



THE GUARDIAN

How quickly the season of Lent went by! What a small time we had to do penance to console our Lord! It feels like two weeks since we received the reminder that we shall one day return to dust. Everyone at the seminary especially feels this “time-lapse.” Just a couple weeks ago we were hoping that Easter break would give us a “breather,” and now it is at hand.

During this past month of March we had many eventful days, with the St Patrick’s day breakfast and talent show, Father Benedict’s feast day and the feast of St Joseph. It was certainly a contrast with the month of February. We were especially busy in preparing our skits and songs for the St. Patrick’s Day Talent Show.

Now we are all excited for Holy Week and Easter, as we get to serve all the beautiful ceremonies the Church has laid out for this wonderful week of pure outflowing grace. We are also looking forward to our annual Easter week vacation, as we all need a break

from our studies, to return to classes more focused than ever. Let us never forget to give thanks for these graces and “breathers” God gives us – something the seminarians are sure to do. May God bless you and may you have a most blessed Easter.

Will You Stay with Him?

by Louis Albin, gr. 11

We Catholics have been endowed with the greatest aid to our Faith – the

April Calendar

- 2-3 – Holy Thursday/Good Friday
- 5 – Easter Sunday; Easter Egg Hunt for children
- 5-12 – Easter Vacation; no school
- 13 – Classes resume as normal
- 24-26 – Forty Hours Adoration
- 28 – Feast of Saint Louis Marie de Montfort; begin preparation for renewal of Total Consecration



Felix wasn't happy about being in our group picture on St. Patrick's Day!

Holy Eucharist. But sadly, many take this wonderful privilege for granted. Since April is the month of the Blessed Sacrament, it is a great time to renew one’s zeal for this great gift by meditating on how it was granted to us.

This year, we commemorate Ho-

ly Thursday at the beginning of this month. On this day, Christ gave us the greatest possible gift – that is, Himself. He not only did this, but also instituted it as a sacrament, by which He remains in our chapels today. The same day, however, He made a request to His Apostles, which should apply equally to us. “Stay you here, and watch with Me.” Unfortunately, like the Apostles in this instance, we have often been unfaithful in keeping watch with Our Lord.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

It is to make up for this that we had two all-night Eucharistic vigils here during Passiontide. The first was on the Friday of Passion Week, the secondary feast of Our Mother of Sorrows. This reminds us of Mary's constancy as she stood by the cross of her Son. Throughout the night of this feast, each seminarian spent an hour accompanying the Blessed Sacrament in our chapel. The second vigil that we take part in is the one held for the parish on Holy Thursday. Usually, each seminarian spends an hour of adoration on this feast as well, in thanksgiving for the Holy Eucharist and in preparation for Easter.

After His Resurrection, Our Lord appeared unknown to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus, as is related in the Gospel of St. Luke. When they reached the end of their journey, they besought Him, "Stay with us, because it is towards evening, and the day is now far spent." Later, they recognized Him as He broke bread. Through this powerful symbolism, Christ promised that He would always "stay with us" in the Blessed Sacrament.



Fresh snow in mid-March gave us one last chance for sledding.

So let us, during this month of April, try to do something extra in thanksgiving for this wonderful gift. Whether it's making an extra visit here or there, or simply spending a few extra minutes with Our Lord, we should try to honor His last

command before His death, "Stay you here, and watch with Me." We know that Christ is willing to stay with us unless He is driven out by sin; the only question is whether we are willing to stay with Him.

A Life Changing Thing For Which to Be Grateful

by Leo Mansfield, gr. 10

“Let us give thanks for what we have now, lest we grieve when it is gone.” This is a quote from St. John Chrysostom that we should reflect upon.

For a minor seminarian there is a lot to be thankful for. I often forget all the gifts and privileges that we get here, for instance, being around Catholic boys my age, living with the religious and learning about my

vocation, playing a large variety of sports, learning to sing, and being able to go to Holy Mass every day. I often forget what a privilege it is to live a door away from the Blessed Sacrament. I can go into chapel fre-



Each seminarian has at least two opportunities to serve for Stations during Lent.

quently throughout the day. Many people can't do that because they don't live around a church. Many times, I have taken this for granted.

Back home in Utah, there is no church close by; we do have a mission called Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Mission. Once every month, a priest from Colorado comes and offers Mass for us in our house. This makes me realize what a privilege it is to be able to go to Mass every day here at the minor seminary!

Growing up in "Mormon-ville," there weren't any other Catholic boys around my age. I couldn't do many activities other than soccer which was only in the spring. I was cooped up inside, of my own accord, and didn't want to hang out with non-Catholics due to their bad influence.

I really have to thank my parents for convincing me to go to the minor seminary. At first, I didn't want to come here because I was afraid of leaving home. I was actually offered to come to the minor seminary in my eighth-grade year but declined. My parents had to deal with a bratty, muffin-headed child like me who just wanted to watch movies or play videogames all day. The next year my mom convinced me to go, and I immensely regretted not having gone the year before.

There is so much more to be grateful for, like the many seminary benefactors that helped me from a recent injury, the teachers who taught me so much, the man who lets us ice-skate every other week, the parishioners that make bread for us every week, the people who donate flowers for the altar, and so much more!

I will end with a quote from St. Teresa of Avila. "We can never be sufficiently grateful for the blessings God bestows upon us."



The Brothers and seminarians butchered several pigs last month.



The seminarians donned green ties to serve the St. Joseph/St. Patrick parish breakfast.



Our annual project of making "blarney stones" involves everyone.



Everyone pitches in to prepare a feastday dinner.



We concluded our Talent Show with a couple of Irish hymns.



One of the skits for our St. Patrick Day Talent Show was entitled "Sea Chanty."

The Delights of the Priesthood

In the early part of the 19th century there was a boy who liked to play games and go to fairs. One day, while a fair was going on



Fortunately, the rain held off during our Palm Sunday procession.

in the town, he noticed a young cleric standing outside the church, waiting for it to be opened. The boy enthusiastically offered to show the cleric around the various booths of the carnival. For his part, however, the cleric thanked the boy and replied with a smile that for ecclesiastics the ceremonies of the Church are their greatest enjoyment.

Both the boy and the cleric would later be canonized by the Church. The young cleric was St. Joseph Cafasso (1811-1860), and the boy was St. John Bosco (1815-1888). This charming



The servers line up for the distribution of palms.

story demonstrates an important truth—namely, that for a priest (or seminarian), the liturgy of the Church becomes a focal point of his life. In fact, a boy's delight in serving Mass, and especially serving more complex liturgical

ceremonies, is a sure sign of a likely vocation.

Of all the liturgical rites of the year, those of Holy Week are the most complex and beautiful. Each is unique, and each is filled with various ceremonies that are both ancient and replete with profound meaning. It is a delight, just as it is taxing, to learn and practice these wonderful liturgies with care and exactness. As of this writing, we have completed Palm Sunday and are entering the final few days of Holy Week, with their unique ceremonies. A great deal of time will be spent over the next few days preparing for and performing these liturgies.

The greatest and most important of these is the Easter Vigil, which ushers in the focal point of the year—the feast of the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Easter is truly a foretaste of our eternal joy in heaven. I pray that you all have a most blessed and joyous Easter!



Father blesses our St. Joseph cords before the High Mass on his feast.

Once again, I thank you for your kindness in supporting our seminary. The work of educating the next generation of priests is critical. Please continue to pray for our seminary, and especially for more vocations—for young men like St. Joseph Cafasso and St. John Bosco, who will dedicate their lives to labor for the salvation of souls

— Fr. Benedict Hughes, CMRI

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