

Sons of Calvary

St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Magazine

Volume 2 Issue 2

Summer 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ORDINATION DAY!

The Summer Action Retreat Returns

SLS HONORS LONG-SERVING FACULTY

Carl Jakubowski '73 Rebuilds Campus

From the Archive:

MT. CALVARY WILL AGAIN RISE OUT OF ITS ASHES

..and much more!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor's Note	4
Anthony Van Asten '01	
From the Rector's Desk	5
Fr. John Holly '71	
The Fabric of St. Lawrence:	6
Honoring some of SLS's longest-serving faculty	
Inspired by the Gospel:	8
Student Spiritual Life	
Dr. Rick Voell '71	
New Habits:	12
Alumni Ordinations on Campus	
Fr. Gary Wegner '75	
Brick by Brick: Carl	14
Jakubowski '73 Rebuilds Campus	
Anthony Van Asten '01	
Summer Action Retreat:	18
Then: Fr. Mel Hermans '56	
Now: Francisco Saucedo '02	
Hero's Heroes:	20
Forensics Champs!	
Basketball Season Success	
Class Notes:	21
Alumni News	
From the Archives: Mt. Calvary	22
Will Again Rise Out of Its Ashes	
Sweet Memories: ¡Campion del	23
Mundo! ¡Campion de Nada!	
Fr. Keith Clark '57	

Editor: Anthony Van Asten '01

Copy Editors:

Katie Daane

Jeff Krieg '81

Staff:

Francisco Saucedo '02

Deann Sippel

Contact us:

920-753-7500 ex. 7803

sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu



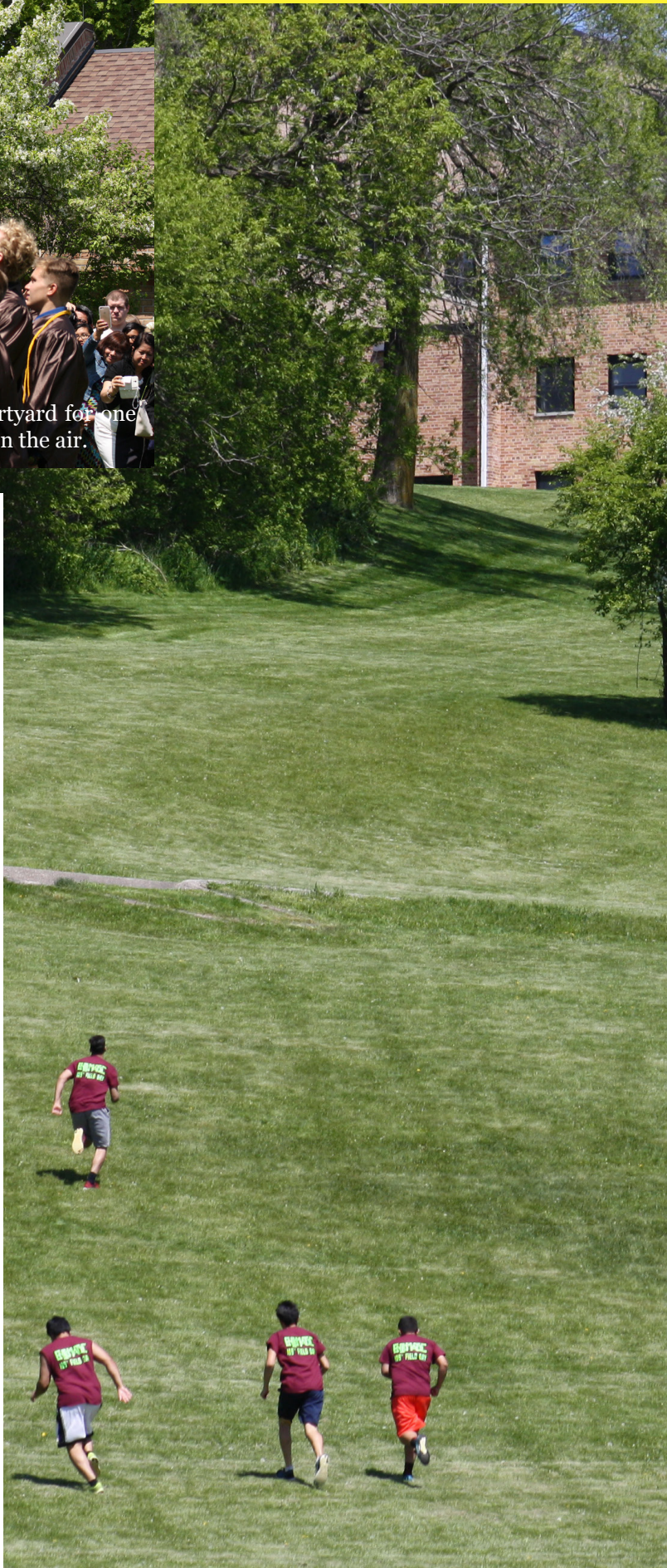
The statue of St. Joseph is being restored and will soon be replaced on the reconstructed portico.



Masons reconstruct the portico from the old St. Joseph Hall brick by brick.



As is tradition, graduates gather in the courtyard for one final class prayer prior to tossing their caps in the air.



Editor's Note

When I graduated from St. Lawrence, I knew I wanted to return some day to give back to this community that had so strengthened my faith. I had been teaching in California when Fr. Gary Wegner '75, then teacher and Dean of Students, asked if I'd consider moving back to fill a vacancy in the English department. I jumped at the opportunity because I knew if I didn't it would likely be decades before there would be another opening.

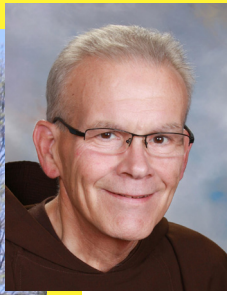
This commitment is evident in the four faculty members we honored this year during Catholic Schools Week. Among them they have a cumulative 142 years of service to St. Lawrence! Read about them on pages 6 and 7.

I know I'm not alone in my desire to give back to this place; on page 14 you can read about Carl Jakubowski '73, the CD Smith Project Superintendent who has overseen the many building and renovation projects on campus in the past several years. His love for working with his hands was fostered in the woodshop of St. Thomas Hall, a building he most recently renovated.

This spring we lost Fr. Champion Baer, a man who up until the final days of his life was concerned with how he might serve the St. Lawrence community. Fr. Keith Clark remembers his humble commitment to SLS on page 23.

These stories and others found within these pages tell of commitment to the idea of St. Lawrence and the desire to form men of strong faith—true Sons of Calvary.

-Anthony Van Asten '01



From the Rector's Desk

It's impossible to miss the fact that at St. Lawrence we are building! For more than two years, we've been renovating and building anew and happily watching those projects come to completion.

We're building in many ways, some so much more obvious than others. Seeing bricks and mortar form new dorms and classrooms is easy to notice. Watching students build their knowledge in various subjects can be tracked on report cards. But there has been some other building going on, and it's been going on for over 150 years. We have been building men of faith. We have been nurturing deep spiritual relationships between our students and God since the beginning.

Through spiritual direction, celebrations of the Eucharist, daily morning and evening prayer within the community, classes and personal time spent with God, our Sons of Calvary have been building lives of faith, coming to know better this Jesus who continually calls each of us to a relationship with Him.

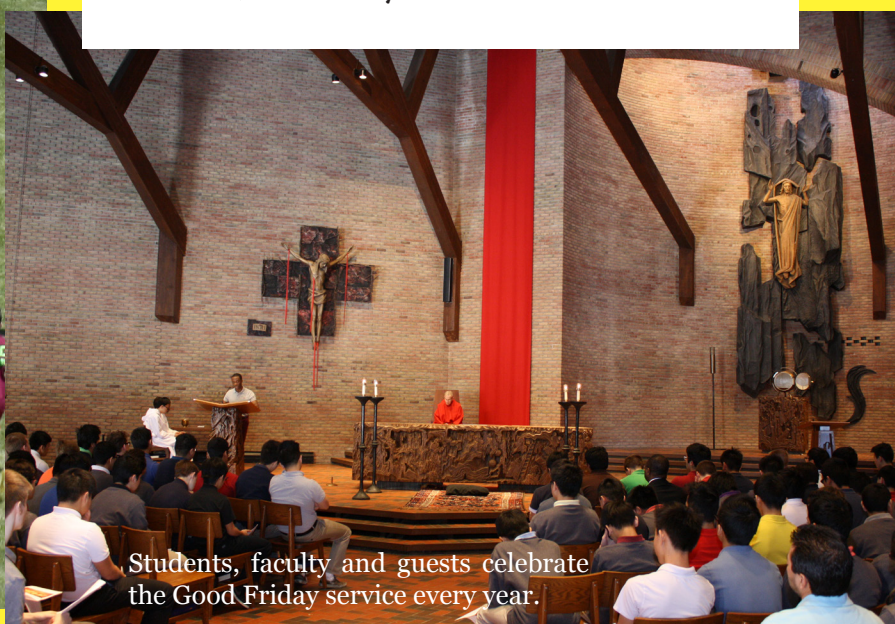
Some students don't even see this building while they are here. For some, it's not until long after they leave here before they recognize this particular building process in their lives. Over and over, alumni remind us of the growth they experienced here, the relationships they cultivated and the faith building that happened.

Ever ancient, ever new, we build faith!

-Fr. John Holly '71



Students sprint up Bus Garage Hill during "Don't Be Late For Chapel," one of the most feared of all Field Day events. Field Day turned 109 years old this year.



Students, faculty and guests celebrate the Good Friday service every year.

The Fabric of St. Lawrence

Every year during Catholic Schools Week we honor faculty and staff members who have served St. Lawrence faithfully for many years. The following familiar faces were honored this year for their extraordinary dedication and ministry on the Hill.



Mr. Lou Wappel

by: Alex Pizaña '17

Mr. Lou Wappel, known admirably by the students as “Mr. Lou,” has worked for St. Lawrence Seminary for 25 years. Originally from the Back of the Yards neighborhood in Chicago, Mr. Lou has had a variety of work experiences. He planted crops as a farmer, directed teachers and students as a high school principal, disciplined students as a dean, worked in television and even ushered for the Chicago White Sox.

When his school in Chicago closed, Mr. Lou sought an opportunity at St. Lawrence. He had been searching for a place of Franciscan influence and knew of St. Lawrence because his mother had been a benefactor of the school. He was first hired in 1991.

Many alumni will remember Mr. Lou as their kind, yet firm, freshman dorm supervisor as well as their challenging, empowering senior English teacher. Though he is no longer a dorm supervisor, nor the Freshman Guidance teacher, he still tirelessly offers support to student development through creation of the freshman mentoring program and regular “Super Student hints” given nearly daily to the whole student body. Mr. Lou continues to teach a full schedule of English and humanities classes.

When asked what makes an education at St. Lawrence different, he is quick to reply, “I like that I am able to teach the students my way.” He believes that it is his duty to reinforce the importance of both education and Catholic spirituality and that St. Lawrence is in absolute support of both of those ends. He greatly enjoys hearing from alumni what they remember from his classes and how those lessons have impacted their lives.

For the past 25 years, Mr. Lou has been invaluable to the Hill. Fortunately, he plans to continue at St. Lawrence Seminary for as long as he is able. ■



Br. Larry Groeschel

by: Adolfo Mora '17

In 1983, when St. Lawrence had a print shop, Br. Larry was recruited to take it over. Prior to religious life, Br. Larry worked for five years at a paper mill and even served three years in the military, including one year in the Vietnam War. His first experience with St. Lawrence was during a Capuchin-sponsored Action Retreat. Br. Larry first thought about becoming a brother back in grade school but did not return to the notion until later during his high school career.

Br. Larry continued to work in the print shop, turning out issues of *Hilltopics*, among other school printings, until it was closed. He has had many supervisor positions across campus: he has been a prefect for all three dormitory buildings, a long-time study hall supervisor and leader of many work crews. The time he spent supervising the dorms brings about the fondest memories for Br. Larry. Among his favorite stories of student mischief, he remembers a pair of seniors back in 2006 once attempting to sneak out of St. Francis Hall through the T.V. room window in the middle of the night.

After having served 27 years at St. Lawrence, Br. Larry retired at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and is moving to a friary in Appleton. Though the dynamics of the staff have changed much, he believes the education provided by St. Lawrence, with all the outstanding teachers, supervisors, staff and students, is excellent. The relationships found here between staff and students are not found anywhere else.

Br. Larry is very proud to have worked with St. Lawrence for 27 years, claiming it to be “some of the best years of my life.” The whole St. Lawrence community is grateful for his service and wishes him a happy retirement. ■



Mr. Dennis Holm

by: Paul Jeon '17

This year, Mr. Dennis Holm celebrated his 40th year of teaching and coaching at St. Lawrence Seminary. It's a career that almost didn't happen, though. As many alumni remember, because they were shocked to first learn it, Mr. Holm is Lutheran. He still jokes about even applying for a job at SLS. In 1975, as Mr. Holm and his wife drove to St. Lawrence for a job interview, they believed it was a long-shot. He remembers asking, "Why would St. Lawrence ever hire a teacher who is not Catholic?" Thankfully, they did.

Though he was hired for that first year, Mr. Holm thought this was going to be little more than some practical teaching experience he could bring to his next job. Much to his surprise, he was offered a renewed contract the following year, and the next, and the next. He never would have guessed after that first year that he would make a career and stay with St. Lawrence for another 39 years!

Mr. Holm has been one of the most consistent faces around campus over the years: teaching science and physical education, coaching many sports teams and even taking his turns as Dean of Students and Athletic Director. Every student knows Mr. Holm consistently maintains high expectations, too, from dancing the Highland Fling to learning about ATP.

One thing he loves about SLS is the diversity of the student body. The blend of ethnicities creates a unique and enriching learning environment unmatched in any other school he may have taught in.

He is eager to see more changes occur at St. Lawrence, especially the effective integration of technology for student academic purposes rather than strictly for gaming. With no plans for retirement, he looks forward to teaching in his new room in St. Joseph Hall. ■



Mrs. Shirley Horn

by: Isaias Godinez '16

Mrs. Shirley Horn was still in high school when she was hired at St. Lawrence. In 1965 she was looking for a part-time job when she found out that St. Lawrence had an opening in the business office. She applied and was immediately offered the position. Mrs. Horn did not hesitate to take the offer; having been raised in Mt. Calvary, she grew up knowing about St. Lawrence and had always heard good things about the students and Capuchins.

This was Mrs. Horn's first job ever, and it is the only one she has ever had! No one, not even she, suspected that this part-time job would turn into a full-time, life-long career. Throughout the years, she has reliably performed many behind-the-scenes tasks and has seen firsthand the Seminary's progress from a paper-based operation to a digital one—at one time she tracked the school's budget on a ledger that took up her whole desk. Today she manages the budget on electronic spreadsheets.

Mrs. Horn has also weathered challenges and setbacks at St. Lawrence, most significantly with the St. Joseph Hall fire two years ago. The fire destroyed her office. Undeterred, she returned. Crammed into a much smaller, shared office space, Mrs. Horn has continued to work diligently for the Seminary. "I love what I do and there is no other place where I would rather be. St. Lawrence is my home," she says.

Mrs. Horn loves the caliber of students the school produces. The students are different from other high schools' students, developing social skills and trying to become better people—not just better students. The typical "Son of Calvary" is involved in the community and builds a genuine brotherhood.

Although Mrs. Horn could retire, she has no plans to move on soon, which is good for St. Lawrence. Few people know this place better than her! ■



Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ

by: Dr. Rick Voell '71

Cardinal John Henry Newman once said, “To live is to change; to be perfect is to have changed often.” Perfection is a high hurdle, but Cardinal Newman’s point is clear: the path to perfection, be it for an individual or an institution, contains reflection and adaptation.

Over the past 156 years, St. Lawrence Seminary has changed: students have come and gone, buildings have been erected and buildings have been lost, components of our program have expired while others have been added. One component that has remained constant, though, is the pursuit of spiritual depth. How the pursuit of spiritual depth has been accomplished through the decades has evolved—without change we could not respond to the needs of the students and the changing needs of the times.

How do we nurture spiritual depth at SLS? The ways are many: sacramental celebrations, communal and individual prayer, ministry experiences, spiritual direction, retreats, the social skills program, the Church Careers Awareness Program, academics and more. Our entire program of formation—residential, academic, spiritual and co-curricular—is focused on nurturing spiritual depth. Some of these components nurture spiritual depth more intensely than others.

The opening seven words of the school mission statement states, “Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ...” It is this inspiration which drives our program; it is this inspiration which provides the focus for nurturing spirituality. We nurture spirituality through individual and communal prayer: Eucharist three times per week, daily morning and evening prayer, encouragement of various prayer forms and so much more.

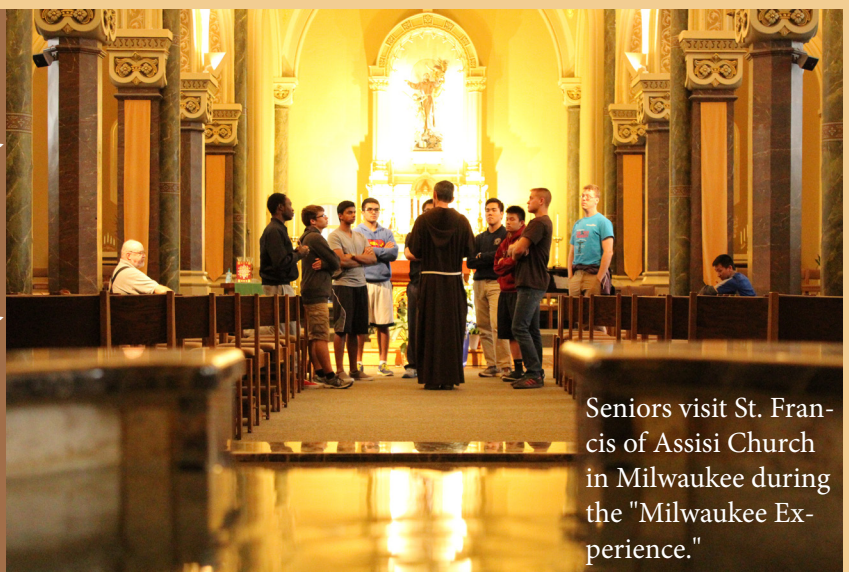
Two substantive aspects of our Friday morning Eucharist bear mentioning. First, all employees are present at the Eucharistic celebration. This is testimony to and from the entire SLS community of the importance of praying together. Secondly, we raise up benefactor prayers at this liturgy. Little by little students learn upon whose shoulders they stand in order to attend SLS. We are inspired by the Gospel, Spirit and actions of Jesus Christ through our prayer.

We also nurture spirituality through a wide array of ministry experiences. These experiences start on the Hill with liturgical ministry: acolytes, greeters, cantors, musicians, lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

Additionally, there is a wide variety of non liturgical service opportunities that the students engage in as well: tutoring, working at school events, helping set up and take down for school celebrations, serving on work

"The ministry experiences here at St. Lawrence have affected my choices in life. I want to look out for my community and I want to benefit the poor."

-Alex Gomez '14



Seniors visit St. Francis of Assisi Church in Milwaukee during the "Milwaukee Experience."



Symbols marking St. Lawrence as a Franciscan school are abundant throughout campus.

crews to maintain campus, to name a few. In addition to 'on Hill' service, all students are required to complete a certain number of ministry hours off of the Hill. Experiences of serving food to the homeless in Fond du Lac, working with Special Olympics athletes, building housing rehab in Milwaukee, volunteering in nursing homes, helping out at parish festivals, assisting families of incarcerated parents and providing school supplies for children in need are some of the ways that students open themselves to the workings of Christ's Spirit.

Annual class retreats also flow from Gospel inspiration and encourage the deepening of one's spirituality. Seniors consider God's call in their lives during a three day retreat at the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha. Juniors consider the gifts and workings of the Spirit for three days at the Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center. Sophomores and freshmen remain on campus for two-day retreats led by Spiritus, a Catholic retreat team from Menasha.

Their retreats are about finding God working in their daily lives.

Spiritual direction also plays a vital role in the spiritual journeys of our students. Spiritual direction is one

"From an anti-social geek to an outgoing young man, a terrific metamorphosis has taken place. A lesson taught in my sophomore religion class encompasses what ministry has become to me: the purpose of Eucharist is to be Christ to others. My ministry experiences have taught me to be Christ to others."

-Charles Van Hein Sackey '14

of the unique forms of nurturing spiritual depth here on the Hill. Each student meets with a spiritual director at least once a quarter to discuss such things as his relationship with God, his academic performance and living in community. They discuss areas where they witness strength and areas of concern. Spiritual direction is a wonderful opportunity to meet with adults who can mentor young men on their path to God.

A new initiative in 2015, the Church Careers Awareness Program, has been an intriguing development in our efforts to be a mission-driven community. Six presenters from a wide variety of Church ministries and vocations spent a day with our student body sharing how they experienced God's call and how their response to that call led to full-time ministry in the Church. The day was well received. Students participated in deep reflection, discernment and discussion. The second iteration of the program will take place in fall of 2016.

St. Lawrence Seminary is "inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ." We are a school that strives to nurture spiritual depth in young men to provide them with the best opportunity to experience the presence of the Risen Lord in their lives and take that presence out to others. We are a living community, a growing community, a community willing to change in order to strive toward perfection. ■

NOW

is the time.

Explore

the St. Lawrence difference.

2016-2017 Weekend Visit Dates:
 September 8th – 11th November 17th – 20th
 October 27th – 30th December 8th – 11th

2016-2017 Day of Discovery:
 October 30, 2016

ST. LAWRENCE SEMINARY HIGH SCHOOL
COLLEGE PREP • SPIRITUAL DEPTH

301 Church Street, Mount Calvary, WI 53057-0500
 www.stlawrence.edu | 920-753-7570



Students celebrate many Church feast days, including May Crowning.

NEW HABITS

Celebrating the Ordinations of Fr. Tom Nguyen '04 and Fr. Tien Dinh '05

by: Fr. Gary Wegner '75

The laying on of hands and the Prayer of Consecration are the very heart of the ordination of a Catholic priest. It is always a privilege and a moving experience to process up to the sanctuary with the other priests gathered for an ordination and to lay hands upon them. It is even more so when those being ordained, Capuchins Tom Nguyen and Tien Dinh, are not only my Capuchin brothers but former students whom I had once taught at St. Lawrence. And as I stood behind Capuchin Bishop David Zywiec, Auxiliary Bishop of Bluefields, Nicaragua, I was struck by these words from the Prayer of Consecration: “Lord, grant also to us such fellow workers, for we are weak and our need is greater.” Ritual words for sure, but after thirty-four years of Capuchin ministry and twenty-seven as a priest, I am well aware of how true they are.

Perhaps in every age it may seem that “we are weak and our need is greater” but there is little doubt that these first decades of the twenty-first century have been challenging for the Church. Our Capuchin Province of Saint Joseph has not been immune from the tumult of our day. It is therefore particularly gratifying and a source of tremendous joy to witness the courage and commitment of these two young friars as they were ordained priests and committed themselves to meet the needs of the People of God. It is my hope that celebrating their ordination in the presence of the St. Lawrence student body will motivate some of the young students to consider this vocation.

Fr. Tien Dinh, from New Orleans, Louisiana and Fr. Tom Nguyen, from Houston, Texas, were ordained priests in the chapel of their alma mater, St. Lawrence Seminary High School, on Saturday, April 30th by Bishop Zywiec. Fr. Tom and Fr. Tien graduated from St. Lawrence in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Both became Capuchin Candidates following their graduation from SLS and began their college studies

at Loyola University of Chicago. They entered the Capuchin postulancy in 2006, were invested with the Capuchin habit upon entering the Novitiate in 2007 and made their First Profession of Vows in 2008. Following their novitiate, both finished their university studies before enrolling at the Catholic Theological Union at Chicago to begin work on the Masters of Divinity degree needed for ordination. Throughout their time in formation the two friars ministered to the Vietnamese youth group at St. Henry Parish in Chicago. Fathers Tom and Tien are the first Vietnamese to profess perpetual vows and be ordained in the Midwest Capuchin province of St. Joseph.

Both friars professed their Solemn Perpetual Vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience in August of 2012 and graduated from CTU in 2015. Br. Tom also completed a Master in Church Music Degree from Concordia University in suburban Chicago. They were ordained transitional deacons in June of 2015. For the past year, Br. Tien was a member of the newly established St. Katharine Drexel Friary in Crow Agency, Montana. He served the Crow and Cheyenne Peoples. The children at Pretty Eagle School in St. Xavier on the Crow Reservation were particularly excited to watch parts of the ordination that were live-streamed. While the vesting of the new priests with the chasuble and stole is a special moment in the ordination rite, few present would argue that the gift of a blanket from the children and staff of the school was equally touching. This Crow tra-





dition was a mark of the affection and esteem that Fr. Tien has earned in a short time. Br. Tom was assigned to Detroit, Michigan, where he worked at the Father Solanus Casey Center and St. Ambrose Parish in Grosse Pointe. Both Fr. Tom and Fr. Tien will remain in Detroit and Crow Agency for at least the next year as they continue to integrate into their Capuchin identity what it means to also serve as an ordained priest.

The Prayer of Consecration, so central to the ordination Mass, continues: "Almighty Father, grant to these servants of yours the dignity of the priesthood. Renew within them the Spirit of holiness. As co-workers with the order of bishops, may they be faithful to the ministry they receive from you, Lord, God, and be to others models of right conduct." Fr. Tom and Fr. Tien, make it so! ■

FR. GARY WEGNER, A LONG-SERVING TEACHER AND DEAN OF STUDENTS AT ST. LAWRENCE, IS NOW PASTOR OF THE HOLYLAND CATHOLIC PARISHES.



BRICK BY BRICK

Carl Jakubowski '73 Rebuilds Campus by: Anthony Van Asten '01

When Carl Jakubowski first set foot on the Hill, it was because he had visions of cassocks and chalices, not bulldozers and cranes. As an eighth grade boy from Racine, Wisconsin, he felt as if maybe he had a calling to religious life.

He did find his calling here, but it wasn't to the priesthood. Core classes were difficult. Carl struggled to keep his grades up in English and math, let alone science and philosophy. But it was in St. Thomas Hall—the art studio and the woodshop—where Carl realized his love of working with his hands. Designing, planning, creating and building: here's where Carl began to thrive.

Coincidentally, Carl's time as a student at St. Lawrence corresponded with the last big building phase on campus. It was during these years that the chapel and friary were built and additions to the fronts of St. Conrad and St. Mary's Hall were completed.

As Carl graduated from St. Lawrence High School in 1973, he was still unsure about his calling. He stayed on at St. Lawrence College and went to Marian College for a semester. Carl worked for tuition aid at Marian, building cabinets, benches, chairs and tables for the college. One of his coworkers, recognizing Carl's skill and passion, recommended he make a career out of it and introduced him to a local homebuilder.

He left school and went to work. He earned his carpenter's apprenticeship within his first two years on the job. Carl has spent every day since in steel-toed boots reading blueprints, pouring concrete, framing up walls and nailing shingles.

Carl was hired by C.D. Smith of Fond du Lac in 1989. Since 1994 he's been a project superintendent for the company, overseeing massive construction projects across the Midwest. "The days go fast; you've got to be

sharp and stay on your toes,” he says. The job is high stress, too: “Schedules now are very tight. Everyone wants their building done as soon as possible. We try to stay on schedule and usually we can be pretty accurate.”

A dedicated husband, father of two and grandfather of three, Carl had nearly two decades of experience as a project superintendent when he came back to St. Lawrence in the fall of 2013 to direct the renovation of and addition to St. Anthony Hall. Little did he know this would be the first of four major projects he'd oversee that would drastically reshape the face of St. Lawrence Seminary.

Students vacated St. Anthony Hall at the end of the fall semester, 2013, cramming into dorm space elsewhere on campus. Turnaround had to be quick; the dorm needed to be completed by the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

And the job wasn't a simple remodel. The inside of St. Anthony Hall had to be completely gutted; every interior wall needed to be removed. The orientation of the building changed and bathrooms were moved. New student supervisor apartments were added. Saving and leveling the terrazzo floors proved to be the most chal-

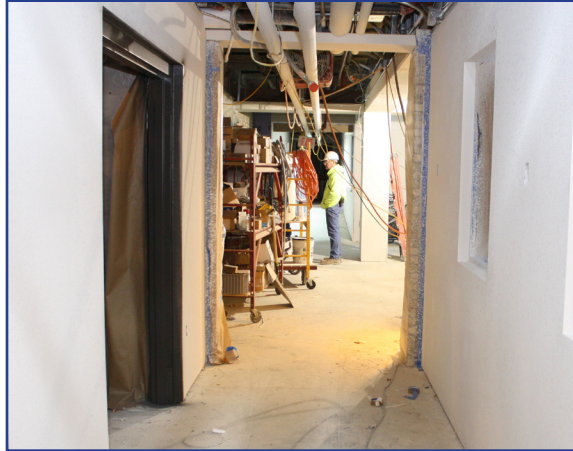
lenging part of the renovation. Still, the job was well within the capabilities of Carl's crew and the building was ready on time for the incoming freshmen and returning sophomores. “Once it was gutted, and with the addition, it was easy to put it back together.”

In March of 2014, in the middle of the St. Anthony project, fire ripped through St. Joseph Hall. As the building smoldered, C.D. Smith sent their excavator up from the worksite to tear down walls and help firefighters rout out hot spots.

Shortly after St. Anthony Hall was completed, C.D. Smith began the complicated renovation and addition to St. Mary's

Hall. According to Carl, it was the most difficult of all the St. Lawrence projects. “We had to move stairways and build an elevator inside of a stairway. Dealing with where the additions were located and structural issues with the old building were all very difficult.” The end result, however, is a building that “makes much more sense.”

The new St. Joseph Hall was the easiest of all the projects, as there was little existing structure to work around. It helped that the school administration was so



“Woodshop, art, drafting? That all came naturally to me. English, math? That stuff came hard. I never developed good study habits. In Geometry class, I'd get all Ds. In the geometry part of my carpenter apprenticeship class, I aced it. Once you're using it, and it's practical, it's easy to do.”



Carl reviews paperwork in the C.D. Smith office trailer.

(Above) Mechanicals and ductwork have to fit in very tight ceilings.

prepared and involved. “The people up here are just terrific to work with. Everybody.”

Still, the new building came with challenges, especially when builders were matching the floor heights with those of the Laurentianum where the buildings connect. The floor heights in the Laurentianum are different from one floor to the next, so making sure the floors of St. Joseph Hall line up perfectly was more than a little tricky. It also made squeezing the necessary mechanicals in the ceilings problematic.

The final renovation project for C.D. Smith was St. Thomas Hall. For Carl remodeling this building was special. This is, after all, where his career started. It was by no means a simple undertaking, however. “The building was in about the worst shape of any of the buildings we’ve worked on.” The renovation included refinishing the old hardwood floor from the original basketball court and repairing the sagging roof, as well as a number of unseen structural and mechanical fixes.

But that wasn’t all. “The basement has nine inches of pitch in 100 feet. No one realized it went downhill. The engineers took all their measurements off of the low end of the basement, so working on the high end where the floor is nine inches higher, we don’t have as much ceiling room.” Despite what difficulties this wrought on the measurements for the addition on the north end, Carl jokes about it. “There were bowling alleys in there





“The different architectural styles across campus show diversity; they show how St. Lawrence is standing through time. You’ve got buildings that are 130 years old next to buildings that are brand new.”

once. I hope they were throwing downhill!”

St. Anthony Hall has been open since August 2014 and St. Mary’s Hall since August 2015. Both St. Joseph Hall and St. Thomas Hall are set to open for the 2016 school year.

Being a part of the most recent and most dramatic reshaping of St. Lawrence has been bittersweet for Carl. More than just another job, working at St. Lawrence has brought him the unique opportunity to reflect on his roots and his vocation. At the turn of every corner, he says, a flood of memories comes back to him. He thinks, too, about the St. Lawrence he’s building for future generations of Sons of Calvary. Carl plans on retiring this year, making the renovation of St. Thomas Hall all the more meaningful. “I started my career when I left here and I’m finishing up here. It’s a good way to end.” ■



Construction crews had to be careful to know what was being restored and what was being replaced. (Top) Carl stands amid what will be the new circle drive entrance.

THE SUMMER AC ATTACK...

THEN by: Fr. Mel Hermans '56

Thousands of 6th, 7th and 8th graders experienced Summer Action Retreats in the 1960s, '70s and '80s at St. Lawrence Seminary High School. During those years up to ten Capuchins were recruiting for the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and for St. Lawrence Seminary High School and St. Francis Brothers School. As many as 90% of the students at the two high schools came off the so called "Summer Ac Attacks".

Our church and society were in flux. The 1960s was an era of urban unrest and anti-war protests, a time of growing confusion in the church over the transformative influence of the Second Vatican Council, an era of mass departures from religious life and slumping religious and priestly vocations. In that context it became increasingly difficult to "sell" an all-boys Catholic boarding school that sought to train young men for the priesthood and religious life.

Fr. Nick Widhammer, Capuchin, launched the first Action Retreat in 1964 with kids from local parishes. For years he spear-headed the effort of the Action Retreats with help from the rest of the Capuchin recruiters, recent graduates of the Seminary and Brothers school, young Capuchins in formation and current students.

Most of the attendees came from the Midwest states: Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, but some from far beyond. Retreats were generally two and a half days, except when students came from as far away as Detroit, Saginaw and the northern part of lower Michigan.

The retreats were geared to the age of the kids, with plenty of exhausting races, skits, talent shows and prayer times. The effort was to give them a positive experience of God in their lives and how God might be leading them into their future.

Hundreds of gallons of "bug juice" (a Kool-Aid like drink) were consumed; food was abundant.

The kids were divided into groups of 10 or 12, each group led by a skilled pair of "Fearless Leaders" (a Capuchin student and a Calvary student). The "Fearless Leaders" facilitated the small group prayer, discussion and other small group activities. The Capuchin vocation staff oversaw the overall retreat dynamics.



At the end of the retreats, numerous applications for admission were handed out to hopeful prospects and happily processed in the succeeding weeks. The recruiters would visit the families of interested applicants to help them appreciate the appeal and purpose of St. Lawrence Seminary and St. Francis Brothers School.

The Action Retreats gradually ran their course and were terminated in the late 1980s. ■

...Is BACK!

NOW by: *Francisco Saucedo '02*

After a 30 year hiatus, the Summer Action Retreat returned again this summer for the 4th straight year. On June 20th through the 23rd St. Lawrence staff, faculty and students hosted 7th, 8th, and 9th grade boys for a four day, three night retreat based on the theme “Loving Like Jesus.”

As we prepared to host this year’s retreat, I was asked by staff and alumni, “Why bring it back?”

One of the biggest reasons is to give the retreatants and their parents an opportunity to get to know St. Lawrence Seminary. I’ve always held the belief that the Hill is a very special place, and our students and staff help make this place special.

So is this a recruitment effort? Yes, but not like it was in the old days. Back

then there were many, many retreats per summer. For now we only have one. Back then it was about filling the school. Now it’s about awareness. SLS has sometimes been described as the “best kept secret” in the area. As St. Lawrence Seminary’s Director of Marketing, I would prefer to do away with that secrecy.

St. Lawrence has so much to offer. I believe that bringing back the Summer Action Retreat gives many families a great opportunity to come up and experience what makes this place so special. It gives the retreatants an opportunity to experience a taste of the spiritual depth that can be found on this Hill. It provides our high school students opportunities to take on some leadership roles as they guide younger students during the retreat. It gives our students, and the retreatants as well, a chance to work with our staff members in a very different capacity.

Why bring back the Summer Action Retreat? Because it is a great opportunity for all involved.

So if you know of a young man who would be interested in a retreat like this, don’t keep it a secret! Pass it along: the Summer Action Retreat is back! ■





DRAMA KINGS *by: Antonio Trinidad '11*



Forensics is the only extra-curricular activity on the Hill where St. Lawrence students compete against students from Division 1 schools. So, how is it that a school of 200 students is able to be competitive against schools of over 2,500 students? Our success is due to the quality of our students. They have a passion and drive like no other. Most teenagers aren't will-

ing to wake up at five o'clock in the morning to face the blistering cold of a Wisconsin winter, dress in their Sunday best, and sit on a frozen bus for an hour or two in order to speak in front of a group of complete strangers. But every winter our students brave the cold, dress up nicely, behave politely and compete fiercely in forensics.

This year, something was dif-

ferent. The students were even more motivated, more poised, more on-point. This year, in addition to the many individual and group trophies, we managed to win ten first place team trophies — the most out of any team in the WFCFA.

This year the 2016 Wisconsin Forensic Coaches' Association State Tournament was held at UW-Whitewater on April 2nd. St. Lawrence sent 13 entries to the semi-finals, eight of whom advanced to the final round.

SLS students won two categories overall: Kamsi Nwanebo '16 in Poetry and Timmy Le '16, Martin Vu '17, Bryant Nguyen '18, Teddy Le '18 and Jefferson Nguyen '19 in Group Interpretation. The entire St. Lawrence forensics team won 1st at state for Division 3. It was a fitting end to a season of hard work and sacrifice. ■

ANTONIO TRINIDAD IS ST. LAWRENCE'S FORENSICS COACH.

LORDS OF THE BOARDS

by: Dave Bartel '78

This past year our basketball team had one of the more successful seasons in recent history. The team finished the year with an 11—10 record. It has been 10 years since the basketball team posted a winning season. The coaches do not think that this season is a fluke, either. The future looks good; the junior varsity team posted a 13 – 2 record.

This year's version of varsity began three years ago when guards Richard Lor '16, Ricardo Diaz '16 and Isai Lu-

evano '17 saw significant playing time as underclassmen. At that time, they were not intimidated playing against older and bigger opponents. Their tenacity, drive and desire permeated the team then as it did this year, and their leadership has carried over to the entire program. This year's team was truly a team; they worked together well. More importantly, they knew how to have fun. Next season will be one to watch. ■

DAVE BARTEL IS ST. LAWRENCE'S VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH



CLASS NOTES

Over 50 alumni came out to compete in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament February 6th.



The tournament was won by the class of 2004.

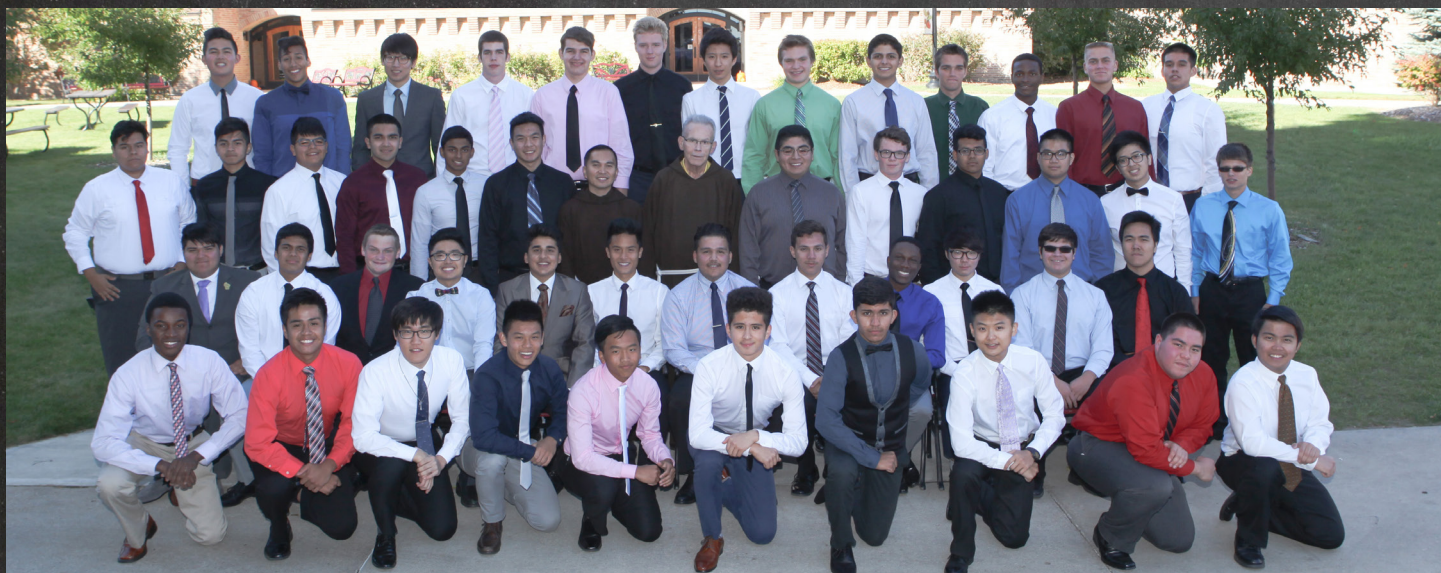


Many alums attended the Alumni Night and enjoyed the school play *Career Angel* on May 7th...



...including three generations of Mortells!

Congratulations to the newest alumni, Class of 2016!



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Mt. Calvary Will Again Rise Out of Its Ashes

The St. Joseph Hall fire was not the first fire to disrupt life on campus. The following excerpts from a letter by Fr. Francis Haas detail the fire of 1868 that destroyed the new college and friary.



The monastery had just been completed, and, ten days before, the last two carpenters, who had finished the cloister corridor, had been dismissed. Then, on December 26, the Feast of St. Stephen, at three o'clock in the morning, the household was shocked out of its sleep with the cry of fire...Instinctively the lay friars and clerics pounced upon the water buckets and rushed to the place where the smoke was thickest in the corridors near the sacristy. Church and choir were filled with suffocating smoke; and the rooms next to the sacristy, on account of the smoke and heat, were almost inaccessible. The sacristy had become a furnace; and when a door was opened, in order to reach the fire, it roared out with an irresistible force, leaped up the stairway and shot in a few minutes out over the roof.

There was no fire apparatus on hand, and the buckets were like so many drops upon the terrific fury of the flames. I hurried away with a cleric to save the Blessed Sacrament. No light would burn, and we tried as best we could to find our way with the tabernacle through a side door into the open... I hurried to my cell, which was in the west wing, in order to bring all documents and writings to safety, and I saw half of the east wing already in flames. The building could no longer be saved, because the fire spread right and left. Everybody now began to scatter, in order to save whatever could be saved of the beds, furniture, etc... One of the friars

continued to throw books out of an open window so long until, unconscious from smoke and heat, he fell back upon the roof of the shed where he was standing. The students rescued their effects and whatever could be moved out of the south wing of the college... At nine o'clock the fire had completed its work of destruction, and all that remained intact was the St. Francis Chapel, the nave of the church and the granary. At least we still had bread until the next harvest...

In the evening of the same day, when all sat around in groups and calmly narrated their experiences of the day, one of the lay friars sat alone by himself in sadness. "What's the matter, Brother J.," I asked him, "do you intend to get sick? Why so sad?" The good Brother sobbed and replied: "Why shouldn't I be sad, since our home is burned down?" "Oh, is that all?" I said. "Do you not know even now, that a Capuchin has no home?" All the others laughed out loud, and the Brother was cured of his faint-heartedness. If mystic thoughts and meditations on important events still have any value, I feel almost happy that we received as a Christmas present the necessity to return with the Christ Child to our first poverty. For that reason I am also full of confidence in His blessing and help...

The entire furnishings of our choir, even the psalters, were destroyed; so, too, the library, which contained many valuable books...But why all these enumerations? Let us rather start again from the bottom... If God wills it and sends us benefactors, as we have the hope to expect, to judge from the sympathy expressed on all sides, Mt. Calvary will again rise out of its ashes. ■

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED



In the *SOC Winter Issue* we asked you to help us identify the 1955-56 basketball team. You answered! In addition to correcting our misidentified Fr. Vernon Wagner, a number of you wrote in with the names of the players. From left to right: (back row) Bill Cayen '56, Ron Steffen '56, Monte Wingert '57, Fr. Vernon Wagner, Conny Sullivan '56, Ron Wunderlin '57, Bob Allen '57, Rodney Jago '56, (front row) Jim Coady '56, Vern Konkle '54, Dean Dombroski '56, Don Fisher '56 and Bob Hogan '58.

Additionally, this is the team that won the legendary January 11, 1956 game against Salvatorian Seminary of St. Nazianz in the final seconds, 100 to 98. In this legendary game, Conny Sullivan scored 30 points and Dean Dombroski scored 29. ■

SWEET MEMORIES

¡Campion del Mundo! ¡Campion de Nada! *Remembering Fr. Campion's Life and Legacy*

by: Fr. Keith Clark '57



Fr. Campion Baer was not about Fr. Campion Baer; he was about serving others. He came on staff at Saint Lawrence Seminary in 1991 because he wanted to help put the seminary on a firm footing in all ways. At the time there were no openings on the teaching faculty roster. However, the recruiting department was in need of help in running the weekend retreats.

Now, remember that Fr. Campion had a doctorate in education; he was in an educational institution; and there was no teaching post available to him. So what did he do in the recruitment department? He filled pop machines so they would be loaded for the boys who would arrive late on Thursday afternoons to begin their weekend retreat! Why? Because there was a need to be filled.

The magnitude of the man's desire to serve others and his humility can be measured by contemplating this man: a Doctor of Education, formerly a university professor, filling pop machines for the convenience of eighth grade boys. Everything else about the man's life can be understood if we grasp the import of that bit of his service to others.

"There was a need to be filled." That could summarize the moti-

vation for Fr. Campion's journey through life. At Saint Lawrence there was at one point a need for a Spanish teacher. So Fr. Campion learned Spanish and earned the qualifications needed to teach the subject just to fill that position.

When he was not fully engaged in the classroom, he tutored students after the class day ended. Toward the end of his life, his difficulty with physical mobility made getting to a classroom impractical. But he recognized that there was a need for study hall supervision, so he volunteered for that.

Prior to his service at Saint Lawrence, Fr. Campion served as pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Marathon, Wisconsin, and of St. Joseph Parish in Appleton, Wisconsin, and of Saint Anthony Parish in Saginaw, Michigan. He also served as the Mission secretary for the Capuchin Province of Saint Joseph.

Father Campion served on the boards of directors for Xavier High School in Appleton, Wisconsin, Newman High School in Wausau, Wisconsin, Nouvel High School in Saginaw, Michigan, Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and five terms on the governing board of Saint Lawrence Seminary.

The important message here



for understanding his life is not to be found in a list of all the places in which he served; the important message is not the variety of ministries in which he served, but that in them all he served with humility.

Fr. Campion passed into eternal life on April 17th 2016. ■



Students often addressed Campion with, "Campion del Mundo!" (Champion of the world) to which he responded, "Campion de Nada!" (Champion of nothing)..

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

ST. LAWRENCE
S E M I N A R Y
HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE PREP - SPIRITUAL DEPTH

301 CHURCH ST / MT. CALVARY, WI 53057

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
St. Lawrence
Seminary
Mt. Calvary, WI

