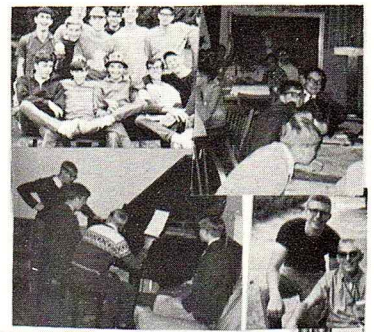
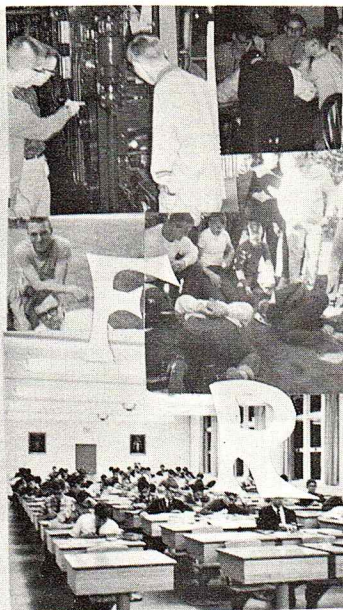


Recorder

Vol. 42 ('67-'68) No. 2 St. Joseph's Seminary Grand Rapids, Michigan



Zorioneko Gabon



Vrolijk Kerstfeest

Kalà Xristoúyena

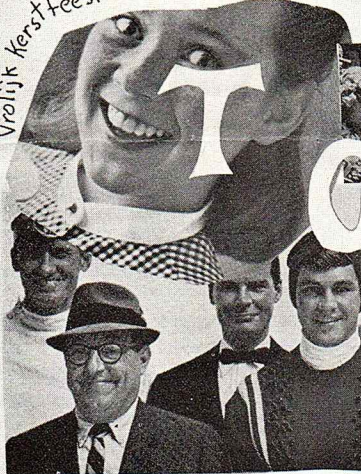
Huan Ying
Sheng Tan Chieh

Buon Natale

Felis Nadal

Feliz Navidad

Nosteriu Lui Christmas Sa



Anata
God Jul

Wesołych Świąt

Fröhliche Weihnachten

Glädelig Jul

Selamat Hari Natal

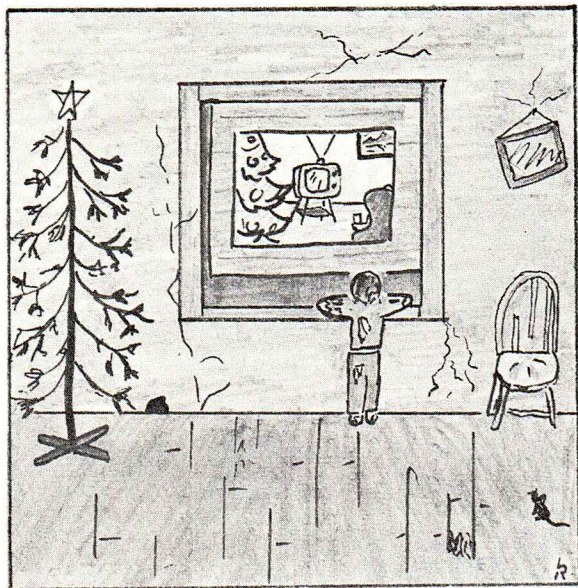
Gajan Kristnasken

Joyeux Noël



A COLD HAM SANDWICH

Benjamin Franklin Jones, an eleven year old "scode", walks across the dirt-filled room and draws back the shredded brown curtain which partially conceals a shattered window resting upon a ragged frame. He peers out into the night and watches the dazzling white snow flutter down and light upon the side of the house. This gracious sight means only one thing to Benjamin and his eight brothers and sisters - another night will find the children sleeping together because the two thin tattered family blankets could hardly serve their purpose. Jimmy, his five year old brother is crying for something to eat. Fortunately, Ben was able to obtain a large piece of bread - this was one of the family's better days.



On the same day, less than a mile away, Fred Peterson is sitting in a soft-cushioned chair, watching a 23" color television. Fred feels a bit chilly so he raises the thermostat from 72° to 76°. A passive thought of food sends him briskly to the refrigerator. What will it be? cold ham? chocolate pudding? some fresh fruit? Fred notices the calendar on his return trip to the den. Dec. 25. "That was some Christmas meal today," Fred thinks. "It was sure great sharing that with my friends."

The Peterson family had a lot for which to be thankful and they celebrated by a feast with friends. Benjamin's family may or may not have had some thoughts of happiness or thanksgiving that Christmas.

Are all the Petersons of 1967 showing thanks? We acknowledge what we are given and rejoice at the abundance with which we have been blessed - don't we?

I suppose this is a matter of personal conscience, but Christmas means something different to me - it means thanksgiving - giving thanks to God for His many blessings.

What do I mean by "giving thanks?" First, we are giving something to someone: therefore thanksgiving is an outgoing action. Secondly, we must be giving something of substance, not merely words. Christ reprimands people who merely give kind words to the needy. Finally, we must realize that we are giving to God.

How then can we give something material to God? That's easy. Remember our friend Benjamin? Well, he's a member of Christ and he can be found almost anywhere.

A number of people would probably like to tell me to give thanks during Christmas my way and they will continue to celebrate it in their own way. But I still wonder how we can thank God for the gifts he has given us by consuming more. How can we thank Him for the good times we've had by simply having more good times without sharing them with others. Christ will be knocking at your door this Christmas and 365 other Christmases this year.

Will you give Him a cold ham sandwich?

- Tom Occhipinti

* The Merrymakers

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Typists: Larry Przbyz, Joe Gersch, Loren Rademacher; Circulation:
Dave LaPonsie, Matt Flak; Photography: Joe Gersch, Ray Cotter

* Dreaming of a White Christmas

"Tell us a Christmas Story, Daddy. Please???"

"Okay, but it's late. If you don't go to bed early enough, Santa won't bring you any presents."

"We'll go right to sleep after the story. We promise."

"All right. This is a story about a little boy on the day before Christmas. He thinks 'What's going to happen to me? I didn't write a letter to Santa this year. He'll probably forget my chimney now. What can I do? Just then he had an idea. If I write a letter now and give it to the mailman, it just might reach Santa's house just before he makes his rounds.' Quickly, the little boy started to write his letter. It went something like this:

Dear Santa Claus,

I know this letter is a bit late, and I am sincerely sorry. But you must realize that I have been very busy putting up Christmas decorations and looking in store windows at the Christmas toys. Anyway, what I wanted to tell you was to send me a train set, a sling shot, money, candy, a batman suit, a game of some kind, and maybe a few other things that you might have laying around somewhere in a corner.

Your best pal,
Little Boy

"After the little boy had given the letter to the mailman, he breathed a sigh of relief. 'I don't know what I would have done if I hadn't got that letter out. I probably would have killed myself.' That night as he lay in bed he thought of the trouble Santa would have to go through because of all the snow which had fallen in the last few days. He looked out the window and saw the snow falling. It seemed to him that Santa should have come to his house by now. Suddenly, he saw ..."

"Daddy, Daddy. Wake up. Wake up."

"What? Huh?"

"Daddy, it's Christmas morning. Look what I got from Santa."

"Santa? What? Who? Oh, yes. That's nice, honey," stammered the sleepy-eyed father.

"What's wrong?" his wife asked him.

"Nothing, - I was just dreaming."

"Daddy, what did you dream about?" his children asked eagerly.

"I was dreaming of a white Christmas. But it doesn't matter. Merry Christmas."

And with that he gave both of his little girls a big kiss and a hug and went down to see what Santa had brought.

- Matthew Flak

SAND LAKE EXCURSION

When he was here for our retreat, Father Golas got to know some of our seminary guitarists quite well. In fact he seemed to like their playing enough so that he invited them to Sand Lake to play for a guitar Mass for his CCD class. Very eager to take up the opportunity, the four guitarists, Tom Chesney, Jerry Czyzyk, Tony Foster and Tom Occhipinti, obtained permission to go. And so, on Sunday, October 29, the four went to Sand Lake.

The CCD Program there is actually quite young, but if any indication of the effectiveness of such a program is made through the spirit of the people involved and the manner in which they receive strangers into their group, then it seems to be doing quite well. The four guitarists thoroughly enjoyed their experience at Saint Mary's that day and were ready and willing to come back for an encore. The opportunity came on Friday, November 24.

Even though this was during Thanksgiving vacation, the four were happy to go. One of them, Tony Foster, was able to get a car for the night, and he did a good bit of driving since he was in Kalamazoo at the time. He had to pick up his three compatriots in Grand Rapids and then proceed to Sand Lake. It was quite a trek, but they finally made it there in one piece. Once there, they again felt the same spirit as before, though they played for a little different group this time. Two other persons were there to help during the Mass and afterwards - Larry Lemanski, a college seminarian and Carl Shangraw, an ex-seminarian in college.

After the Mass, there was a little social get-together, a movie, and then a dance. The whole affair ended for the CCDers at 11:30 p.m. The guitarists, along with Larry and Carl, were treated by Father Golas to some very delicious pizzas at his rectory. Then they headed for home. The last member of the group got in at 2:45 a.m. It had been quite a night for all of them, and they are hoping for extra opportunities to make it to Sand Lake. After all, the pizzas are great . . . and so are the people.

- Tony Foster

Recently the high school and college Student Councils met with the Seminary Board of Counsel. For the high school, this was the first time they met with the Parents' Board. A lot was discussed at both meetings and we feel that a positive step forward has been taken. Here are some of the thoughts of the Chairman of the Parents' Board concerning these meetings:

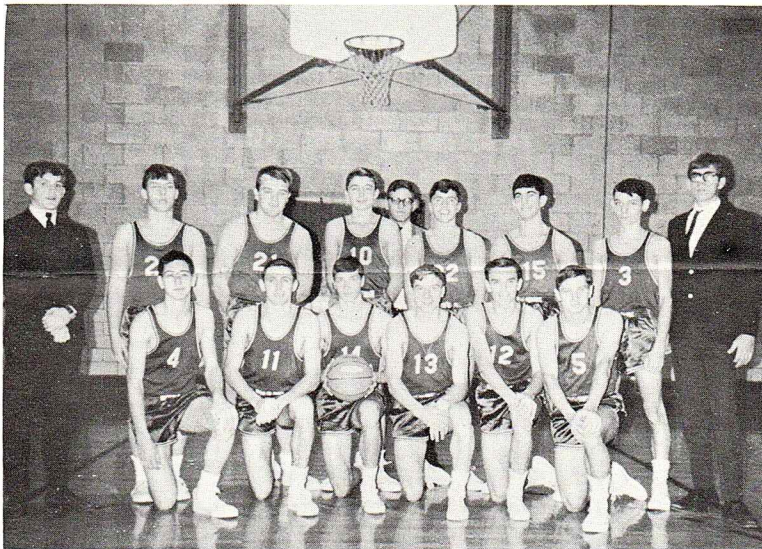
The formation of the St. Joseph's Seminary Board of Counsel represents a milestone in the history of seminary education in the Grand Rapids diocese. The seminary, in its continuing efforts to provide a better spiritual and academic education, has taken a step forward. It can now call upon the time and talents of various men and women throughout the diocese to assist in its goals.

The enthusiasm that was evident at the first organizational meeting has been carried over by the members of the board into all phases of their work. Progress reports show that all committees are functioning and have spent many hours formulating plans of action. Since this is a new experience for all concerned, we are "playing it by ear." Results, therefore, will not be instantaneous. But the progress made will have lasting and beneficial results.

The mere fact that the Board of Counsel exists is a benefit. This will become more apparent with the passage of time. For now, remember that lines of communication have been opened where none existed before. Where communication is present, misunderstandings, twisted facts and plain ignorance disappear. If nothing else were gained, this alone would justify existence of the Board.

But happily, we hope and intend to gain much more. There is a lot to be done in the area of academic improvement. The seminary is a big business; perhaps it could benefit from the services of a business manager. But the greatest challenge of all, the one which won unanimous recognition and support, is the promotion of St. Joseph's Seminary. A well planned, far-reaching, informative and educational program must be carried to the people of our diocese. If this is done properly we will accomplish two aims: 1) increase the number of vocations, 2) improve the image of the seminary. The members of the Board of Counsel have pledged to work toward these goals. We invite your co-operation.

Thomas H. Cron, O.D.
Chairman
Board of Counsel



Our Varsity Basketball Team

THE VARSITY

If you are an avid high school basketball fan you couldn't help noticing that there is something different about this season. The '67-'68 season will see the blue and gold of St. Joe's Rogues in official basketball games. The team is not in a league as you may know it, but is playing regulation games with as many schools as possible. At the end of the season St. Joe's will be able to compete in the State tournaments. Because of our low enrollment, the Michigan State Athletic Association has put us in the class D category. This classification has created a few problems since the number of Class D schools in Grand Rapids is very small. We are scheduled to play SS. Peter and Paul of Ionia, St. Augustine's Seminary near Saugatuck, St. Paul's Seminary of Saginaw and Manistee Cath-

olic Central. Since this is our first season, we had trouble lining up games, but we have enough to handle the way it is.

While preparing for our schedule, we have undergone many drills and practice sessions under the direction of our coach, Father Vainicz. Our practices are filled with lots of running and exercising, which in turn will harden our muscles and give us the needed endurance. Since our team will be considered quite short in basketball circles, we will have to be extra fast and sure. Many times Father has had to remind us of many of the rules of basketball which we often disregard while playing our intramural games. One rule that we don't have to worry about is the new dunking regulation. With our biggest player standing a little over six feet tall we won't have too many of those fouls called against us. However, all of us must take the rules seriously because as Father says, "Every mistake you make will give two points to the

IT!?!?

How come
you tick
so loud, (she asked)?
What is
it
that separates you from us?

Life
without it
is a statue of St. Francis with no birds.
Life without it
is really a very smart football helmet
with nothing underneath.
(Why what a coincidence -
Mr. Universe
has a 56" chest
to go with his personality and talent).
Life without it
is a rain dance in an endless desert
of mediocrity
(or maybe this oasis has
no
palm trees)

SO WHAT!
If we want to we can select
The Statue of Liberty

as
our
Miss America (they say).
So that's the world without it.

But
What is this world
with it, (she asked)?
Man, now you've latched
on to
something good.

Something in
the Big Circus
Some One
discovers it
or recovers it
and destroys it
(but he doesn't want to).

NO
It can't be destroyed;
it can't be bottled;
it won't be silenced;
but it doesn't conquer -
(not yet).

And I've got it.
But I can't hold it
in
some
hot situations.
It's chaining me
to freedom.
GREAT.
- Tom Occhipinti

other side."

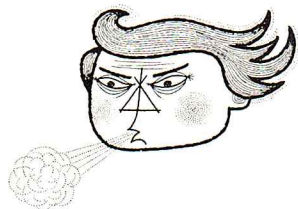
After all is said and done, you may rest assured that we will have tried our best to represent St. Joseph's Seminary. No one will be able to say that we didn't have spirit. We have high hopes and think we can come out of our first season with a winning record and maybe a trophy in the tournaments.

- Lou Martin



Return Requested

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR ...



Underneath the sigh of a chilly December whisp, a cover of white rolls solemnly over the dormant fields of a departed farmer. Disrupting the regularity of the view, the upturned stumps of a fencerow give testimony to the property divisions of the agricultural ancestry of that area's past inhabitants. Weed and vine have overgrown it now, and have also deviated slightly from the fencerow's linear trek. A solitary "jack" pine graces the twisted roots and stems from its position near the mid-point of the row, and its frosted branches, having earlier found their way through the shambles, surrender to the demands of each gust of coldness. The morning was so far very quiet.

Into its stillness there came a man. In fact, there were three men, all carrying shotguns. Two walked along one edge of the fencerow and one along the opposite side. They were in pursuit of the elusive targets of the woods that are classified as "small game".

Suddenly, from the fencerow, there bounded the white blur of a snowshoe rabbit. The gunner nearest the gallop-

ing hare quickly raised his double-barreled shotgun, pointed in the direction of the bundle of fur, and "touched-off" the first charge of No. 5 shot. A puff of snow erupted just behind the hare as the shot fell short of its mark. Realizing his error, the hunter again followed the path of the scurrying rabbit, and as the golden bead front sight covered the rabbit's head, he slapped the trigger with his finger. A split second later, the rabbit tumbled upon the snow, never to scamper again.

A grin of delight creased the man's face as he walked over to and lifted his prize. He had shown himself to be adequate with his gun and this was his reward.

The incident above is common in Michigan at this time of the year. Millions of sportsmen go into the wilderness to match their skills against the instincts of Nature's wild creatures. Some have success, some do not; but most have a grand time and a safe one, and that's what hunting was meant to be. Happy Hunting...

- Mark Kahns



STRAIGHT from the Scholars

In a recent English assignment the Junior class was given a list of words and phrases and was asked to form nouns which would make these phrases into living agents by means of prefixes and suffixes. For instance: politics - politicians.

Here are a few "new" words which the class introduced into the vocabulary with total sincerity.

One who writes pamphlets is called a "pamphlist" or a "pamphletician". One Junior wrote that someone who plagiarizes is known as a "plagarian". Two students were undecided as to just who practices psychiatry - the

"physician" or the "psychiatrician". There seemed to be many synonyms for one who works with glass: glassier, glaster, glassist, glassician and glassographer. A dealer in furs may be a furist or a fur trader. From "Parachute" one student created "paratrooper". "Geologists" and "geologians" study geology. If you've ever fired a cannon, then you are a "cannoneer", a "cannoster" or a "buckaneer". A "dramatizian" dramatizes. And we all know what can be formed by "one who plays pranks". Yes, he's a "jokester".

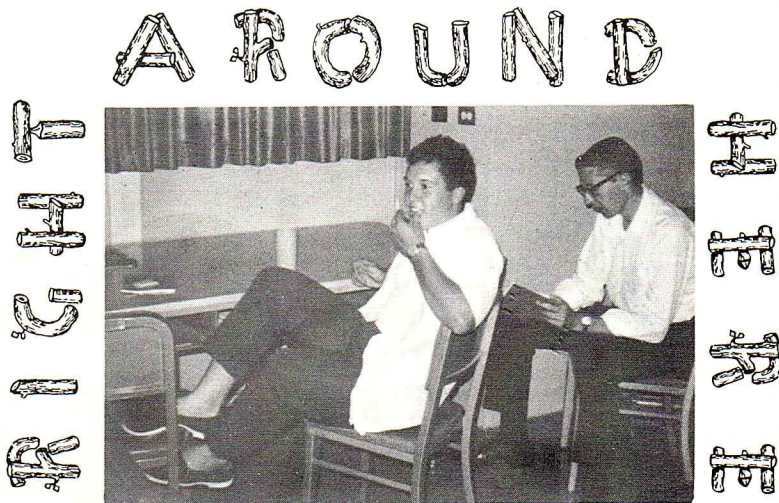
- Tom Occhipinti

The UPS and downs Of Publication

Being honest seminarians, we must admit that we had a few mistakes in our last issue, due mainly to either photography problems or proofreading errors. For example, in our article on new pros, Father Korson and Mister Didion, we had only a picture of Fr. Korson. We realize it must have been a little disconcerting to see the article prefixed with Father's picture and then go on to read about Mr. Didion, wondering where

his picture was or whether we had pictures mixed up somewhere. What actually happened was that we got the picture late and the printer hadn't made room for it. So we resolved to put it in this issue, but unfortunately we lost it in the meantime. You can take our word for it, though, Mr. Didion is a pretty nice looking guy.

But that wasn't the only mistake. No, our proofreading editor made a little error when he read over the article on Msgr. Guzikowski's Mis-



On October 22, the High School had its first Parents' Day. The Sophomores were host to their parents for Mass and lunch following. Under the direction of Father Vainavicz, they entertained their parents by singing "Amen" from the movie, Lilies of the Field. We hope that the parents enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed having them.

Because of the weather this year, the class football games were scattered far apart. The Freshmen were unable to conquer the powerful Sophomores and went down to defeat 32-0. In a hurried encounter during one of the week-day recreation periods, the speedy Juniors upset the Seniors 13-0. Barefoot Tom Occhipinti sparked the Junior attack. On a rainy November 1st, the Sophomores and Juniors battled to a 0-0 tie. The Sophomores had the ball on the Juniors' six-yard line in the last seconds of play but were unable to score. Because of basketball season, the playoff will be held in the spring (hopefully).

Eight clergy members turned out on November 8 to battle the best of the seminary students in the annual Student-Clergy football game. After an intercepted pass, the students scored on the first play from scrimmage. The clergy then fought back hard and gained a touchdown and a safety. The final score was 8-6, in favor of the clergy. The students feel they have to let the clergy win sometimes or else they won't come back to play the following year.

Our Day of Renewal on Nov. 19 brought to us Father David Killian, a Paulist from the Information Center. Father stressed the main point of being an active member of a community. The Mass was a folk Mass ac-

sion Club. It seems that the figure for drugs supplied by the club was \$1,000.00 worth. This is wrong, however. The actual figure is \$100,000.00 which is about \$99,000 more. Considerable difference, isn't it? Oh well, better luck next time.

We also forgot to put in the name of the author of one of our articles, and believe us, we heard about it. So we have here printed the name of HARRY MIKA, co-author with Jim Nowak of our article on our new pros. Okay, Harry?

companied with guitars. I feel that we all learned a lot from Father's talks.

Our J.V. basketball team looks very promising this year, to say the least. With many veterans returning and promising newcomers, Father Flickinger, our coach, can look forward to a great season. As you all probably know, the main job of the J.V. players is to prepare themselves for the Varsity the following year. In this light, next year's Varsity also looks very promising.

As far as hunting goes, Father Weiber did the exact thing that our clerk, Mitch Zellin, has been trying to do for a long time. He shot himself a deer. Yes, on Sunday, Dec. 3, our Dean of Studies came back with a grin on his face from ear to ear and a spike-horned deer on the trunk of his car. It wasn't the largest deer we've ever seen, but it was a deer. Since that day a good number of us have been respectfully calling him the "Great White Hunter".

Well, with Christmas fast on our heels, we close this article. Unfortunately, we weren't able to put on a Christmas production this year, but we have something planned for later on in the year. And so, again we say, "From us ... to you - a blessed Christmas."

- Bill Wittland

One more thing. For those of you who may wonder what happened to our question and answer column, a little problem has come about. We received no questioning letters to which we could furnish answers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We will be most happy to supply the answers.

Brother! It seems that there are more downs than ups to this paper. Oh well, better luck this time. We hope you enjoy this issue. - Staff