

HILLTOPICS

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Welcome to the "New" St. Lawrence



New Buildings, New People

By: Yann Memiaghe

As the new year is finally underway, the students of SLS encountered fresh new faces, as dorm prefects and recruiters. Mr. Joshua Gerads, Mr. Hub Bradley and Mr. Christian Saldivar joined the SLS staff over the summer. It was an almost seamless transition as many students love having alumni that they know back on the Hill. Dominic Dy, a junior, said, "It's kind of funny to see my senior again, especially as a dorm supervisor." Moreover, they all have something in common; they intend to make a positive impact on the school and potential students.

Mr. Bradley: An alumnus of the Class of 2015, He will be working as a student supervisor across campus, most specifically in sophomore dorm, while also attending Marian University in Fond du Lac.

Hilltopics: How do you like the new dorm?

Mr. Bradley: "The dorms are extremely accommodating and better than most college dorms."

Hilltopics: How does it feel to be a supervisor?

"Some aspects of the job are still unfamiliar, but I thoroughly enjoy the work I do and I am happy to be back at SLS."

Hilltopics: How has your reaction to being chosen to be a supervisor?

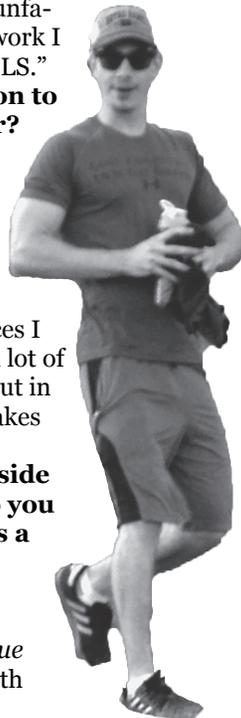
"I was excited because after graduating I always wanted to come back to SLS."

Hilltopics: Which do you enjoy more: being a supervisor or a student at SLS?

"Student because of the experiences I had. However, the job entails a lot of responsibility and organization, but in the long run it pays off and makes the job fulfilling and gratifying."

Hilltopics: What do you do outside of being a supervisor? What do you enjoy doing in your free time as a supervisor?

"I am an assistant cross country coach and a full time student. I enjoy lifting weight, playing *League of Legends*, and spending time with students."



Mr. Gerads: A graduate of the Class of 2015, Mr. Gerads attended school at Marian University, as well as enlisting in the Army Reserves. This year, he will be working in the freshman dorm, continuing his schooling and his Reserve duties.

Hilltopics: How do you like the new dorm?

Mr. Gerads: "It's pretty nice. It has a lot more room as well as privacy. I was actually still a student here when they were remodeling it, so it's cool to see the finished product."

Hilltopics: How has the school changed since you were a student?

"New buildings. I feel like there's more room in the buildings. It felt crowded when I was a student but now it feels a lot more open. Evening Prayer seems to be more in depth as well."

Hilltopics: Which do you enjoy more: being a supervisor or a student at SLS?

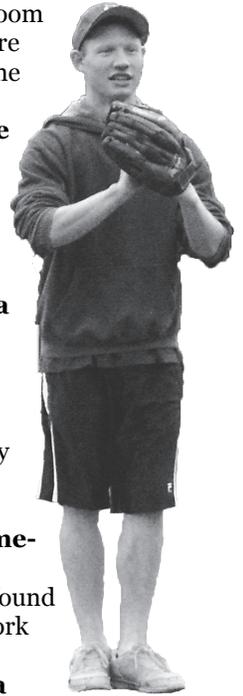
"Right now I think I would say I enjoy being a supervisor more. It's cool to be able to go places where I couldn't as a student. It comes with responsibility, therefore, it's helping me work on my leadership and manage workloads."

Hilltopics: Since you and Mr. Bradley were classmates, how does it feel to work with someone in your class?

"It's pretty cool. It was kind of a surprise when I found out he applied. It is nice to have a classmate to work alongside."

Hilltopics: What do you do outside of being a supervisor?

"I train one week a month and two weeks in the summer as a combat medic. I enjoy playing sports in my free time, especially wrestling and baseball. I also like playing video games."



Mr. Saldivar: A graduate of the class of 2008, Mr. Saldivar was hired as a recruiter for the Milwaukee region. Mr. Saldivar brings not only his knowledge of SLS to his new role, but other work experience as a Dean of Students for a Catholic school in Milwaukee and other roles working with teens in a group home.

Hilltopics: How does it feel to be a recruiter?

Mr. Saldivar: "It feels good. It feels like what I should be doing in my life right now. I've worked with different people and families in the past, so it feels right to be in the position I'm in. It feels good to be back at SLS in general. But, being a recruiter is a big responsibility, so I have to be thorough."

Hilltopics: What compelled you to become a recruiter?

"I wanted other kids in middle school (going into high school) to have the same experience/opportunity I had. SLS is somewhat of a hidden secret so I wanted to make sure I got the word out, per se. I wanted others to have the chance to at least give it a try."

Hilltopics: How do you like your new role?

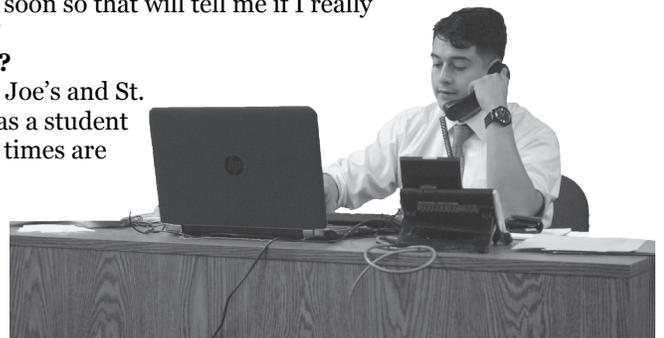
"So far I've just been organizing stuff, but I'm going to be visiting schools soon so that will tell me if I really enjoy it or not. I can talk to people all day so it seems like the job for me."

Hilltopics: How has the school changed since you were a student?

"It definitely changed physically. It looks like a brand new school with St. Joe's and St. Mary's now renovated. A lot of the different rules changed too. When I was a student we weren't allowed to use cell phones or have social media. However, the times are changing and the school has to adapt."

Hilltopics: Which do you enjoy more: being a recruiter or a student at SLS?

"Recruiter by far. As a student you go through a rite of passage. It's a different dynamic as a recruiter. When you are a part of the staff, there is a different feeling. I feel like this is where I should be."



New Year, New Look

By: Matthew Mattes

After three years of the sounds of workers yelling, drills beating the ground, and the persistent backup beepers of construction equipment, all is quiet on the St. Lawrence campus, only now with a few upgrades. St. Joseph Hall, which burned down in a fire three years ago, is now four stories tall and has many new classrooms and offices. St. Thomas Hall has been remodeled, as well, improving the aesthetics of the Hill of Happiness as well as making it state-of-the-art.

From its very beginnings in 1872, St. Joseph Hall had undergone many changes; for many years it served as a dormitory, student health office, and most recently before the fire, a band/choir room and assorted offices. Now, St. Joseph Hall is the new face of St. Lawrence Seminary. To start, St. Joseph's Hall has a new welcome center, where parents and visitors can easily get directions from the staff or students who work at the desk. This floor is also the home of Mr. Lou Wappel who teaches English. "I'm very happy, especially with the new windows, the size and the wifi make it possible to work with the new C.O.W.S. (Computers on Wheels)". Above Mr. Lou is the floor where the business office, maintenance, IT, and housekeeping heads and several spiritual directors are located. On the next floor is the new home for three teachers: Mr. Anthony Van Asten (English), Mrs. Jenny Tabbert (math), and Mrs. Katie Daane (English). "It's awesome! The interactive board is very useful and reliable". Finally, on the fourth floor of St. Joseph Hall is Mr. Chuck Lefebvre, Mr. Dennis Holm, and Dr. Gereon Welhouse, who each have their own, new, state-of-the-art science labs and classroom. However, St. Joseph Hall isn't the only new looking building on campus.

Just a few steps away is the newly renovated

St. Thomas Hall, which now houses the band/choir and woodshop. Throughout its many years, St. Thomas Hall has served a myriad of roles, including as a bowling alley, a gym, an auditorium and a woodshop. After the St. Joe's fire, the development offices were moved over to St. Thomas Hall and Br. John Willger, who is the current Industrial Arts teacher, was moved to St. Fidelis Hall. In addition, the band room was destroyed, forcing Mr. John Ahlstrom and the band/choir to move to the auditorium in St. Conrad Hall. Now, with all of the renovations complete, the band and choir now have a new, and perhaps more importantly, permanent home, and Br. John is back in the basement of St. Thoms Hall. Br. John is now teaching in a brighter, fresher, more usable and modern basement of St. Thomas Hall. On the ground floor the new band/choir room has practice rooms, extra storage for music and instruments, and enough room for separate instructional areas for band and choir; Mr. Ahlstrom also has a new office within the ground level. "It's bigger than the room we had. I don't have to worry about rearranging the classroom. The sound is marvelous. What I got is much better." With all the new buildings the students are ready to learn, and ready to have a great year at the new and improved St. Lawrence Seminary.



Mr. Lefebvre's classroom at the time of construction.



Mr. Lefebvre's new classroom and lab awaits students.



Mr. Lou's classroom nears the end of construction.



Mr. Lou's classroom is now totally functional.



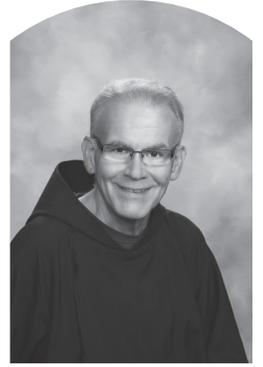
Brother John Willger's new workshop.



The redesigned music department.

New Beginnings

By: Fr. John Holly



Welcome to a new school year! By now, most of us feel pretty comfortable; we've figured out the different schedules of the school, we know where important places are located and we know some new names of people and places.

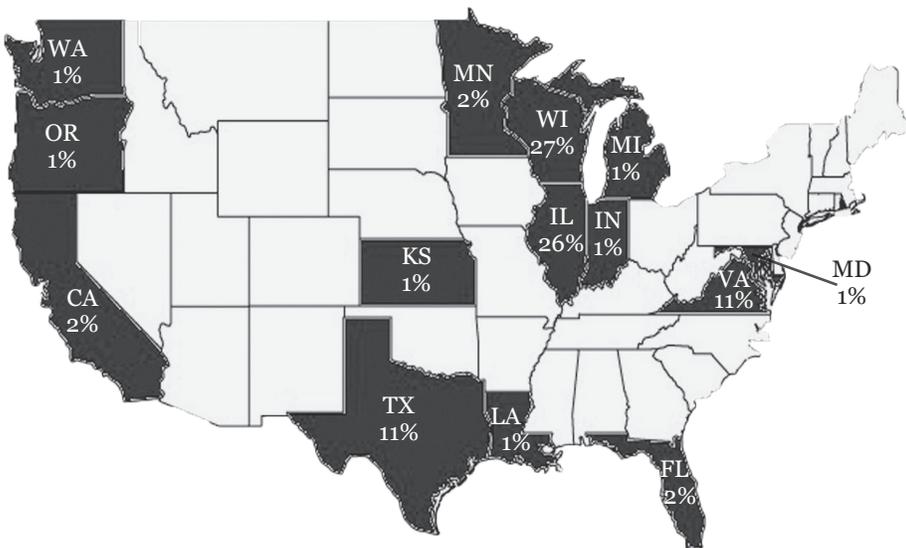
For good or for bad, many of us have formed impressions about each other; we've figured out who our best friends are here and we have decided which teachers we like and which we don't. We've made up our minds about which foods we like and which ones we'll never touch again up here (we HATE them!).

And as much as we know we need to give people or foods a chance; it's so easy to have our first impressions—positive or negative—and to cling tightly to these impressions.

As we launch into this year, we'll each have new experiences, new opportunities for growth, and new people in our lives who will challenge us to see life in new ways. As small groups of friends, as classes and even as a whole school, I guarantee you there will be new experiences to challenge each of us to grow, to see the world differently than before. Hopefully, in these lessons of life, we can enjoy this journey and have some fun along the way.

I dare you not to be changed this year!

“Where do you come from?”



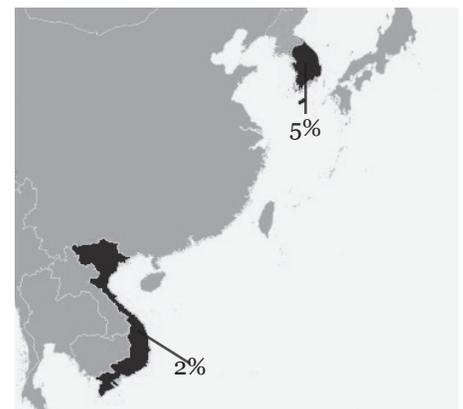
St. Lawrence Seminary is known for having great diversity, not only in the racial make-up of the student body, but also in where students live and come from. Students are accepted from all over the United States and across the world. Despite the fact that about one third of the students come from either the Milwaukee or Chicago areas, students hail from 14 different states and five different countries. The percentage of students from each region is reflected on these maps.



Saudi Arabia (left) and the United Arab Emirates (right)



Italy



South Korea (located on the top) and Vietnam (located on the bottom)

Parent Weekend... Already?

By: Eric Howard

It seems almost like yesterday when students arrived at St. Lawrence and moved into their dorms. It was hard for many to say goodbye to their families and friends, but it was probably especially hard for the new juniors, sophomores and freshmen—for many this was the first time they had been away from home. It was soon after their families' departures that they learned to fabricate friendships with each other and discover the true essence of St. Lawrence Seminary. However, for the first time since registration, families were able to visit their student(s) at SLS and stay for a weekend, rather than just a Sunday afternoon. This annual event is known as Parent Weekend.

There were many activities for the parents and students to participate in during Parent Weekend. The festivities began on Saturday, as parents and their students were able to reconnect throughout the morning when they arrived and registered, and families were invited for lunch in the refectory. The Hill slowly filled with all sorts of family members, some from as far away as the East Coast and others from as close as Milwaukee.



Junior Yann Memiaghe and his family take in the day.



Mrs. Lefebber answers parents' questions about college.

After lunch, students and their mothers/sisters were able to participate in the renowned mother/son kickball game. This year saw the mothers dominate over the sons (with some creative scoring and extra rules imposed on the students), with a final score of 14-9. Up next, parents and their sons could take in special meetings based on the student's grade level. The freshmen learned about the social skills program presented by Mr. Kevin Buelow. The sophomores attended a discussion of vocations and understanding God's calling as explained by Mr. Rick Voell. The juniors heard from Mrs. Jane Lefebber and Mr. Lou Wappel about how to choose the right college. And seniors attended a presentation by Mr. Tim Schroeder about how to pay for college. The late afternoon found the fathers taking on their sons in a softball game on the upper ball diamond. Sophomore Peter Hall's father said, "It was a great time to see all the students having a good time." It was a tight race with the final score determined in an extra inning, with the fathers beating their sons

16-15. New junior Eric Isken said, "It was a great time for all students to participate in the activities; everyone had a blast."

There was an evening cookout and, of course, all were welcome to join in evening prayer at 7:15. After evening prayer, families were able to enjoy a performing arts showcase of student talent in the auditorium. The show consisted of various acts from state-winning forensics pieces to solo/ensemble musical performances. A piece this year was a group interpretation performance by juniors Bryant Nguyen and Teddy Le, sophomore Jefferson Nguyen, and senior Martin Vu. Sophomore Paohow Lor recalled the showcase, "I didn't even know that we had that much talent here." Senior Julian Moron said, "I was interested to see what kind of acts were going to be presented, as they're always very good." Parent Weekend activities ended on Sunday, after the parents were invited to join the students and staff at 10:15 Mass. Then after Mass the parents were allowed to take their sons off campus to enjoy a bit of family alone time before they parted ways until the Home Weekend or beyond.



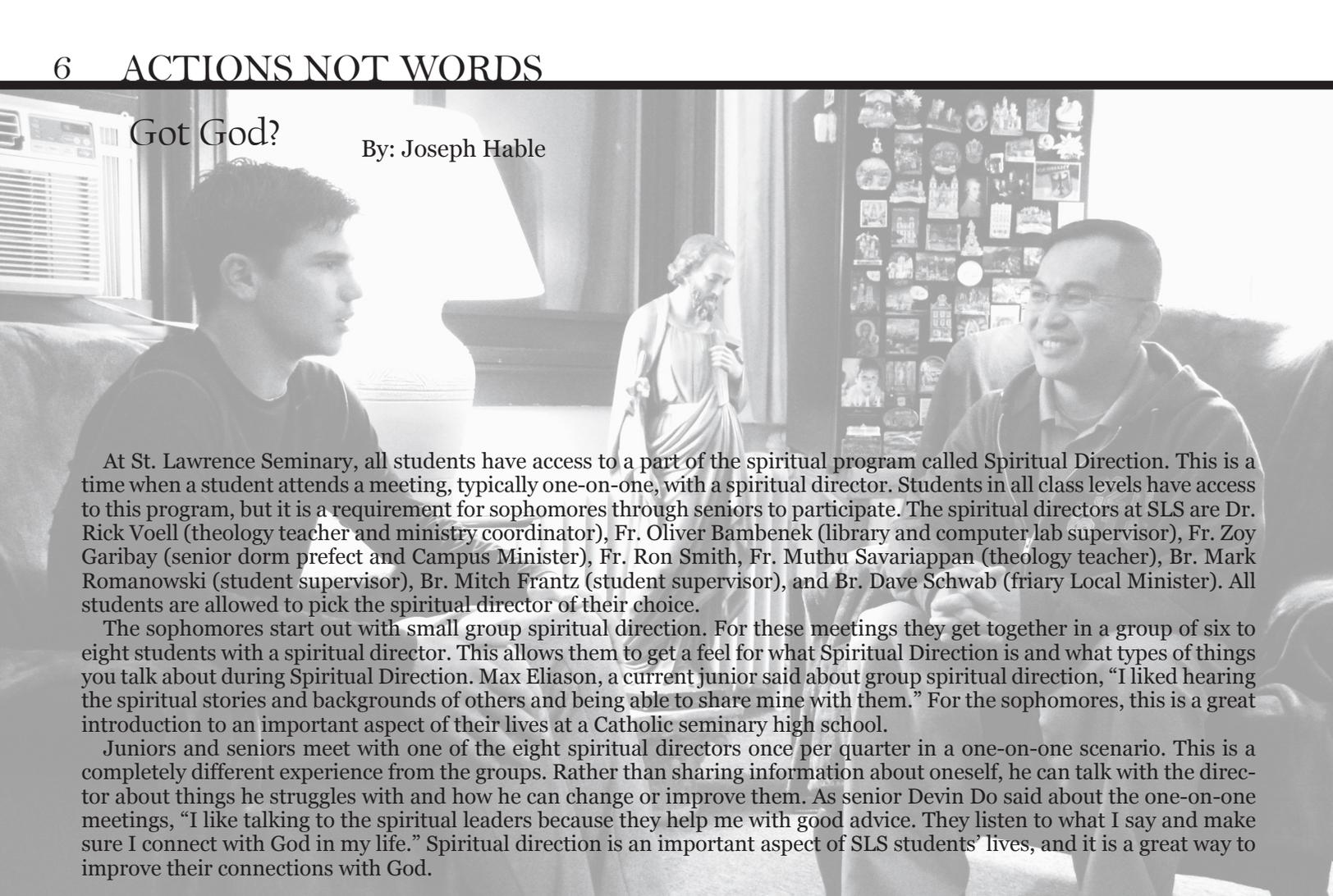
Junior Wilson Burge is ready to hit it out of the park.



Students perform DATE MY MOM at the showcase.

Got God?

By: Joseph Hable



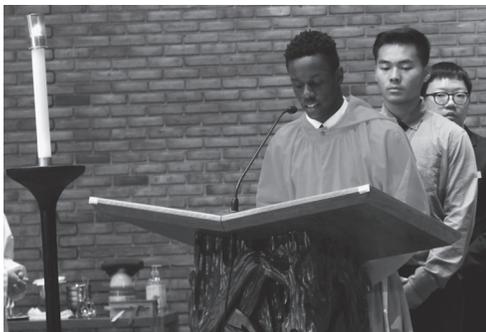
At St. Lawrence Seminary, all students have access to a part of the spiritual program called Spiritual Direction. This is a time when a student attends a meeting, typically one-on-one, with a spiritual director. Students in all class levels have access to this program, but it is a requirement for sophomores through seniors to participate. The spiritual directors at SLS are Dr. Rick Voell (theology teacher and ministry coordinator), Fr. Oliver Bambenek (library and computer lab supervisor), Fr. Zoy Garibay (senior dorm prefect and Campus Minister), Fr. Ron Smith, Fr. Muthu Savariappan (theology teacher), Br. Mark Romanowski (student supervisor), Br. Mitch Frantz (student supervisor), and Br. Dave Schwab (friary Local Minister). All students are allowed to pick the spiritual director of their choice.

The sophomores start out with small group spiritual direction. For these meetings they get together in a group of six to eight students with a spiritual director. This allows them to get a feel for what Spiritual Direction is and what types of things you talk about during Spiritual Direction. Max Eliason, a current junior said about group spiritual direction, "I liked hearing the spiritual stories and backgrounds of others and being able to share mine with them." For the sophomores, this is a great introduction to an important aspect of their lives at a Catholic seminary high school.

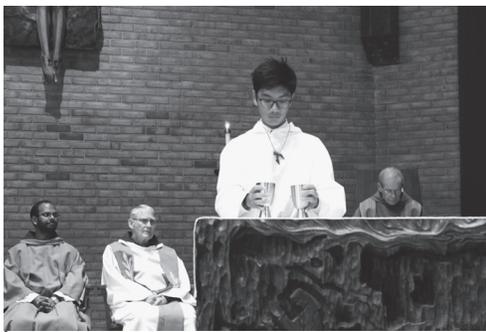
Juniors and seniors meet with one of the eight spiritual directors once per quarter in a one-on-one scenario. This is a completely different experience from the groups. Rather than sharing information about oneself, he can talk with the director about things he struggles with and how he can change or improve them. As senior Devin Do said about the one-on-one meetings, "I like talking to the spiritual leaders because they help me with good advice. They listen to what I say and make sure I connect with God in my life." Spiritual direction is an important aspect of SLS students' lives, and it is a great way to improve their connections with God.

Living in the Mass

By: Wilson Burge

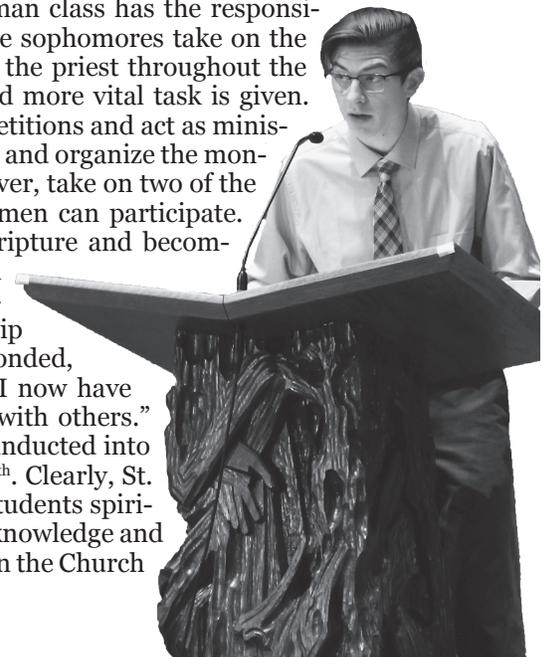


Juniors recite the multilingual intercessions



Sophomore Anthony Le prepares the altar.

At St. Lawrence Seminary being involved and enthusiastic in the faith is a key part, if not the most important part, of the program. To ensure that each and every student is participating in his own faith life, but more specifically the Mass itself, each class is given responsibilities and tasks to perform in the Mass. The freshman class has the responsibility of bringing forth the gifts. The sophomores take on the task of serving as acolytes to assist the priest throughout the Mass. With each year, a greater and more vital task is given. The juniors, for example, read the petitions and act as ministers of hospitality to welcome guests and organize the monetary collections. The seniors, however, take on two of the most significant tasks in which laymen can participate. These tasks include reading the scripture and becoming Eucharistic Ministers. When asked what effect this responsibility has on their personal relationship with God, senior Richard Van responded, "It has humbled me knowing that I now have the ability to literally share Christ with others." Richard and 40 other seniors were inducted into this ministry on Sunday, August 28th. Clearly, St. Lawrence Seminary challenges its students spiritually every day and gives them the knowledge and experience to be able to participate in the Church for the rest of their lives.



Working Hard, Preaching Quietly

By: Mike Perez

On May 27th, then-juniors Timothy Nguyen, Alexander Pizaña, Devin Do, Matthew Mattes, John Zampino, Martin Vu, Logan Burge, Billy Donohue, John Lopez, and Lawton Stier and staff members Br. Mark Romanowski, Mr. Antonio Trinidad, and Mr. Mathias Hoffmann of St. Lawrence Seminary traveled to the southern Texas border at the Rio Grande Valley. They laughed, played, and lived in the sweltering weather for two whole weeks, preaching the Gospel through their works like true Sons of Calvary. While the young men were able to visit the beach, tour a Naval ship, and enjoy their time in Texas, they weren't simply having fun on the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. These students experienced a life contrary to most of theirs and served the impoverished populations of the region.



Matthew Mattes and Alexander Pizana hard at work.

believers' lives slightly more colorful, as they played with the parish children (who did a good job at beating the group at soccer) or getting to know some of the older parishioners.

Each day the group woke around 7 a.m. and worked nearly all day long on the various tasks that the community as a whole needed. Just about every day was filled with hard labor in the blazing sun, but there were brief respites of fun and play during the trip. The days always ended with the group pairing off and trying their hands at preparing a home-cooked meal that the others would have to enjoy (or hold down). Br. Mark explained that he had a wonderful time during the trip. He greatly enjoyed the hard, yet fulfilling, work alongside the students who worked together to complete their assignments. Br. Mark said that the experience for the young men was "A time of bonding. A time of sharing that was all done quietly, bringing to life what St. Francis once said, 'Preach through your work.'"

One eye-opening experience for many of the students on the trip was a visit to the border fence that partially separates Mexico and the United States. With strong political rhetoric surrounding the subject of immigration, it was a unique experience to witness the very matter being discussed regularly on the evening news. The 100-degree heat and hard labor did not spoil the spirits of the group, for as John Zampino related about the experience as a whole, "The Mission Trip was a fantastic experience filled with bonding, labor, and a lot of humor."



Students prepare their own dinners on the trip.

The young men of Cavalry worked alongside the people who live near the border between the United States and Mexico. The group did a myriad of projects. They worked with Proyecto Azteca to help with the construction of homes with tasks ranging from putting up dry wall to painting. They spent time volunteering at a food pantry, where they ate and chatted alongside the patrons who came for food. And they served at a church, where they helped prepare the Mass and perform the necessary tasks of various ministry roles. The young men of Calvary helped make the local community of



Missionaries divide up the work.



The mission trip group stopped for some sight-seeing.

Athletes Explain

By: Gary Kim

Each fall student athletes at SLS return to the soccer field and cross country course. In an interview early in their seasons, several members of each team explained what they anticipated during their seasons and described their focus for their upcoming games.



Soccer: Anthony Ho (V), Issac Moder (JV)

Hilltopics: Give me some of your outlooks for this year. How well do you think you are going to do? Do you have anything you want to achieve as a team?

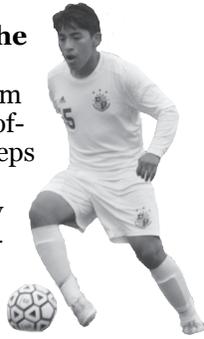
A.H.: I think our varsity team will win the Conference. We will take that 1st in Conference! About getting to State...I am not sure. We will wait and see.

I.M.: Well... Obviously, we are a new team, but I am pretty confident for this season.

Hilltopics: What do you think is the strength of the team?

A.H.: Our offense is very solid. Our team chemistry is wonderful to back that tight offensive line. Also, our coach Mr. Bartel keeps motivating us to improve our team more.

I.M.: I think we know each other pretty well since we basically live with each other. Also, some of the teammates have good ball-control and have some experience. I think that helps us a lot on the team.



Hilltopics: What is an area of concentration for your team right now?

A.H.: I think Yannick Hernandez hits too much crossbar in a game, you know (*laughs*). Just kidding.

I.M.: Personally, I need to work on my communication with my teammates. Another one is a lack of team chemistry. Because we are a JV team who has never played together, we still have to work on our communication, even though we get along with each other.

Hilltopics: How do you think you can fix the problem you stated?

A.H.: We are doing many conditioning drills and scrimmages in practice. After we are back to our normal stamina, we will do some more technical drills.

I.M.: I think as we practice more together, the problem will naturally resolve. Nothing fancy.



Cross Country: Roberto Silva (V), Eric Isken (V/JV)

Hilltopics: How do you feel about this season? Feel confident?

R.S.: If our teammates are pushing themselves and working hard, I am pretty sure we will have a good season.

E.I.: If the top seven runners all work together and push together, we have a good chance not only at the Conference but also past the Sectionals and, hopefully, make it to State.

Hilltopics: What is the strength of the SLS cross country team?

R.S.: We value teamwork. It is true that it is a race that one runs individually, but we are counted as a team. As a team, we have to work with each other to push ourselves.

E.I.: We have good runners to look up to. That is very important. I want to say that everyone can run as fast as them. It just takes some work. Practicing slowly every day, we will become faster.

Hilltopics: What is a weakness of your team? Any concerns?

R.S.: I don't think some are putting in enough effort in the practice.

E.I.: I think we are not running enough. We should be running at least a mile or more during practices.

Hilltopics: How do you think you can fix that?

R.S.: Through motivation.

E.I.: We just have to practice more and run more. If we run five or six miles a day, at the race, three miles should be easy. Also, the team should practice outside of the scheduled practice time to improve.

Hilltopics: What is your advice for how to run three miles to the people who are not physically fit?

R.S.: YOU GOTTA WANT IT...

E.I.: Practice is all they need. I used to be a slow runner. But, I ran a lot every day and improved. I know it hurts after all the running, but once you finish, the pain is gone, and you feel great. I just think about the end of the race the entire time I am at the cross country meet.



Sports Scoreboard

By: Nene Lor

Varsity Soccer

8/30 SLS at Lomira 9-0
 9/1 SLS at CWC 5-1
 9/6 SLS vs. Omro 10-1
 9/8 SLS at Oshkosh Lourdes 4-2
 9/9 SLS vs. Xavier 2-2
 9/10 SLS at Fond Du Lac 5-0
 9/12 SLS vs. Wayland Academy 6-0
 9/13 SLS vs. United: 5-0
 9/15 SLS vs. WLA 2-2
 9/21 SLS vs. Saint Anthony 5-5
 9/22 SLS at Mayville 5-0
 9/24 SLS vs. New Holstein 1-2
 9/26 SLS vs. Mayville 8-0
 9/27 SLS at WLA 2-2
 9/29 SLS vs. CWC 5-0

Varsity Record
 10W-1L-4T

JV Soccer

8/29 SLS vs. Waupun 5-1
 9/1 SLS vs. Manitowoc Lutheran 5-3
 9/9 SLS vs. Cristo Rey Jesuit 0-9
 9/13 SLS at Wayland Academy 1-3
 9/15 SLS vs. WLA 2-4
 9/19 SLS at New Holstein 4-3
 9/21 SLS vs. St. Anthony 4-4
 9/27 SLS at WLA 2-3
 9/30 SLS vs. Wayland 4-1

JV Record
 4W-4L-1T

Cross Country

8/30 At UW-Fond Du Lac
 Varsity: 5th Place
 JV: 3rd Place
 9/1 At Kiel High School
 Varsity: 12th Place
 JV: 7th Place
 9-13 At Crusaders Challenge
 Varsity: 11th Place
 JV: 5th Place
 9/17 Hilltopper
 Varsity: 12th Place
 JV: 10th Place
 9/22 Horicon River Run
 Varsity: 7th Place
 9/24 Jakubek Invitational
 Varsity: 2nd Place
 JV: 2nd Place

**World Welcomed in Rio**

Rio de Janeiro, the “Marvelous City,” hosted its first Olympics ever this year. Spanning from August 5th to August 21st, the games of the XXXI Olympiad truly had something for everyone to enjoy. There were many concerns about athlete safety going into these Olympic games. The Zika virus was one of the main reasons that many athletes didn’t even attend the games. It is possible that many of these concerns were overblown, however, as there has not but one confirmed case of Zika in any Olympic athlete or attendee.

The actual competition was able to overshadow the controversy, though, as the world turned their attention from Zika and pollution in Rio to the performance of their nations in Rio. From track and field to water polo, there were many exciting sports for athletes hailing from more than 200 countries to participate in and enjoy. “Volleyball was my favorite sport to watch in the Olympics,” said freshman Kha Nguyen. “It’s intense and fun to watch!” The United States once again earned the most medals for the sixth straight Summer Olympics. Highlighting the Olympic Games were many notable performances by various athletes. The United States women’s gymnastics team won gold in the team competition by a huge margin. The Chinese divers took home 10 medals, continuing their dominance in the sport. And, finally, the Brazilian men’s soccer team grabbed Brazil’s first-ever Olympic soccer gold in front of their home crowd. Overall, the 2016 Rio Olympics were a great success for the city and the whole country of Brazil. The world now looks forward to the next marvelous winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang, South Korea in 2018.

By: Peter Hall

All Summer '16

By: Carlos Núñez

Don't you hate saying, "Oh summer is over and school has started? If it were up to most of us, we would probably make summer last five months instead of the three we get. Even though summer may be short, there were still a lot of memories made by many students of Saint Lawrence Seminary. Students from each class shared what memories they created this wonderful summer of 2016.

Israel Felix Miranda: I went skydiving and cliff diving in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Isai Luevano: I went scuba diving in Madison.

Ethan Nguyen: I went to an island called Tahiti.

Suemeng Lor: I went camping in Sheboygan, WI.

Jason Ramirez: I went to Six Flags in Gurnee, IL for the first time.

Lucas Petranovich: I went to Poland and got to see the Pope there.

Gabriel Aidoo: I went to an Italian island called Ischia.

Axel Huicochea: I went to the Chile vs Colombia Copa America soccer game at Soldier Field in Chicago.

Bryant Nguyen: I caught a Charizard in *Pokemon Go*.

Long Do: I played *Pokemon Go*.

Lewis Bensett: I worked as a security guard at Soldier Field in Chicago and got to see Lionel Messi play.

Benjamin Guerrero: I went on a road trip across North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

Alex Barrera: I went to the Mexico vs. Venezuela soccer game in Chicago, IL, during the Copa America.

Andrew Mai: I went to work camp and had to repair houses in Virginia.

Jose Mercado: I went to Santa Monica pier, freediving, and boogie boarding.

John Tran: I went to Washington, D.C.

Joel Rivas: I went to the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee.

William Shaferly: I went on a road trip to Ohio.

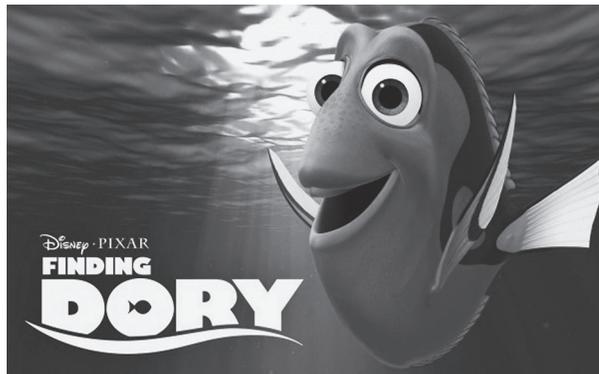
Jimmy Nguyen: I went fishing for lobsters off the Florida Keys in the Pacific.

Summer Cinema Craze



By: Tom Vu

This summer, many St. Lawrence students found themselves in a dark room full of strangers. What were they doing? Checking out the latest blockbusters, of course. Several movies proved to be the hits of the summer. *Suicide Squad* made a big hit in the entertainment world as DC Comics finally produced yet another movie that earned over \$100 million. Even though the reviews weren't all that great, like "the Joker wasn't put in as much" or "there were only two important characters," there were definitely some people who loved it! Junior Daniel Solorzano said, "I liked it even though *Rotten Tomatoes* gave it a bad rating when it first came out." The general idea of *Suicide Squad* was bringing in dangerous villains of the comic world and making them do good against their own will—which in itself is a brilliant idea. Many felt the character development was great and gave the viewers a personal connection to the characters, even though they were "the villains." With Daniel Solorzano giving it a 4-star rating and sophomore Jack Jacobson giving it 5 stars, it was, for them, one of the best movies of summer 2016.



Nostalgia alert! Pixar brought every viewer's inner child back with their sequel of *Finding Nemo*. *Finding Dory* attracted not only the attention of younger viewers, but also the hearts of so many 90s babies. *Finding Dory* was a spectacular hit in the movies when it came out in June and grossed more than \$900 million at the box office! For most moviegoers, *Finding Dory* gave a whole other meaning to "Throwback Thursdays" and "Flashback Fridays." Freshman Emilio Silva rated it 4.5 stars and said, "It brought back memories. It was a lot like *Finding Nemo*." *Dory* was full of fun and action with parts that kept viewers wondering what would happen next, and it was clearly a great movie that had great success! So whether you were looking for comic book heroes or a walk down memory lane, there was something for everyone at the theaters this summer.

Running and Reuniting

By: Alejandro Reyes

Students on the Hill hear of many past legends that once treaded the halls of SLS as they do now, whether it be an odd student or just a really “cool” guy. Besides these past legends, St. Lawrence has been the home to many young men build friendships that last a lifetime. One of the enduring qualities of an SLS alumnus is the fact that these friendships stay strong despite barriers such as distance and even life plans. One of the ways to reunite with old friends is to meet up once again, and what better place to do that than the place where it all started—the Hill of Happiness. A special day during which a reunion of classmates usually takes place is the annual Hilltopper.

The Hilltopper includes a variety of activities which other yearly school events do not offer. It is the only home cross country meet of the season—arguably one of the most difficult courses for the team—and it brings hundreds of people to the Hill. Why the most difficult you ask? Well, the course in itself is 3.1 miles in length, involves difficult terrain, and includes a sprint up the infamously steep hill at the edge of the JV soccer field, “Big Bertha.” Other activities, such as a school cookout and annual alumni versus students soccer game, also take place on this day in the afternoon. All of these attributes are what make the Hilltopper so unique and enjoyable for all, especially returning alumni.



The cross country team unites in prayer before a meet.



The alumni team after their victory over the varsity/JV team.

For some on the Hill, the Hilltopper meet and reunion is a new experience, for others it is one that has been known for years. Some of these family histories could even be called “legacies,” for the number of generations that have attended SLS—some going on two or three generations. Students of these generations see, learn, and hear all of the great times to be had at SLS through none other than their own family alumni. One student who is related to a long line of SLS relatives is sophomore Isaac Villegas. “It’s cool knowing that many of my family members came here. Some of the older staff recognize my family,” he said, “My dad and his brothers came here, as well as cousins and uncles.” Isaac continued, “I’ve known about the school for as long as I can remember, and I do plan on graduating in 2019, as well as running in the Hilltopper and hanging out with family.”

Labor Day Fun!

By: Isaac Villegas

This September, St. Lawrence Seminary students celebrated Labor Day with their annual cookout. On Labor Day, students started with a super-accelerated school day schedule, meaning all of the classes were completed before lunch, and the rest of the day was spent outside with fun activities.

The most well-known and beloved activity was the dunk tank. The dunk tank is a big tub filled with freezing cold water over which a person sits and waits to be dunked in the icy bath below when a softball hits the target lever arm. Tradition at SLS dictated that the seat be occupied by seniors and most freshmen waited until their senior was inside the tank so they could knock them into the cold water. Senior John Zampino claimed, “It’s a tradition at St. Lawrence for seniors to sit in the dunk tank. It was fun when my freshman tried to knock me in! I was happy to carry out that tradition this year as a senior.” Much of the rest of the day was spent hanging out with friends and playing sports. After the outdoor games, there was a cookout of burgers, corn on the cob, and other grilled foods. Sophomore Benjamin Truong said, “My favorite part is how school ended early, and I also like the variety of foods they served.” Sophomores Ethan Nguyen and Gabe Herrera agreed as Gabe explained, “Our favorite part was the delicious hamburgers, and also not having school all day and being able to hang out with friends for the entire afternoon.” Labor Day is *really* about getting a day off, and that is *exactly* what it was like at St. Lawrence...after a little bit of labor.

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Numbers to Keep in Mind

Want to show off your knowledge of St. Lawrence? Here are are some facts to help.

