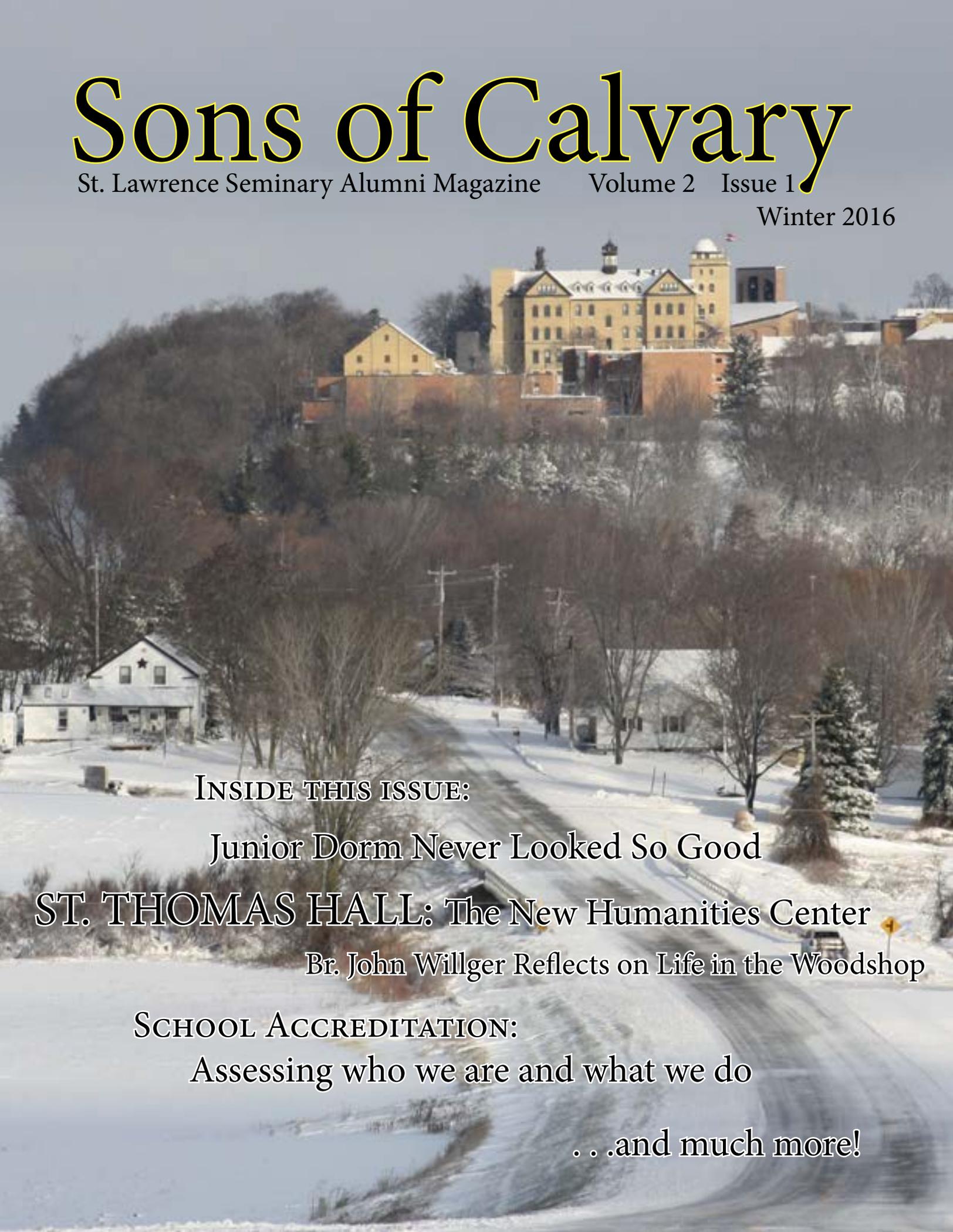


Sons of Calvary

St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Magazine

Volume 2 Issue 1

Winter 2016



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Junior Dorm Never Looked So Good

ST. THOMAS HALL: The New Humanities Center

Br. John Willger Reflects on Life in the Woodshop

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION:

Assessing who we are and what we do

...and much more!

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Editor: Anthony Van Asten '01

Copy Editors:

 Katie Daane

 Jeff Krieg '81

Staff:

 Francisco Saucedo '02

 Deann Sippel

Photography:

 Anthony Van Asten '01 and

 Student Publications Photographers

Contact us:

 sonsocalvary@stlawrence.edu





Editor's Note

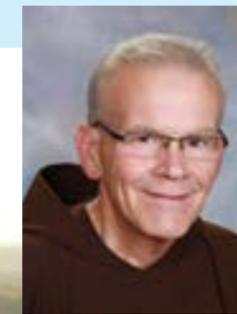
Although it starts out slowly, the shift from autumn to winter at St. Lawrence is perhaps the most profound and drastic you witnessed as a student. First the leaves change, then the cold creeps in. Suddenly, one day the campus is covered in a blanket of fresh snow and everything looks different and new.

This seasonal transition allows us to reflect on the recent changes at St. Lawrence, the easiest to spot being the look of campus. In two articles in this issue, we bring you details of two of these projects: a look at the completed St. Mary's Hall and the plans for the renovation of St. Thomas Hall.

Perhaps more subtle to alumni is the change in curriculum and program. As the school prepares for its latest accreditation, the faculty is busy reviewing and modifying courses and programs to fit the needs of our students and the Church. In another article, I try to highlight some of those latent changes.

Change is an important part of the lifecycle of nature. The same holds true for St. Lawrence. Careful thought, planning and implementation are helping us reshape this Hill for the fulfillment of our mission: the betterment of our students and the benefit of the Church.

-Anthony Van Asten '01



From the Rector's Desk

As the days get shorter, we reflect on a beautiful autumn here at Saint Lawrence. Great weather made the many days of fall so much more enjoyable. As with all the seasons, autumn is a busy time with classes and homework, sports and special events, both on the Hill and elsewhere.

The "in between days" are upon us now; it's not quite winter yet, but no longer autumn. Fall sports are over, but winter's sports haven't gotten into full swing. So we have time for class retreats, class swimming nights and a host of other things. There's always something!

Among the hustle and bustle of the school year, the Hill itself continues to change. The new St. Joseph Hall and St. Thomas slowly rise. Early winter snows blanket the grounds. The sun glints through branches that spent most of the year hidden by leaves. Each season on the Hill is beautiful in its own way; each season reveals God's presence. The coming winter is no exception!

May each of us see the beauty of this season, inside and out, as we go gratefully about our lives.

-Fr. John Holly '71



The chapel decorated for Christmas.



The Laurentianum and St. Joseph Hall in the first snow of the season.

The sun rises over a frost-covered St. Conrad Hall. The band and choir have been using the auditorium for practice.

LIVING ROOM

Moving into the New St. Mary's Hall

by: Thangkou Lor '09



The newly remodeled St. Mary's Hall is a dramatic change from what it used to be. The building plays a central role in the daily routines of the students and has long housed four very important parts of campus: the refectory, junior dorm, junior study hall and Student Health Office. The new St. Mary's Hall contains a fifth important part of St. Lawrence: the Development Office. Changes to each of these spaces were carefully planned to make them as spacious and efficient as possible.

With some of the changes, the Student Health Office has been moved to the basement. Previously, Student Health was on the top floor of St. Mary's Hall. In the new Student Health Office, there are new beds for the students, an exam room and space to prepare medications and hold supplies.

Next to the Student Health Office, the new development office was added. The development office had been in the basement of St. Joseph Hall, but was lost in the fire. The office was temporarily located in St. Thomas Hall during the renovation of St. Mary's.

Also in the basement is where the junior study hall is located. The newly remodeled study hall has been reduced to about one third of its original size; for many years it was an enormous study hall shared by two classes.

Across from the study hall is the new publications office. This room took the place of what used to be the old junior laundry room and storage room. The new space and electronic upgrades make the office more convenient for students who work on the student yearbook, *Laurentian*, and the student magazine, *Hilltopics*.

A new elevator helps to connect the basement with every other floor, making everything very accessible.

On the main floor, the refectory looks similar to how it used to, but with much more space; the wall separating the refectory and the Weisbrod Conference Room was removed, extending the dining room all the way to the far east end of the building. The more spacious dining room can house a larger num-

ber of people, making it easier to accommodate the whole school and a great number of guests.

Also, the new additional windows allow more sunlight into the dining room, giving the entire room a brighter mood.

In addition to the windows and added space, the refectory now boasts a modified counter, salad bar and multiple drink dispensing stations. The new counter allows the kitchen staff more options for preparing a variety of meals and keeping them warm.

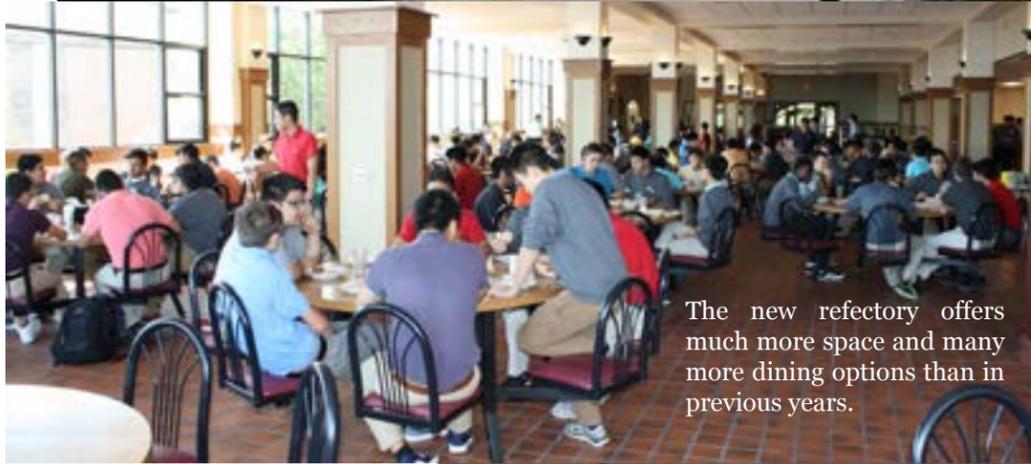
The most dramatic change in the building, however, is on the top floor, the junior dorm. This newly remodeled junior dorm looks nothing like the old. Where the old dorm was small, dark and cramped, this one is bright, open and spacious.

First, the layout of the dorm is completely different. In the remodeling process of St. Mary's, a huge new section was added on to extend the entire building. With this, and the takeover of the old infirmary space, the junior dorm nearly doubled in size. This new space came with new amenities. In the old junior dorm, there was only one bathroom. But now, there are three bathrooms, each with showers and each located conveniently throughout the dorm for easy access by the students. The juniors' laundry facilities are now located in the dorm as well.

Brand new to the dorm are enormous windows. The junior dorm had long been known as a dark and dismal place, due to the small windows at the very top of the outside wall. The new dorm has enormous windows in each room, extending all around the entire dorm. Now the juniors can enjoy expansive views of the countryside, and with this much sunlight, the dark, gloomy mood of the old junior dorm is gone.

The dorm layout as a whole is much more spacious than it used to be. The old permanent wooden lockers were removed, replaced by individual wardrobes and a set of drawers, which frees up a large amount of space in each cube.

The new supervisor offices also received an upgrade. In the old dorm, there were two supervisor rooms: one was moderately-sized, while the other was relatively tiny. Now there are two, and both are



The new refectory offers much more space and many more dining options than in previous years.



Juniors study in their new lounge before school begins. The new junior dormitory is quite spacious, bright and modern in its design.

quite spacious. The main supervisor room is located near the front door of the dorm, while the second supervisor room is located in the back. Each supervisor's room is a modest apartment, complete with bathroom, bedroom, living room space, washer and dryer, cable, and kitchen with a stove and dishwasher. This new layout allows the supervisors to be independent of, yet close to the students.

The new lounge area in this dorm is probably the best lounge of all the dorms. The view from the lounge window overlooks the courtyard between the Main Building and the Chapel, and includes views of the upper ball diamond and St. Anthony Hall. Without a doubt, this dorm has one of the best views on campus. Additional features to the lounge area include a 52" television, cable, wireless Internet, kitchenette, mailboxes, and many tables and couches for juniors to sit on.

Junior dorm used to be a dark, cramped space. It has been transformed into one of the most spacious and welcoming places on campus—another example of how St. Lawrence is growing to accommodate the changing needs of our students and the expectations of the modern world. ■



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The Refectory: Then and Now



The refectory has long been a place where students learn about fellowship: one key component to living in community. Sharing a meal is about more than wolfing down a pile of food; it's about getting to know the people around you and sharing in their lives.

The newly remodeled refectory does not look much different from the old. It is bigger, though. It's brighter, too. And it has more stations and options for meals. For the past several years St. Lawrence has contracted its food service through Sodexo, a company that provides meals for students at many schools and colleges nationwide.

Dinner is still served family-style, and students still sit in fraternities for dinner and breakfast. (The fraternity system is a series of student groups, each comprised of several members of each class. They eat together, pray together and compete against other fraternities during intra-scholastic events.)

For lunch, students still sit by class. Sodexo also fixes up a range of options. Each day, students have their choice from among four entrées, a soup and a salad bar.



OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS:

Preparing St. Thomas Hall For Its Next Assignment

BY: JOHN RISS '75

When fire destroyed St. Joseph Hall on the morning of March 8, 2014, St. Lawrence Seminary lost not only the oldest building on campus, but also space vital to the operation of the school. St. Thomas Hall, a campus workhorse long used for its utility, played an instrumental part in keeping the school running smoothly.

Standing for well over a century in the shadows of the Laurentianum and St. Joseph Hall, the simple St. Thomas Hall was the homely and ever practical building on the Hill. While the architecturally

The Laurentianum, built in 1881, is now the oldest building on campus. St. Thomas Hall, built in 1898, is second oldest.

ornate Laurentianum and St. Joseph Hall housed the classrooms, dormitories and student chapel, humble St. Thomas Hall housed the gymnasium and auditorium. Generations of Sons of Calvary learned, lived and prayed in one, sweat and played in the other.

As the decades rolled on and the needs of the school evolved, the roles these buildings were asked to play changed and changed again. After the fire, St. Thomas Hall was pressed into new service. Brother John Willger vacated the art studio in order to make room for the Development Office whose relatively new quarters on the lower level of St. Joseph Hall had been destroyed.

But this new service asked of old St. Thomas Hall was only meant to be temporary. The renovation and expansion of St. Mary Hall would give the Development Office a permanent home on her lower level.

Now new visions for the seminary's old stalwart could unfold. St. Thomas Hall has a great future. It is being repurposed and completely made over to give the choir, band and music programs an elegant and acoustically ideal setting.

While the March 8th fire consumed the music and band classroom, the music on the Hill did not die. Mr. John Ahlstrom

has become a pilgrim without a home for all the months since. For much of this time, the auditorium in St. Conrad Hall has become a suitable refuge for our student musicians. Last school year, though, in preparation for the school musical, the band had to move out. A quarter of the chapel was temporarily cordoned off for choir and band practice.

St. Thomas Hall's cavernous space that once heard the exertions of athletes, the cheers of fans and the orations of actors, will soon swell with the sounds of wind, brass, percussion and string instruments. Voices will be raised in song as the choir gathers to rehearse.

First, St. Thomas Hall will undergo a dramatic face-lift, beautifying and enhancing its aesthetic role on campus. Some alumni may remember St. Thomas Hall suffered a fire in the early 1950s. In its aftermath an addition was built on the north end, creating a new entrance, stairwell, an upper level classroom where Mr. Lou Wappel taught English and Humanities and another space that served as the yearbook and publication room.

The 1950s addition has been razed. The new, bright entrance will face north. The façade will complement neighboring new St. Joseph Hall and enrich visitors' first impression of the Hill. Within that new



The old, boxy addition that for many years housed the Publications Office and Mr. Lou Wappel's classroom has already been demolished to make way for the new entrance.



St. Thomas Hall Floor Plans

(Left) The basement will contain the woodshop, art classroom, paint room, office and seminar room.

(Right) The main floor will house the band/choir room with instructional space, office, and six practice rooms.



entryway, a sunlit gallery will display artwork created by students in their new art classroom and remodeled woodshop on the lower level. A small elevator will make both floors easily accessible.

Walking into St. Thomas Hall, students will encounter two new music practice rooms, Mr. John Ahlstrom's office and a large ensemble practice space. Then the hall opens up into the former gymnasium and auditorium

space, which will be acoustically outfitted for band and choir. This new classroom will be nearly double the size of the music classroom lost in the fire.

The elevated former stage area will serve as additional instructional and practice space. Along the southern wall, in space long used solely for storage, three new individual practice rooms will be created. This nearly forgotten space has not seen student use since the 1950s. Soon it will be filled with the melodies and chords (perhaps occasionally dis-chords) of aspiring and accomplished young musicians.

Br. John Willger has trained young men in industrial arts and woodworking since the mid-1970s. St. Thomas Hall has long been his unique domain, both in the woodshop and in the upper level art studio and classroom. And yet, when St. Thomas Hall was called upon to meet other pressing needs of the Seminary, Br. John responded with typical enthusiasm and selfless service.

The woodshop stands empty now, awaiting a complete restoration and renewal before saws and sanders are moved back in. A renovated art classroom is also part of the work ahead. Though the building will see a much-needed renovation, its role as a campus workhorse is not over.

Nurturing the skills of young men to think and work creatively, to build and create with their hands has long been part of the St. Lawrence tradition. For much of the building's history, Br. John's name has been nearly synonymous with St. Thomas Hall. May both their legacies of service long continue in the renewed and repurposed building.

St. Lawrence Seminary strives in every generation to serve the Church and to prepare young men for ministry. The ministry of music in the Liturgy and prayer of the Church is another aspect of our efforts to educate, form and raise up ministers to serve God's people. St. Thomas Hall will play a beautiful, expanded role in the Seminary for generations to come. ■

TRADING SPACES



The main hall of St. Thomas was built as a combination gymnasium-auditorium. It also served as dining hall during large banquets.



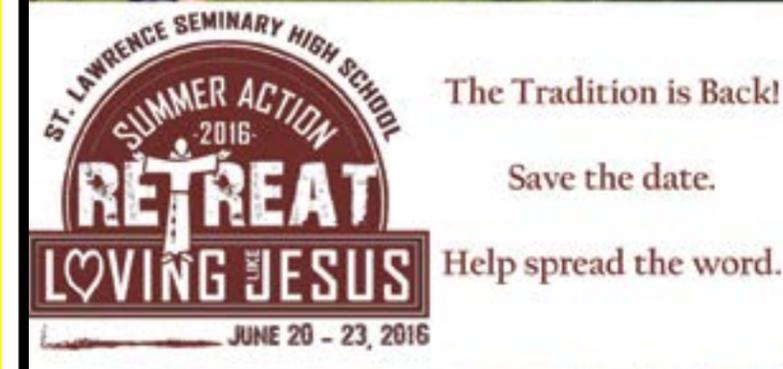
For decades the space served as the campus art studio. Countless students discovered their artistic talents in this space.



In its latest iteration, it will serve as a space where students discover a different kind of artistic talent: music. The art studio is moving downstairs.



The basement of St. Thomas Hall was originally a game room, complete with bowling lanes (top) and pool tables (middle). The woodshop space most alums are familiar with (above) is being renovated and will be the woodshop once again.





AIMING HIGH: SLS PREPARES FOR ACCREDITATION

by: Anthony Van Asten '01

In many ways, the St. Lawrence of the 1960s is much like the St. Lawrence of today. Under the direction of Fr. Gratian Zach, the school had just undergone a building boom: St. Mary, St. Conrad and St. Anthony Halls all being relatively new. The updated facility was all a part of a plan to make St. Lawrence a more appealing, viable option for high school boys. St. Lawrence was not only undergoing a physical transformation, though; during his turn as rector, Fr. Gratian also initiated a school accreditation process with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. He knew that accreditation would give credence to St. Lawrence, making it competitive with other area Catholic high schools.

To gain accreditation, faculty spent long hours reviewing and reshaping curriculum. Many of the teachers had to go back to school to earn master's degrees in their subject areas, a feat that took some a year

or two to complete. Finally, on March 31st, 1966, St. Lawrence Seminary and St. Francis Brother School earned their accreditation from the North Central Association.

Fifty years later, St. Lawrence is again simultaneously in the midst of a building boom



and an accreditation process. (This time, thankfully, there is no requirement that every teacher hold a Masters degree.) And much like that first accreditation, this one is allowing the school, faculty and staff the opportunity to reflect on the mission and direction of St. Lawrence.

A school is typically accredited for a period of five years. St. Lawrence's last accreditation was in 2009. (We were granted a one year extension because of the St. Joseph fire.) At that time the visiting accreditation team determined that, although St. Lawrence is a highly successful institution, teachers employed no standards by which to guide their curriculum and instruction. As a result, St. Lawrence adopted the Common Core State Standards (as did all Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee) and all teachers developed unit plans as a means of demonstrating alignment to those standards.

The external review team will arrive on campus on February 8th, 2016, and be on campus for two days. Their visit will consist of reviews of documents, visits to classrooms and interviews with students, teachers, parents and staff. They will issue a final report including powerful practices, opportunities for improvement and required actions.

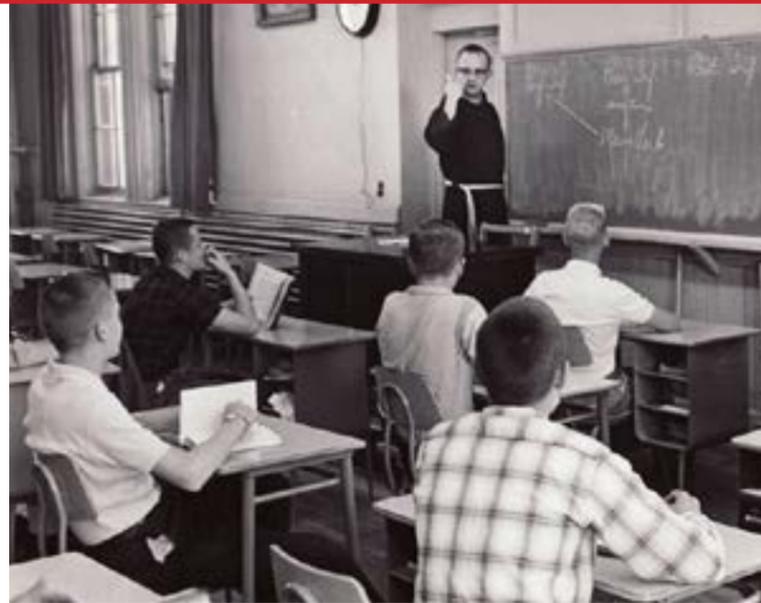
In preparation for this accreditation process, administrators and teachers spent considerable time reflecting on the needs of the students and the vision for the future of the school. Two major themes emerged: one aimed at assuring student achievement, the other at building a stronger Catholic Church.

Assuring Student Achievement

Academically, the major self-identified deficit was a lack of data collection and application. Most schools use a variety of data sets to help them gauge program effectiveness and make administrative decisions. In many cases, faculty already had the infrastructure for such data collection, but data was under-collected or under-utilized. To ameliorate this deficit, administrators devised several methods for data creation.

Within the classroom, teachers have begun administering "pre-tests" at the start of every unit and comparing them with the results of the unit's final exam. The form of the "pre-test" is up to the discretion of each teacher—it need not be an actual formal test. Instead, it could be as simple as a group discus-





sion or a set of questions about the upcoming unit to assess for prior knowledge.

By comparing this with the “post-test” results, teachers are able to reflect on the degree of learning and understanding attained in each unit. In a self-reflection piece discussing pre-and post-test results submitted to the Academic Dean, teachers explain and interpret the results. Reflecting on the learning objectives outlined in each of their unit plans, teachers then determine gaps in understanding that might need to be addressed yet this year and methods that they might employ in following years to make the unit more successful.

The year 1966 also saw the first Summer Action Retreat, which was many alumni’s first experience with St. Lawrence. Today the Summer Action Retreat is back! Find out more at www.stlawrence.edu

Administrators are using standardized testing results more effectively, too. The PSAT, ASPIRE and PLAN tests, along with the ACT are now designed to coincide with the Common Core State Standards, so student results can be analyzed to show where a school is meeting the academic needs of students and, more importantly, where there are gaps that need to be addressed.

St. Lawrence is also generating and assessing data by surveying stakeholders: students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni, more regularly. In a series of surveys to each of these groups, administrators asked

the stakeholders to assess the school program, facilities, amenities and academic outcomes. These surveys have already helped administrators reaffirm certain strengths and identify gaps.

Building a Stronger Catholic Church

Fifty years ago, when Fr. Gratian was rekindling interest in St. Lawrence Seminary, he did so with an eye to vocations. Though the goal was never to have all the high school students attend major seminary, the intention was to demonstrate lives lived like St. Francis and encourage many to consider a vocation—especially to the Capuchins. And many did become priests and Capuchins.

This idea was not new to the school. In fact, with the school’s very inception Fr. Francis Haas subtly hoped to draw well-educated young men to the Capuchin Order.

It’s no secret that interest in religious life waned in the 1980s, 90s and 00s—not just at St. Lawrence, but across the United States. St. Lawrence sent very few alumni onto major seminary programs from these decades. Nationwide there was also a decline in Church involvement on every level. Perhaps the urging to religious vocations and Church participation was too quiet and subtle.

In light of stakeholder surveys and administrative self-reflection, reinvigorating this call to religious life is central to the mission of the school. Encouraging students to consider what role they will play as men in the Church can no longer be a quiet afterthought:

it needs to be an overt message that permeates the whole program.

Within the classroom, each teacher is highlighting one or more religious figures: saints, priests and holy people, who have also played an important role in that particular field of study. The purpose of this is to dispel the idea that priests and holy people do nothing but pray, and that choosing this life would keep students from pursuing their dreams.

The Seminary also launched the Church Career Awareness Program (CCAP) this year, where students get to meet with men who serve the Church in a variety of ways. With this message is of course the caveat that there are many ways to serve the Church of today, both as religious and lay people.

This year students heard from six speakers: a diocesan priest, a deacon, a Capuchin priest (Fr. Bill Hugo '71), a Capuchin brother, a lay parish director and a lay church music director (Peter Kolar '91).

After the presentations, students reflected on the day. The following week, students gathered as fraternities and met with individual faculty members to discuss. The conversations were serious and students showed deep consideration about the various roles they might play in the Church: hints of success for the program’s first year.

Ask any teacher: the accreditation process can be a real inconvenience. It interrupts the status quo and creates extra work. But the purpose is clearly to promote genuine self-evaluation and encourage positive change. Without it an institution can get so caught up in the daily workings of itself that

it loses focus and direction. When it is done well, it can help faculty, staff, students and parents coalesce around a common goal and rededicate them to the direction and mission of the school.

This was true of the very first St. Lawrence accreditation process of fifty years ago, and it’s true of our process today. What distinguishes St. Lawrence from other Catholic high schools across the country is the quiet, humble care for each student that emanates from the Capuchin Franciscan way of life. The very purpose of St. Lawrence, as it was at the founding, is to create well-educated, Catholic men who take seriously their role in the Church, be it as lay or religious men. This accreditation process has helped refocus our aim. ■



You can help us!



Take the alumni survey by scanning the QR code above or by going to:

<http://bit.ly/1H4sZLO>

Construction Report: St. Joseph Hall



St. Joseph Hall construction is progressing as planned. Soon the building will be all sealed up and interior finishing work can begin. St. Lawrence Seminary expects to be able to move in as early as May. ■

(Above) The east side of the building, facing the courtyard, is being bricked. The blue finish beneath is a weather sealant. (Right) The west side of the building, designed to have a more modern look, will serve as the entrance and welcoming center for the school. (Bottom right) The view of the Laurentianum from the windows of a future science lab. (Below) Interior studs are up, so once the exterior is closed off, workers can begin the task of finishing the new rooms.



CLASS NOTES

Many alumni were on hand for the Alumni Reunion on September 19th. The activities included Mass, the Brindisi Awards, tours of St. Mary's Hall and a reception in the friary.



Alums scope out the new junior lobby.



Alumni gathered in the friary. Most hadn't seen each other in years!



Current junior Stephen Netter gives a tour to Richard Szewka '75, Don Enright '75, Todd Weissenborn '75 and Rev. Bruce Hennington '58.

**MISSED IT? JOIN US NEXT YEAR: SEPTEMBER 17TH.
CHECK THE ALUMNI WEBSITE FOR DETAILS!**

Congratulations to alums Tom Nguyen '04 and Tien Dinh '05 who will celebrate their ordination at St. Lawrence this spring!

St. Lawrence Seminary presents:

Career Angel by Gerard Majella Murray

May 6th 7:30
May 7th 7:30
May 8th 1:30

Join us on May 7th for Alumni Night!

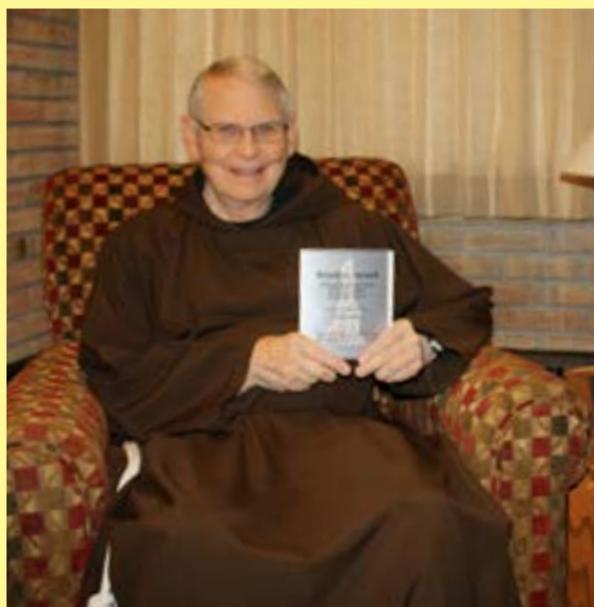


The Brindisi Award

The Brindisi Award is presented to St. Lawrence alumni who live a life inspired by Christ's gospel message, and who reflect the values taught at St. Lawrence Seminary through a life of service to the Church and their communities. Through this award the Alumni Association seeks to recognize an alumnus' outstanding ministry within the Church, his contribution to the transformation of society and his service to St. Lawrence Seminary.

The award is named after the patron of St. Lawrence Seminary, Lawrence of Brindisi. Nominations are received from alumni or by classes celebrating a significant graduation anniversary. The recipients are determined by the alumni board. The awards are presented annually at the September reunion Mass.

-Mark Kemmeter '67
Alumni Association President



Fr. Ron Smith '55

Fr. Ron Smith started his Capuchin ministry at St. Ben's parish in Milwaukee while finishing his master's degree at Marquette University. He began serving St. Lawrence as an English teacher in 1966. He was a dorm supervisor for four years and even served as Vice Rector (a position that no longer exists) from 1970-1975. In 1978 Fr. Ron's ministry took him away from St. Lawrence. He was elected Provincial and served in Detroit until 1984. His ministry took him throughout the Province and beyond, but he wouldn't be away from St. Lawrence forever. He returned in 2006 to teach English and has since been indispensable as a spiritual director and pastoral counselor.

Fr. Greg Holicky '64

Fr. Greg Holicky has ministered as a parish priest for the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, for over 40 years. He has also served altruistically as a hospital chaplain for the diocese. In addition, he has been a member of the Alumni Association Board for four decades, serving as President, Vice-President, and Secretary. Fr. Greg has long been a friend to the Seminary and has done much to align the needs of the school with the generous gifts of the alumni. His quiet service to the school over the years has been greatly appreciated!



Bishop Octavio Cisneros '65

Bishop Octavio Cisneros is currently serving as Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. Bishop Cisneros was born in Las Villas, Cuba. In 1961 he fled to the United States as a political refugee, taking part in Operation Peter Pan, a Catholic humanitarian mission responsible for bringing 14,000 unaccompanied minors from Cuba to the U.S. He attended St. Lawrence College, earning an Associate Arts degree. Bishop Cisneros has served most of his ministry in the New York area, including a turn as Rector of Cathedral Seminary in Douglaston. He is also Vice-Postulator of the Cause for Canonization of the Servant of God Felix Varela, a Cuban priest who ministered to Irish immigrants of New York in the 19th century.



St. Lawrence Seminary
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CHECK OUT THE NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE
<http://stlawrence.edu/alumni/>

Sons of Calvary

Alumni and Student Publications

A screenshot of the St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Association website. The header includes the seminary's name and logo. Below is a banner with the text 'CHECK OUT THE NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE' and the URL 'http://stlawrence.edu/alumni/'. The main content area features a photograph of a large, dark, winged statue of the Sons of Calvary in a park-like setting. Below the photo is a yellow button labeled 'Alumni and Student Publications'.



Soccer Conference Champs!



For the second consecutive year, the Hilltoppers became Conference Champions. Coaches Dave Bartel '78 and Sebastian Vervaeck '00 led the team to a 17-3-1 record as they headed into sectional semifinals against conference rival Winnebago Lutheran Academy.

WLA ended SLS's run at State last season, and the Hilltoppers faced off against them twice earlier this season, resulting in one tie and one victory. In this semifinal matchup, WLA was able to come away with a 3-1 win.

The team will lose a handful of seniors, but 2016 should be a promising year too, as many juniors and sophomores will be back on the field. ■



HISTORICAL HERO:



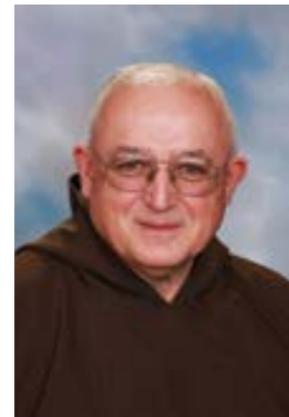
(Left) Fr. Gratian Zach poses with the Hilltopper basketball squad from the 1955-1956 season. Games were played in St. Thomas Hall until St. Fidelis Hall was built in 1962.

Know who's all in this picture? Let us know!

SWEET MEMORIES

Carving Out a Career in St. Thomas Hall

by: Br. John Willger '66



I attended St. Francis Brother School from 1962-1966. My first contact with St. Thomas Hall was in the spring of 1966, when I was asked to make the set for the musical *Oliver!*

In August of 1973, I graduated from UW-Stout and started teaching in St. Thomas Hall, jumping from the frying pan to the fire.

All of my years at SLS have been about fulfilling the mission statement of the Seminary. Two of the main ideas of the mission statement that I emphasized in the woodshop were joyful service and empowerment.

One project that stands out as a joyful service to the Seminary was the refectory table project. They are constructed out of recycled solid doors from the old wing at St. Agnes Hospital. Shop students spent a few Saturdays taking off hinges and carting the doors to a large truck that hauled them to the shop to be worked on by the students.

One door wasn't wide enough so part of another door had to be used. The two pieces were doweled and glued together. This operation had to be done with a lot of accuracy because the two surfaces had to match perfectly. Many of the original joints had to be re-cut and realigned. Perfect joy.

This was a massive project. Many students had to step up to see that certain operations were done in order to get an acceptable product.

As one can see, these tables have stood the test of time. They have even survived the remodeling of St. Mary's Hall! I hope that they can stand the test of another 40 years.

While the renovation of St. Thomas Hall is going on, I'm teaching in the basement of St. Fidelis Hall. Next year I will move back into the lower level of St. Thomas Hall. There will be a more efficient use of space, and the space should be more aesthetic. Though I'll miss the old layout, I'm really looking forward to what the new setup will bring. ■

HAVE A MEMORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? WRITE TO US OR EMAIL US AT: sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu



(Above and below) For scores of alumni, Br. John Willger was the gateway to the industrial arts.



Mark Your Calendars!

3-on-3 Alumni Basketball Tournament: February 6th

Alumni Dinner, SLS School Play - May 7th

THE 2nd ANNUAL
Alumni 3 on 3
Basketball Tournament
Open to all Sons of Calvary!



SAVE THE DATE!
The Alumni Association is proud to present its 2nd annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament! Registration for the competition will be out soon. Take a chance at being champion — you just have to win in a double elimination tournament. Easy enough, you say? Then what are you waiting for? Cut off for registration will be February 1st! Please stay tuned for more updates.



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