



THE GUARDIAN

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Monthly newsletter of Saint Joseph Seminary

September, 2026

We six seminarians this year come from Idaho, Nebraska, Texas, Utah and Washington. There is at least one seminarian in each grade, including one eighth-grader. Already, we have become well-acquainted and all agree that this is going to be a great year.

On a typical morning there are three Masses—one at the seminary, one at the convent, and the public Mass at the church. That means that, along with the three

will be on the feast of Our Lady's Nativity, September 8th. We especially try to honor Our Blessed Mother on all her feastdays, asking for her intercession as we seek to grow in the knowledge and practice of our faith.

Our annual three-day outing to Lake Coeur d'Alene took place last week, toward the end of our first week of school. The weather was warm, the water was great, and we all enjoyed one another's company. Now it is time to really

September Calendar

- 5 – Our secretary's birthday
- 8 – Feast of Our Lady's nativity; High Mass
- 15 – Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows
- 24 – Feast of Our Lady of Ransom
- 29 – Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel; ordination ceremony at the Mount

A Saint for Our Times

by Louis Albin, gr. 12

When we think of humility, we often think of the materially poor or unfortunate members of our society. Conversely, pride is often automatically applied to those who have power or position. Both associations, though, are misconceptions, and in the life of one of the greatest modern men, we can see true humility – that is, seeing oneself as one is in relation to God.

Giuseppe Sarto was born in Riese, a small village which, at the time, was a possession of the Austrian Empire. As a boy, he walked nearly four miles to school every day. He was an excellent student, but his primary focus was the spiritual life. He attended Mass daily, served at the altar, and always dedicated time to make an extra visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

When the time came, he joined the seminary and was soon ordained.

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Seminarians are eager and ready for class on the first day of school.

Brothers, we each have plenty of opportunity to serve Mass. Here at the seminary the sacristan sets up for Mass the night before, leaving just a few things to be done after morning prayers. Each seminarian has an opportunity to be a sacristan.

We are also planning on singing High Masses. The first one

will be on the feast of Our Lady's Nativity, September 8th. We especially try to honor Our Blessed Mother on all her feastdays, asking for her intercession as we seek to grow in the knowledge and practice of our faith.

For now, we ask you to pray for the success of our school year. We thank you for reading our newsletter, and we promise to pray for you as well. May God bless you all.

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He served as an assistant pastor, then as a pastor. He was appointed as chancellor to the seminary of Treviso, and then as bishop of Mantua. Then, Leo XIII made him the cardinal and patriarch of Venice. Both during and after each appointment, the farm boy turned priest showed remarkable humility. He always put the good of his people first; he personally assisted in running Catholic schools and preparing children for First Communion. As cardinal, he made a special point to visit each of his parishes. Upon the death of Leo XIII, he was elected pope. He tried to refuse at first, feeling himself unworthy, but after deep prayer, he accepted the position with the name of Pius X.

Pius X displayed the same excellent qualities he did after his previous appointments. Reflecting the devotion he had always had to the Holy Eucharist, he issued a decree allowing children to receive Communion once they reached the age of reason, rather than being forced to wait until age twelve.

Another great accomplishment of Pope Pius X was the reformation of Gregorian chant. After his coronation, this pope published a *motu proprio* promoting the use of chant despite newer styles that were overtaking this music. Pius X appointed Dom Joseph Pothier as president of the Pontifical Commission on the Vatican Edition of Gregorian Liturgical books. In this position, Dom Pothier developed the Solesmes method of reciting Gregorian chant. This was also a major improvement in the music of the Church.

Finally, Pius X bitterly opposed modernism, issuing during his lifetime condemnations of the very errors that are being taught today. Among all his actions as pope, this is probably the most relevant to our times.

St. Pius X was canonized in 1954 by Pope Pius XII. There are many lessons we can learn from the life of this great saint. We should imitate his humility, his devotion to the Eucharist, and his zeal for souls. This great man knew the true meaning of humility, recognizing, just as we should, his dependence on God as is displayed by his personal motto: *Instaurare omnia in Christo*, "To restore all things in Christ."

There and Back Again

by Leo Mansfield, gr. 11

Everyone enjoys a good summer break; I for one had a really good one. This summer I took my final math credit, which was geometry. I hung out with a lot of old friends, went on a trip to Denver, went go-karting with some friends, as well as doing bumper boats, laser tag, shopping, basketball, hockey, soccer, and so much more!

But sadly, as August comes around, you get that stressful feeling indicating summer is ending and school is coming. As it gets closer you have to prepare all your things for the new school year, and then before you know it, it's time to go to school.

It was a little different coming back to the minor seminary this year than the last. Last year, I took a plane flight up here and it was a fairly short flight, but

this time I was driven up by Father Martin, who happened to be at my house at that time, ten days before school started. School started on the 24th for us, and he came to my house and said Mass on the 15th. At first, I was sad when I heard that I was going to lose a full ten days of my summer break, but I honestly preferred the car ride to the plane flight.

On the way up we dropped off Frater Anthony and picked up Brother Ignatius in

Olathe. It was my first time there, and it was very interesting seeing the novitiate, school and the church that they are building. I also saw my older brother, Brother Stanislaus, but I couldn't talk to him because he is on his year of silence. After we stayed the night in Olathe, Father Martin and Brother Ignatius drove to the seminary which was a straight 16-hour drive. I, on the other hand, didn't drive; I slept, ate snacks, and talked the entire way, which was awesome.

Overall, the car trip was great, and though I'm not excited for school, I'm glad to be back at the minor seminary. Plus, it was very interesting seeing the novitiate, which I will likely go to after graduating. I really hope that this will be a successful year at the seminary. Please pray for more vocations, and may God bless you!



Enjoying a break between classes during the first week.



Lots of delicious food at the lake house!



The pool table at the lake house was often in use.



Felix started to follow Louis and Matthew, before turning around.



The canoes and kayaks saw plenty of action.



Brother Fidelis cooks up some burgers and hot dogs on the grill.



Felix looks on during the cornhole competition.



Sam dives from the platform as Felix prepares to jump in after him.

Happy Birthday

by Diego Diaz, gr. 10

September is full of beautiful feast days; it honors incredibly inspiring saints, but who is more inspiring than Our Lady herself? September is full of feast days, but it is also full of birthdays – important birthdays. For example, both my siblings have birthdays in September, but most importantly, it is Our Lady's birthday. The most perfect creature that God has ever created was born in September; what a blessing to be born in this heavenly-favored month!

This favored month is not only full of saints, but it is also full of historical, militaristic, and cultural milestones. Just to name a few examples: the U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787, establishing the framework of the American government; the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783, officially ending the American Revolutionary War and recognizing U.S. independence; V-J Day was proclaimed on September 2, 1945, marking the formal surrender of Japan and the end of World War II. It would seem that Our Lady takes special care of September, as it is not only the month of her birth, but it is also the birth month of many of her devoted children and servants, especially two very special ones, my siblings.

The month of September is the first “real” month of school. July and August still had some summer vacation, but September is nothing but school. Unfortunately, sometimes school can be hard, stressful, and full of surprises and homework. Even though these factors might seem overwhelming, there is always someone we can look up to for advice, guidance, and help. We have our friends, parents, and teachers we can ask for advice, but who is better to ask for advice than Our Lady herself?

Our Lady is our best friend, our perfect mother and teacher, who is just waiting anxiously for you to fly to her for help. In your tribulations, troubles, and triumphs, go to Our Lady, cry with Our Lady, smile with Our Lady, celebrate your victories over sin with

Our Lady. Can comfort, consolation, and pure joy come any easier? Without Our Lady, we would be lost. Go to Mary, fly to Mary, and everything else just falls into place. O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!

The Family Spirit

Life in a minor seminary is much like living in a family. The members of any family have to be able to get along for there to be peace and joy in the home. Each member is different in temperament and interests, but all belong to the same family.

Similarly, in a minor seminary – especially one as small as ours – there are different personalities, with varied interests and talents. For our school year to be successful, these differences must be melded into a

cohesive unity. It is important for the seminarians to learn to practice charity toward one another, to become truly members of a spiritual family.

That is why we begin each school year with an outing, where they can develop the bonds of charity and unity which are essential to the success of the year. We particularly warn them against developing cliques, in which certain of the others are excluded.

With so few living, studying and working together, they must learn to be tolerant of individual differences and considerate toward one another.

I pray that this year will be one in which all our young men will grow closer to God and seek to do His holy will. To have the support and encouragement of their fellow seminarians goes a long way in helping them achieve those essential goals.

As we begin this new school year, we must express our gratitude for our benefactors. Some of you have been on our mailing list ever since we inaugurated the minor seminary in 1999. All of you are an important part of this work. We thank you for your prayers and your support, in this important work of forming future priests. May Jesus and Mary bless you and your families.

— Father Benedict Hughes, CMRI



It's meal time on the deck.