a lake where we were all able to do a polar plunge into the frozen water, but the highlight of this trip was definitely the hike up to the horsehead arch. On this seven-hour hike we went from a nice dirt trail to climbing giant boulders, to pushing our way through thick forests.

We left from the seminary around 3:00 and took the four-hour drive to our cabin on Lake Como. When we arrived, we had burgers for dinner and had an awesome time settling in. The next day we took a hike to see Horsehead Arch. *Continued on Page 4*



*Before departing for the summer, Marcel and Leo (two current seminarians), posed with Brother Anthony and Brother Simon (two former minor seminarians).*

*Father Benedict distributed the awards and grade cards, assisted by Fr. Aloysius and Fr. Martin.*



*Brendan Rabjohns receives his graduation diplomas from His Excellency.*

*Seminarians carried the statue of Our Lady during the annual Queenship procession at the end of May.*





*His Excellency offered Mass in our parish church on the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*



*The Sisters from Mount Saint Michael joined our Brothers, seminarians and parishioners for the annual Queenship procession.*



*As usual, we held Rogation processions on the days before Ascension Thursday.*



*Seminarians carry the statue of Our Lady during the procession.*



*On the final day of school, the children put on a short program before the awards ceremony.*

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We took the trail all the way to the end, and then we decided that we wanted to climb all the way to the arch. From where we started it didn't look too hard, but as we kept going we ran into thick brush (and I mean thick), but we persisted until we came to a cliff face that we could not go around. Since it was so late in the day we decided to turn back. Thankfully from up on the mountain we were able to look down and find an easier return route. When we finally made it back to the vans we figured out that we had been gone for seven hours on the hike. What was truly amazing is that our dog Felix had made the whole hike as well! When we got back our food had never tasted so good.

The next day we took it easy and sat around the campfire and made pancakes. Later in the day we went on a beautiful rosary walk around the lake. In the evening we listened to scary stories around the campfire and said farewell to our beloved Fr. Gabriel, as he left for Maine. On our last day at the cabin we didn't do much. We attended Mass and then packed all our things and cleaned the cabin. On the way home we stopped at a restaurant and also enjoyed ice cream.

We all loved the camping trip and hope that we can go back next year. But most of all we miss Father Gabriel, and we all send him our prayers and hope we will be able to go camping with him again some day. God bless you, Father Gabriel.

## **The Sleepers of Ephesus**

*by Brendan Rabjohns, graduate*

**I**n the history of the Church many miracles have been worked. All miracles have the same purpose of glorifying God and proving His power, but they can have additional effects. Some miracles preserved the saints from harm and others led to conversions. Still others were worked in proof of a doctrine of

the Church that was being doubted. The story of the Sleepers of Ephesus belongs to this category. It is not a very well-known story, but it is extremely interesting and even seems like something out of a movie.

The Seven Sleepers were Roman citizens of Ephesus during the reign of Decius, 249 to 251. At the advent of Decius to their city of Ephesus, a proclamation was issued demanding all Catholic men to offer sacrifice to the pagan gods. The saints refused and were judged to be fervent Christians. Nevertheless, the pagans hoped to change the saints' minds and allowed them to return home. The seven sleepers, by name Maximian, Malchus, Marcius, Denis, John, Serapion, and Constantine, assembled and resolved to hide themselves on Mt. Celion.

The emperor Decius discovered their flight and ordered them to be found, but the soldiers searched the cave in which the saints had hidden and could not find them. As they knew the saints were in the cave, the soldiers sealed the cave and left. Here the saints lay sleeping for 228 years.

When the cave was opened in 478 to make a stable, the saints awoke and thought they had slept but one day. St. Malchus went to buy bread and was brought to the bishop for having money from the reign of Decius and questioning the fact that the city was entirely Catholic. The bishop and many people went to the cave with St. Malchus and beheld all seven saints transfigured.

The current reigning emperor, Theodosius II, came with many and were rebuked. This was due to the growing doubt concerning the resurrection. After this miraculous testimony the saints died and were buried in the cave.

### **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.

*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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