



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

November, 2025

How time flies here at the seminary! It feels as if only a few days ago October began. We have been very busy with many things here in Idaho. At five o'clock every evening a public Rosary is said in the seminary chapel. During October, the Rosary is said while the Blessed Sacrament is exposed. What immense graces we all received for this! During the second week of October, we attended the annual Fatima Conference held at Mount Saint Michael in Spokane, Washington.

dark. In the last week of October, we celebrated the feast of Christ the King. In honor of Our Lord, we had a High Mass and sang multiple hymns, including *Laudate Dominum, Christus Vincit*, and *Christ the King*.

As the First Quarter of school ends and the Second begins, we look forward to the many activities in November. To begin the month we celebrate All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. For All Souls' Day, we plan to make the most of the *Toties Quoties* indulgence, visiting our seminary chapel many times throughout the day to release as many souls as we can from purgatory.



During the Fatima Conference, several seminarians posed for a photo with two of the Brothers.

The following weekend, five former minor seminarians visited. We enjoyed many fun activities during their stay, such as soccer and football at the park, a campfire one night, and a modified game of cops and robbers in the

snow, so that we can go sledding and have snowball fights. Advent comes at the end of the month, which will prepare us for the Christmas season.

That sums up all that we did last month and all that we are excited

November Calendar

- 1 – All Saints Day; High Mass and outing
- 2 – Chanted Vespers
- 3 – All Souls Day; special observances for the Poor Souls
- 21 – Presentation of Mary; chanted Vespers; Liam's 14th birthday
- 27-28 – Thanksgiving Break; no classes
- 30 – Advent begins

for this month. As we continue our studies here at the seminary, we ask you to please keep us in your prayers. May God bless you!

From Pain to Glory

by Diego Diaz, gr. 9

If I were to randomly come up to you and say "November," what would you think? Would you think about what plans you have for this month? Or would you think about the two very special feasts that begin this wonderful month? Well, if you thought about your plans for this month, I would not blame you. Especially if you are a mom or dad, because obviously, you are very busy throughout the month.

Even with all these things going on in our lives, we should at least give thought to all the saints in heaven who help us and rejoice

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with us in our crosses, trials, and joys. How would you feel if they didn't help you? Alone, forgotten, and maybe even depressed. Compare this to what the Poor Souls in purgatory feel when nobody prays for them – poor, poor souls who have no one to pray for them!

Of course, we Catholics pray for them every day, right? The truth is sad and hurtful, but it is reality. I am extremely guilty of this sad truth; rarely do I think about the Poor Souls in purgatory who suffer so much, who will be freed if we pray for them, yet I am deaf to their cries and rarely pray. Oh, how much I must pray for them who are tormented by fires the same as those of hell! I do not wish to preach to all of you, but merely to remind you of the souls who will be your best friends and who will help you if only you help them.

Although there are souls who are suffering, there are also souls who enjoy the Beatific Vision in heaven. These souls are the saints. The saints are our best friends; they intercede, guide, and love us. What better friends could you ask for?

Are only canonized saints in heaven, you ask? Although all the canonized saints are in heaven, there are also countless other souls in heaven, such as the souls who got out of purgatory because of our prayers.

You know when you were a kid and your mom always told you that whenever you do something for someone, you should never expect anything in return? Well, that's what I thought about the *Toties Quoties* Indulgence at first. Then, my mom told me that whenever you do this devotion, the souls in purgatory whom you helped will repay you a hundredfold by praying and interceding for you if you go to purgatory. Happy feast day and may God bless you! All you saints of God, pray for us!

“And the Word Was Made Flesh”

by Henry Harris, gr. 12

At the minor seminary the Fatima Conference is one of the big highlights of the year. It is very busy for the seminary, but it is especially busy for the priests and religious. It is such a great experience for all the minor seminarians but especially for the new ones.

At the Fatima Conference, the seminarians get the privilege to listen to a series of lectures given by the various priests and bishops. Fr. Saunders, a priest working for the salvation of souls in Canada, gave a talk about the North American Martyrs as well as his numerous missions in Canada. This speech was my favorite as Fr. Saunders delivered it very well and it kept me on the edge of my seat the whole time.

Some of the other talks included speakers from all over the world, such as Bishop Espina from Argentina, Bishop Davila from Mexico, Bishop Roy from Canada, and Fr. Kryssov from Russia. All the talks were excellent and all of us seminarians learned a lot from them.

In addition to listening to all the lectures, we also got to play soccer in the gym at Mount St. Michaels with multiple guests from the conference on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday there was the candlelight procession, which is always a highlight for any Fatima Conference, for we minor seminarians were able to carry the statue of Our Lady.



Brother Simon leads the seminarians in singing several hymns for the Conference guests.

On the Sunday of the Fatima Conference, all the attendees came to Mass here at the City of Mary in Idaho. After Mass all the guests gathered in the parish hall for breakfast, and following breakfast, we seminarians sang three songs, *Laudate Dominum*, *O Mother Blest*, and a Vietnamese hymn to Our Lady. After the completion of our songs, all the visitors were welcome to come to the seminary for an open house.

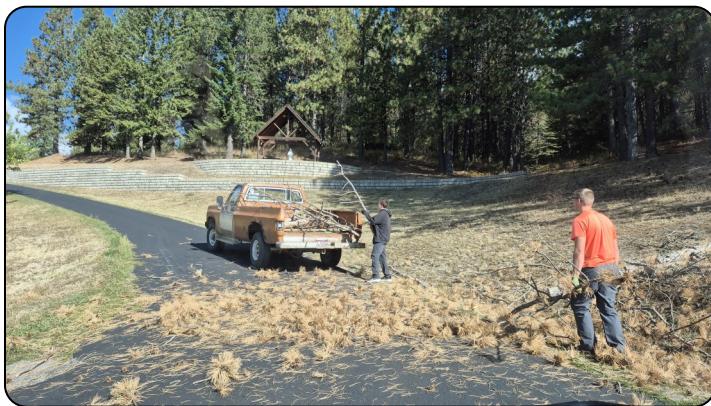
This Fatima Conference was my favorite Conference of the five that I have attended. All the seminarians had a lot of fun, whether it was from listening to the amazing lectures or playing in the gym, and now that it is over, we are all looking forward to next year.



The seminarians served for the daily Rosary during October before the Blessed Sacrament exposed.



Seminarians helped Mr. Keaveney in processing this year's grape harvest.



There were plenty of autumn chores to keep us occupied on Saturdays.



During their brief visit to our seminary, several former seminarians joined in a recreation period.



Father Martin's was one of several feast days this past month.



Harvesting this year's apple crop!

A Holy and Wholesome Thought

You are no doubt aware of the fact that the Protestant Bible has 7 fewer books in comparison to the Catholic Bible. Many reasons have been advanced as to why Martin Luther chose to delete those 7 books from the Old Testament, but a very likely reason is that he so detested the following words: "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (II Machabees, 12:46).

Needless to say, the idea of purgatory did not fit very well into his "faith alone saves" idea. Protestants believe that one who accepts Jesus Christ as his savior goes straight to heaven after death. Yet how can they not see that this is contrary, not just to the teaching cited above from the Old Testament, but to so many quotations from the New Testament as well? Not only that, but it is contrary to reason. It makes no sense that one who has lived a holy life of prayer, sacrifice, avoidance of occasions of sin, frequent and devout reception of the sacraments, etc., will be on a par with an inveterate sinner who by the grace of God is converted and truly repents before his death—that both will equally go straight to heaven without any need for atonement.

For us Catholics, however, there is no need to go through proofs, for we have the infallible teaching of the Church on the existence of purgatory. We also have many wonderful writings filled with stories from the lives of the saints regarding purgatory.

These examples remind us of the foolishness of those who put off amendment of

life and atonement for past sins.

Reflection on the reality of purgatory serves not only as a reminder of the importance of living in such a way as to avoid spending years in purgatory, but also as an incentive to works of charity. Our Lord said: "Make friends for yourselves with the mammon of



The boys made the most of their trips to the park this past month.



Diego explains his science experiment to his fellow seminarians.

wickedness, so that when you fail they may receive you into the everlasting dwellings." (Luke 16:9). Although this particularly applies to giving alms to the poor, it applies equally well to relieving the suffering of the Poor Souls. Likewise, Saint Raphael instructed Tobias as follows: "Alms delivereth from death, and the same is that which purgeth away sins, and maketh to find mercy and life everlasting" (Tobias, 12:9). Saint Francis de Sales tells us that by releasing souls from purgatory we perform all the works of mercy at once. Indeed, the suffering souls detained in purgatory are in the greatest need, because they cannot help themselves.

Here at the seminary we pray daily for the Poor Souls. During November we have several High Masses and recite prayers for the faithful departed after every Mass. In addition, the seminarians are encouraged to make visits to the cemetery, especially during the octave of All Souls Day. It is a great blessing to have a Catholic cemetery on our property—consecrated ground where the mortal remains of approximately 100 souls await the general resurrection. Let us all give the alms of our prayers, sacrifices and indulgences to these poor souls, so desperately in need of our help. If we do so, we can have great trust that one day, they will "receive us into everlasting dwellings." May God bless you and reward you for your support of our seminary.

—Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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