



THE GUARDIAN

March already! It's hard to believe that spring is coming up so fast. In fact, we have hardly any snow here at the City of Mary! Our sleds have had little use. Lately, however, the seminarians have been more interested in hockey, whether on ice or in the gym. Thanks to generous benefactors, we have been able to make several trips to a local ice rink and even got some old hockey gear for our games.

The first major highlight of this

So, that being said, what are we looking forward to in March? We always take special care to honor our seminary's patron, St. Joseph, during his month. This includes singing a high Mass for his feast on the 19th. Besides that, on St. Patrick's Day, we usually hold our own mini talent show where we perform a few skits and songs just for the faculty and religious here. During Lent, we continue to perform our little penances and sacrifices in preparation for Easter. We also take part in the special devo-

March Calendar

- 1 – Conclusion of Lenten retreat
- 15 – Saint Joseph/St. Patrick Fund-raising Breakfast
- 19 – Feast of Saint Joseph; Solemn High Mass
- 20 – End of Third Quarter
- 21 – Father Benedict's feastday
- 23 – First Day of Fourth Quarter
- 29 – Palm Sunday

Resting in Union with God

by Henry Bryson Tucker, gr. 12

“**P**rayer is nothing else but union with God” – St. John Vianney. Our days are full of prayer. We say morning prayers, attend Mass, pray the Rosary, meal prayers, the Angelus, and finally night prayers. How important it is for us to pray morning prayers! St. John Vianney said, “Never forget that it is at the beginning of each day that God has the necessary grace for the day ready for us. He knows exactly what opportunities we shall have to sin and will give us everything we need if we ask Him then.”

But it is equally important to recite night prayers. It is during night prayers that we not only thank God for all the graces He has granted us that day, but we also ask Him to protect us during the

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Father Aloysius assists Father Benedict in blessing the ashes.

month was the Talent Show. We seminarians, as usual, performed some short skits and sang a few songs for the parishioners. Then, we had our annual Lenten retreat at the very end of the month. This was a good time to unwind and to recollect ourselves.

tions held here for this season. These include Stations of the Cross on Fridays and chanted Vespers every Sunday afternoon.

As always, we keep you in our prayers. Please pray for us as well, as the year progresses. It will be over sooner than we expect!

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night. We should form the recitation of night prayers into a habit, making sure to say them every night.

Here at the seminary at the end of our night prayers, we chant one of the Marian Antiphons. There are four Marian Antiphons that are sung throughout the year. Currently, we are chanting the *Ave Regina Caelorum*,



Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday of Lent.

a beautiful hymn which translates to the hymn *Hail, O Queen of Heaven Enthroned*. We began singing it on feast of the Purification and we will end on Wednesday of Holy Week. The other three Antiphons are the *Alma Redemptoris Mater* (Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent to the Feast of the Purification), the *Regina Caeli* (Easter to Trinity Sunday), and the *Salve Regina* (Trinity Sunday to the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent).

On Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, we chant the solemn tone, a more complex version of each antiphon. In addition to the solemn tone, we also have a procession on those days. During this procession, the lights are turned off, and everybody carries a blessed candle to the communion rail in our chapel. After the conclusion of the antiphon and final closing prayers, we remain for a few minutes in silence, giving to God our last thoughts of the day.

Before retiring for the night, we should thank God for the many graces He gives us. God is so loving as to give us the necessary graces for the day. Our last thoughts of the day then, should be those of adoration and thanksgiving to God. Let us strive never to forget to do this. If we say night prayers, we will be in "union with God" throughout the night.

A Perfect Model of Manhood

by Diego Diaz, gr. 9

Many men make great sacrifices; many men give up the world to then give themselves up to God. Men leave their families to serve

their flag, only to come back in a casket with the flag they so dearly gave their lives for. All these men give their whole hearts to what they do for the sake of love. Love, what is love? Is it a mere feeling? Surely, love must be a virtue, right? And you would be correct; everything good that has happened in this world is because of love.

God is all perfect, therefore he is all loving, all merciful, and all just. Next to God, there was one man who excelled in all virtues so perfectly that he had the supreme honor to be the foster father of God himself. Such a man was Saint Joseph. Why was it that Saint Joseph had this almost impossible honor? Why was Caesar Augustus not the foster father of Our Lord, himself having complete control over the known world? The answer is simple, yet profound. Saint Joseph was chosen above all other men because of his love for God. Saint Joseph loved God so much that he would do anything to make God happy. Saint Joseph practiced every form of virtue; he practiced humility, charity, hope, temperance, justice, wisdom, and many more. This earned him the sole privilege of the care of God.

Saint Joseph is the essence of manhood. Every man should look to Saint Joseph for guidance. All the virtues that Saint Joseph practiced are the virtues of a man. A man is not a rigid, tyrannical, cold-hearted creature meant for the dominion of the world, but a sensitive, gentle, and loving person whose job it is to give glory to God in everything he does. Now rest assured, a man is also not meant to be a "snowflake," but a zealous defender of the faith and his country. Our Lord is a perfect example of this. He gave his life for us on the cross because He loves us,



Felix is our best-behaved student, but he hasn't learned much!

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Everyone enjoyed the seminarians' skits for the Talent Show.



Guess what the seminarians' favorite winter game is!



The seminarians and Brothers received their ashes in the sanctuary.



Spring chores have included grounds cleanup and burning the branches.



Our procession on Candlemas Day was a simple one around the parking lot.



It was a cloudy day but excellent ski conditions on Lookout Mountain.

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opening the gates of heaven for us so that we may enjoy everlasting happiness with Him. But Our Lord is also a just judge, a judge who watches us and takes a tally of every single little offense against him. Oh, may we never go to hell!

Let us then, as men and soldiers of Christ, take up our cross and follow Him to the ends of the world and back, ever joining in the cry of the great Cristeros: "Que Viva Cristo Rey!"



The Candlemas procession departs the church on the short outdoor route.

Preparing the Church's Garden

Around this time of year gardeners eagerly prepare for their summer garden and start planting seeds indoors, to be later transplanted into the garden. There is a certain enthusiasm in watching the seeds germinate and begin to grow. Eventually, the seedlings become large enough to transplant, giving one a headstart on the season.

There is a reason why we call institutions of preparation for the priesthood seminaries. The word *seminary* comes from the Latin word for a plantation or nursery, a place where young plants are nurtured before they are transplanted. The students in a seminary, whether minor (high school age) or major (post high school) are like seedlings that are developing – spiritually, academically and morally. The seminary is the place where a vocation is sheltered from the world and nurtured, that it might grow into a well-formed priest or religious, like the seedling is prepared for the garden.

But young men are not automatically transformed by simply being in a seminary. The process is slow and requires their continued cooperation with the

grace of God and the instructions of their professors and spiritual directors. The atmosphere, however, is ideal for fostering vocations.

Sometimes a young man enters a seminary and eventually determines that the priesthood is not his vocation. When there is a true vocation present, however, the seminary is the ideal place for the young man to develop into manhood, sheltered from the icy blasts of the world, and to become truly another Christ.

Further, it must be remembered that we cannot give vocations. Only God gives a vocation. For our part, we must pray for more vocations, as Our Lord instructs: "Pray the Lord of the harvest that He send laborers into the harvest." We ask your daily prayers for this intention. How much the Church needs priests and religious today! They must come from good Catholic families, however, where prayer is an integral part of the day (especially the family Rosary) and the world and occasions of sin are kept out of the home. These are the nurseries from which the ideal seed is formed, which can later be planted in the garden of the seminary. *Spes Messis in Semine* ("The hope of the harvest is in the seedlings").

Be assured that we greatly appreciate your prayers for the success of our work and your financial support. If you are able to give an additional donation during our annual Lenten Alms Drive, we would be most grateful. You have a special remembrance in our daily prayers for our benefactors. May you have a holy Lent, leading to a most joyful Easter.

— Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI



Brother Mary Fidelis has been busy making cheese with the extra milk we get.

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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