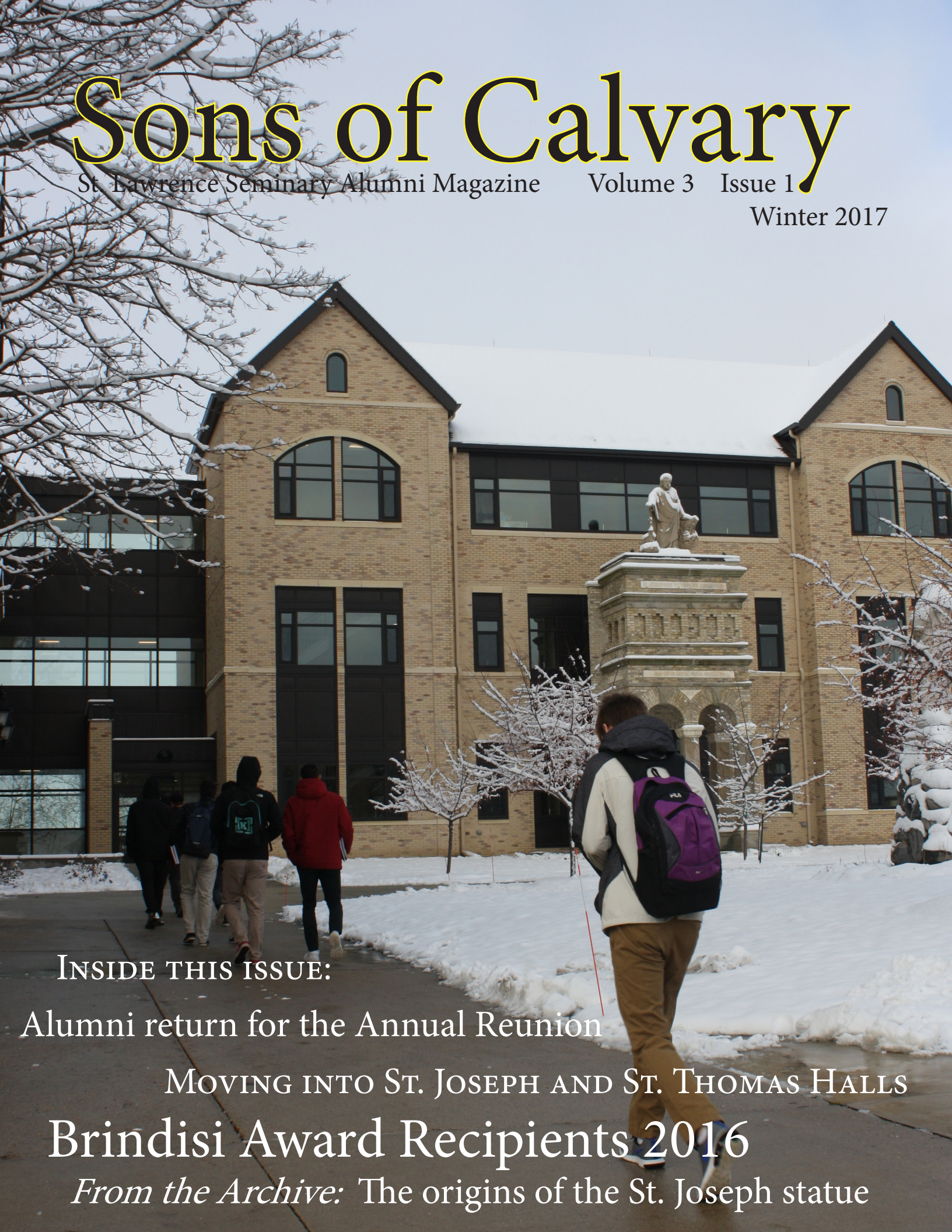


# Sons of Calvary

St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Magazine

Volume 3 Issue 1

Winter 2017



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Alumni return for the Annual Reunion

MOVING INTO ST. JOSEPH AND ST. THOMAS HALLS

Brindisi Award Recipients 2016

*From the Archive:* The origins of the St. Joseph statue



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Editor: Anthony Van Asten '01	
Copy Editors:	
Katie Daane	
Jeff Krieg '81	
Staff:	
Francisco Saucedo '02	
Deann Sippel	

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Contact us:  
920-753-7500 ex. 7803  
sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu











### Editor's Note

The new buildings opened up to us in June and I have never before seen so many teachers eager and excited to be at school during the summer. I am grateful to be one of the lucky teachers to have a room in the new building, and throughout the first semester I have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to use the space and the gadgets to enhance my teaching. We have been truly blessed with some beautiful spaces, lots of technological updates and new tools for teaching.

This issue of *Sons of Calvary* is dedicated to sharing with you these new spaces. But as I compiled photos and stories for this issue, I was reminded of the old adage: "What's old is new again."

With much fanfare and celebration, St. Joseph Hall was blessed and dedicated on July 10, 1872. Over 140 years later, with similar joy and jubilation, the new St. Joseph Hall was blessed and dedicated on October 2, 2016. (Read about both dedication ceremonies in this issue.) The Welcome Center is built from the bricks of the original building. The statue that stood above the old building's entrance now towers above the courtyard. Students again perform on the stage in St. Thomas Hall, if only for choir practice. The new St. Joseph Hall includes a Heritage Room that beautifully preserves and presents our history.

St. Lawrence is filled with new spaces, yes, but the school maintains strong connections to its roots. The old hasn't been bulldozed to make room for the new; the old has been carefully incorporated into the new to show our past to the present and keep it for the future.

-Anthony Van Asten '01







## From the Rector's Desk

In these early days of our second semester, activities have picked up again as our students, teachers and staff returned to the Hill from a well-deserved three week break. For students who cannot travel home, we have wonderful host families welcoming them into their homes. This leaves the Hill very quiet and very peaceful for those three weeks.

The first snows arrived mid-December right on cue as we were making the transition from our celebration of Advent to our celebration of Christmas. We are now blanketed in white as far as the eye can see. The new St. Joseph Hall provides stunning views of the surrounding countryside, now covered in brilliant white.

All around, reviews of St. Joseph Hall and the renovated St. Thomas Hall have been positive from both residents and visitors alike. Even teachers who don't have space in the new buildings appreciate the increased space they have in the Main Building. The only complaints come from the sophomores who must now journey to the former science labs on the fourth floor for their study hall!

I think of your kindness and that of all our benefactors as I watch the students hurry from one class to another, developing new rhythms and patterns as they seek the shortest distance between point A and point B! But I am especially grateful to you, in the quiet of these nights, as I go through the newly fallen snow, see the decorations of the season and realize again that your care for SLS loudly reminds me that our God so loves us and holds us lovingly in his embrace. May the many blessings of the New Year be yours!

-Fr. John Holly '71







**Sons of Calvary return to the Hill for the annual Alumni Reunion**



## *Stomping Grounds*

Though the days leading up to the all-class Alumni Reunion saturated the Hill with rain, on September 17<sup>th</sup> the sky cleared and alumni were welcomed back to St. Lawrence with sunshine.

Every year St. Lawrence hosts an all-class reunion on the same day as its annual Hilltopper Cross Country Invitational. The day provides alumni an opportunity to reconnect with classmates and faculty as well as a chance to see how campus has changed and how it hasn't.

This year over 130 alumni returned to the Hill, along with their spouses and children. The oldest alumnus present was Fr. Jerry Higgins, OFM Cap from the class of 1946. Many alums from the classes of 1976 and 1986 turned out to celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> class reunions.

Alumni played soccer against the current varsity soccer team, toured the campus with upper-classmen, celebrated Mass together and honored recipients of the Brindisi Award, the highest award bestowed by the Alumni Association.

Mark your calendars now: next year's reunion will take place on September 16, 2017. ■







*Photos by  
Shane Gomes '19*



*St. Lawrence Seminary  
presents a bilingual*

*May 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:30  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30*

# *Aladdin*

*Alumni night:  
May 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Find details at:  
[www.stlawrence.edu](http://www.stlawrence.edu)*





St. Lawrence Seminary  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# The Brindisi Award

By: Matthew Mattes '17

Photos by: Devin Do '17

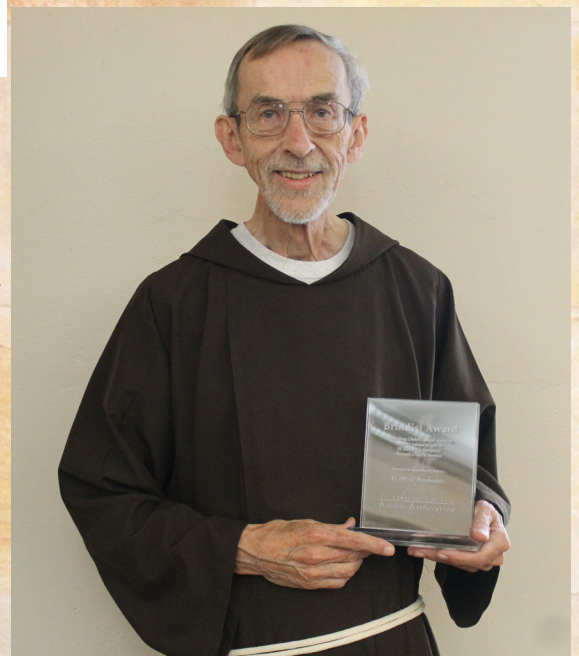


## Fr. Marty Pable '49

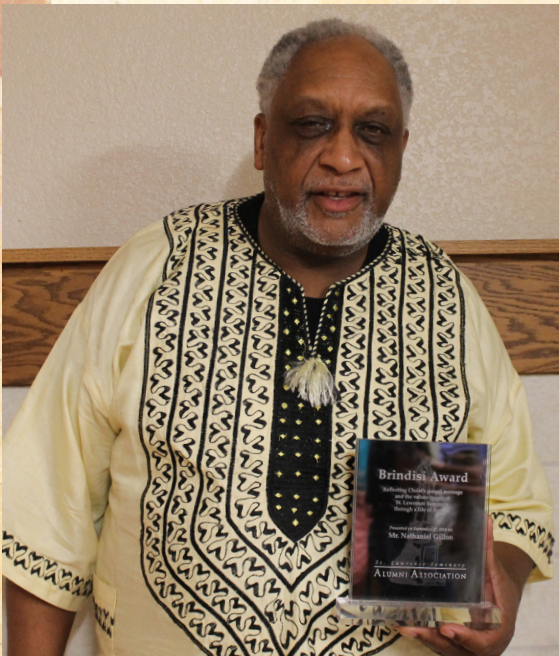
Fr. Martin Pable (Fr. Marty, as he is called) was ordained to the priesthood in 1958. He attended Catholic University of America in 1965 where he received a doctorate in counseling psychology. Fr. Marty spent many years teaching at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in St. Francis, Wisconsin, and Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. He has also authored a number of books written to help everyday Catholics and Christians understand their faith. His titles include *A Man and his God*, *Remaining Catholic: Six Good Reasons for Staying in an Imperfect Church*, *The Quest for the Male Soul* and *What Catholics Believe... and Why*. Fr. Marty is most known for his work as a counselor for priests, religious and lay persons, as well as a retreat director and lecturer on many spiritual and evangelical topics. ■

## Fr. Oliver Bambenek '57

After graduating from St. Lawrence in 1957, Fr. Oliver went on to join the Capuchin Novitiate. In 1965, he was ordained to the priesthood; two years later he returned to school to get his Master's in Library Science. Following the completion of his master's program, Fr. Oliver was sent to Marathon, Wisconsin, to be the librarian at the House of Theology. After two years of service there, he returned to St. Lawrence and became the librarian for the Seminary. He served two stints as librarian, the first from 1970 to '78 and then from 1987 to today. Between those turns among the stacks, Fr. Oliver served on the Capuchin Novitiate team and was also the Vicar of the Province. In addition, Fr. Oliver oversaw the introduction of computers and the computer lab to St. Lawrence, which have been instrumental to bringing SLS into the 21st century. ■







## Mr. Nathaniel Gillon '68

A graduate of the class of '68, Nathaniel Gillon is the first alumnus of St. Francis Brother School to receive the Brindisi Award. Mr. Gillon has served the Catholic schools in the Milwaukee area for a number of years, including as a principal. He has served as counselor to students and liaison to the parent network at Marquette University High School. Because of his service to Milwaukee's Catholic school community, Gillon has received a number of awards, including the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Vatican II Award for service in education, the Claver Legacy Award for his involvement in the Knights of St. Peter Claver and the Nathaniel Gillon Cura Personalis Award, which was named in his honor, from Marquette University High School. He was the first recipient of that award. Gillon describes his commitment to Catholic education as nothing short of his vocation. ■

## Mr. David Bartel '78

Mr. David Bartel, a teacher and the Academic Dean at St. Lawrence, has been serving the community of SLS for more than twenty-seven years. Before returning to St. Lawrence, Mr. Bartel worked on his family's farm in Marytown, Wisconsin. Always close to SLS, in 1990 he was asked to come on staff. Over the years he has taken on a number of roles, including Academic Dean, coach, math teacher and dorm supervisor. He sees St. Lawrence's main mission today as preparing young men for a life of ministry in the Catholic Church, in whatever capacity an individual alumnus is called. Mr. Bartel himself is the first lay principal at St. Lawrence. In his role as principal, Bartel develops a closer relationship to students than principals of other schools. He sees this as a strength of the SLS program: students create close bonds with teachers and classmates, which aids in greater academic achievement and spiritual depth. ■



THE BRINDISI AWARD IS PRESENTED TO ST. LAWRENCE SEMINARY ALUMNI WHO LIVE A LIFE INSPIRED BY CHRIST'S GOSPEL MESSAGE AND WHO REFLECT THE VALUES TAUGHT AT ST. LAWRENCE 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. TO NOMINATE AN ALUMNUS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT MARK KEMMETER AT: [KemmeterM@archmil.org](mailto:KemmeterM@archmil.org)



# Moving

by: Timothy Nguyen '17

# In

photos by:  
Anthony Van Asten '01

Of all the recent additions to St. Lawrence Seminary, few match the eminence of the new St. Joseph Hall. The new building's architecture borrows modern yet nostalgic elements, seamlessly blending into the rest of campus. Inside are fresh corridors lined with spacious windows. The accents highlight the interior style of modernism while retaining the familiar impression of SLS. They complement the rest of the updated buildings very well.

After three years of maneuvering around construction zones and big pieces of equipment to get across campus, when students returned this fall they moved back to a school more beautiful than they could have imagined. The faculty and staff, cramped into other areas on campus with two buildings under construction, marveled at the size and quality of their new spaces. The new classrooms, hallways, work spaces and meeting areas are well lit by natural and artificial light. They are large and easy to find. They are designed to serve the dual purpose of aesthetic appearance and function.

The new St. Joseph Hall, unlike the original, houses four levels, each one providing a stunning view of the courtyard on one side and of the beautiful Wisconsin countryside on the other. Additionally, each of these four levels is connected to the Main Building, making movement around campus more practical. The new classrooms are packed with the latest technology: wifi, interactive whiteboards, wall-to-wall whiteboard wall paint and classroom laptop carts all of which allow for teachers to enrich each lesson.

The newly renovated St. Thomas Hall invites students' creativity: the spaces are bright, clean and large. The new music room, complete with separate band, choir and classroom spaces, gives music director Mr. John Ahlstrom the ability to develop fully students' musical abilities. The art room and workshop in the basement give Br. John Willger '66 the space he needs to encourage students to express themselves artistically.

Convenient layouts, new classrooms and gorgeous views only improve upon what was already a beautiful campus. The new classroom layout simplifies class circulation. Reaching each classroom has never been easier. The new spaces at St. Lawrence are wonderful and add to the spacious, yet cozy, atmosphere of the Hill. ■



Students,  
faculty and staff  
respond to the new  
spaces at St. Lawrence.



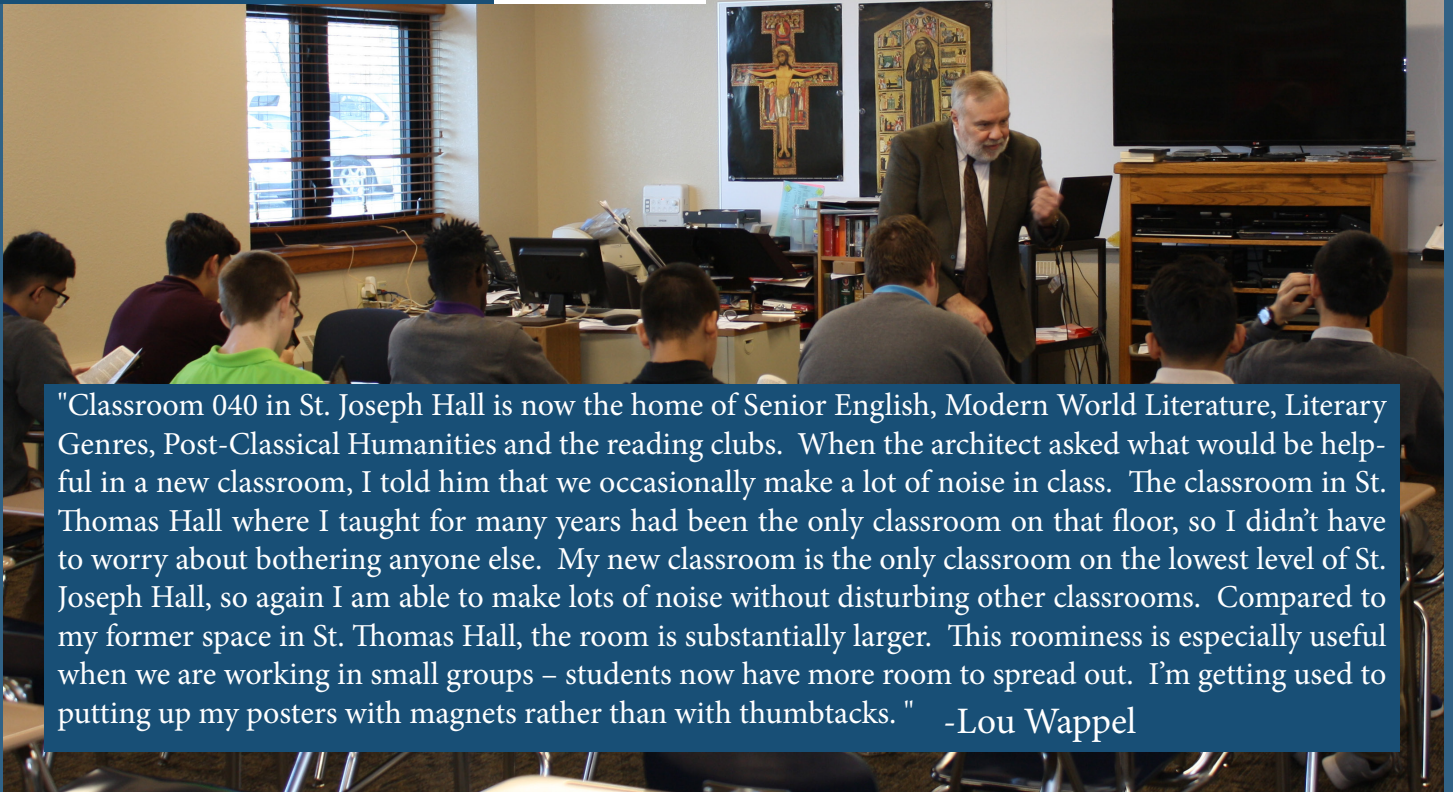


# St. Joseph Hall

"I am astonished at the new buildings that the students and staff members have. The facilities are warm and welcoming. They are a blessing not only to current students but also to the future generations of students that will attend SLS. The new classrooms provide excellent learning environments that encourage students to succeed." -Michael Jimenez '18



# St. Joseph Hall



"Classroom 040 in St. Joseph Hall is now the home of Senior English, Modern World Literature, Literary Genres, Post-Classical Humanities and the reading clubs. When the architect asked what would be helpful in a new classroom, I told him that we occasionally make a lot of noise in class. The classroom in St. Thomas Hall where I taught for many years had been the only classroom on that floor, so I didn't have to worry about bothering anyone else. My new classroom is the only classroom on the lowest level of St. Joseph Hall, so again I am able to make lots of noise without disturbing other classrooms. Compared to my former space in St. Thomas Hall, the room is substantially larger. This roominess is especially useful when we are working in small groups – students now have more room to spread out. I'm getting used to putting up my posters with magnets rather than with thumbtacks." -Lou Wappel



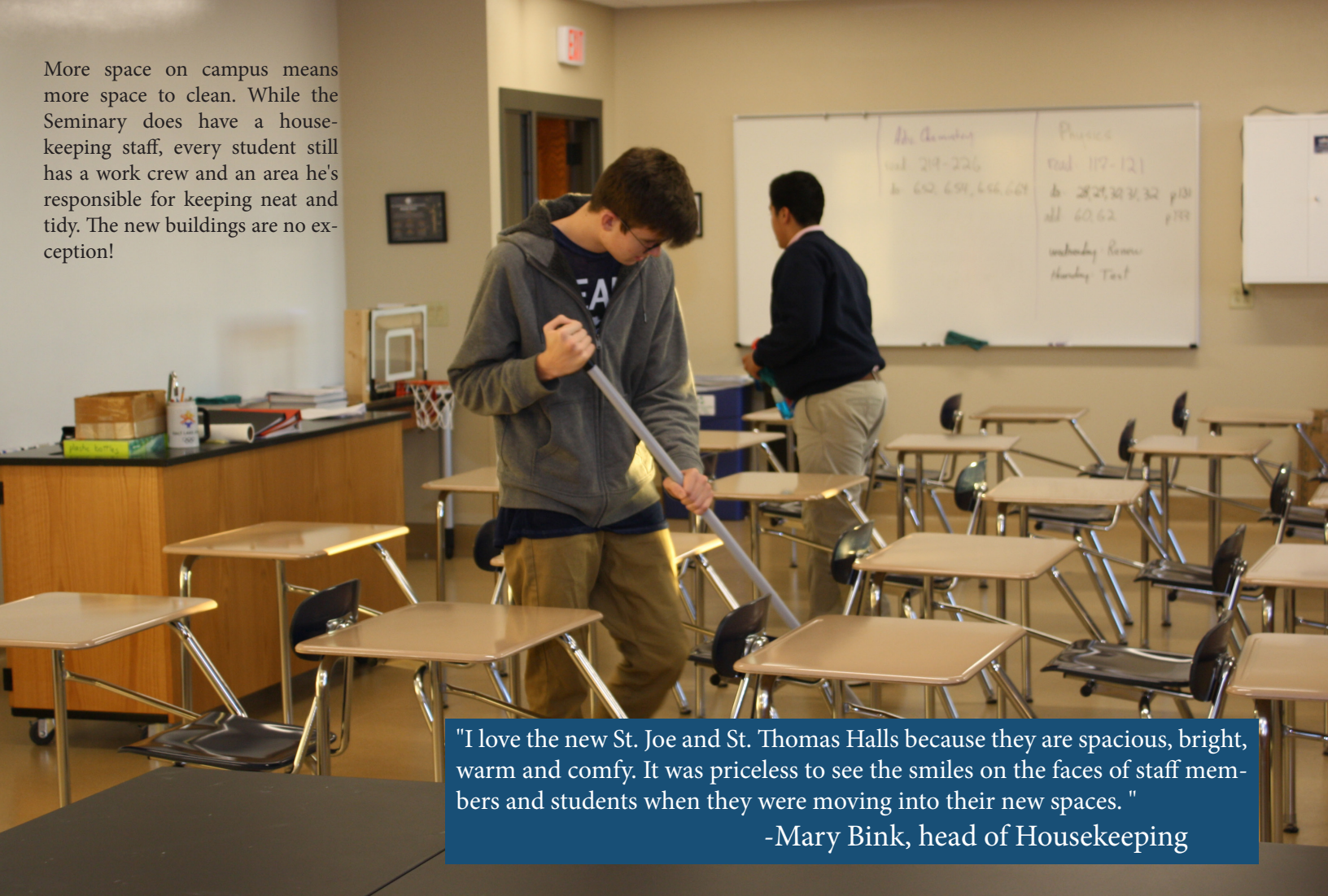
Students work on laptops in the classroom from one of two computers carts available for check out. Each classroom has wifi capabilities, so this allows teachers to vary instruction or offer multiple activities simultaneously.



A small computer lab added to the second floor allows teachers to guide their classes in writing assignments.



More space on campus means more space to clean. While the Seminary does have a house-keeping staff, every student still has a work crew and an area he's responsible for keeping neat and tidy. The new buildings are no exception!



"I love the new St. Joe and St. Thomas Halls because they are spacious, bright, warm and comfy. It was priceless to see the smiles on the faces of staff members and students when they were moving into their new spaces. "

-Mary Bink, head of Housekeeping

"The new science floor of St. Joseph Hall is great. Years of classroom experience, touring another school's science space and meetings with the building committee and architects allowed us to design what we believe works best for teaching science on the Hill. General Science and Chemistry/Physics went with a more flexible classroom approach with movable lab tables. The biology classroom is more traditional with fixed lab stations. Having three separate labs has given us the option of leaving a lab activity set up without worrying about infringing on each other. A combined lecture and lab space makes for easy transitions and supervision. One of the most "challenging" things in the new classroom is teacher concentration; the view of the countryside is spectacular. Whiteboard wall paint, ceiling mounted projector, 5-minute goggle sanitation cabinet, dishwasher, an adjacent prep room and plenty of storage cabinets have definitely rejuvenated one older biology teacher. "

-Dennis Holm





# St. Thomas Hall

"It's so nice to have an actual music classroom again, with enough space to accommodate classroom, band and choir set-ups simultaneously. Trying to do all three in the auditorium the past two years really didn't work very well—this is heaven on earth. The new music sound system is a huge improvement over the old room. It even includes a headset mic for me to use on days when I'm not at full voice. The acoustics in the St. Thomas Hall are much more "live" than the old room. When we moved practice to the chapel for the week prior to the Christmas concert, we had to make very little adjustment in terms of volume because we're used to rehearsing in a live space."

-John Ahlstrom



Alumni had the opportunity to tour the new buildings during the alumni reunion.



Band and choir now use the same space that had for decades been the art studio.



It was in the band that many Sons of Calvary first learned to play an instrument and developed a true love for music.



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Br. John Willger '66 shows students how to set a fence on the table saw in the newly-completed woodshop.



# Bless These Stones

by: Katie Daane

**O**n Sunday, October 2, 2016, St. Lawrence Seminary officially concluded a journey that began over two-and-a-half years ago when it blessed and dedicated the new St. Joseph Hall building. The original St. Joseph Hall, which had been the oldest building on campus, was lost to a fire in the early morning hours of March 8, 2014. In the days immediately after the fire that destroyed the old St. Joseph Hall, the stunned faculty, staff, and students tried to continue their lives on campus as close to normal as possible.

Though much had been lost in the fire, there was gratitude for the safety of all who were involved—no students, staff, firefighters or others were injured in the fire. As best as they were able, classes took place in modified spaces around campus and many were flexible in their arrangements so that the day-to-day operations could continue. The school administrators, already in the midst of remodeling other buildings, decided to take their time to plan this replacement diligently and thoughtfully, looking not only to the near future but also to the distant one, in order to build for today and far into tomorrow.

Architects from Uihlein Wilson of Milwaukee were contracted to design the building. They were already in the midst of other remodeling projects on campus and administrators and faculty were very satisfied with their work. Af-

ter several listening sessions with different stakeholders, a rough plan was drawn up. Modified and updated with the help of school administrators and the contractors, C.D. Smith of Fond du Lac, groundbreaking took place in March 2015, only one year after the fire. Construction proceeded throughout the next year and some staff were able to move in just after classes were dismissed last May.

Concurrent with the construction of St. Joseph Hall, the campus had also undertaken a final renovation of St. Thomas Hall. That, too, was completed during the summer. With the new offices and classrooms occupied for the start of the year, the school organized a formal blessing and dedication ceremony which took place on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The day's events began with Mass celebrated by Fr. Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap., the Provincial Minister of the Province of St. Joseph. Co-presider and homilist was Fr. Gary Wegner, OFM Cap., Vicar Provincial and Pastor of the Holyland Catholic Parishes. After the conclusion of Mass, the congregation processed out to the courtyard to bless the St. Joseph statue and relic of the original building, saved from the fire, which now graces the courtyard in front of St. Joseph Hall. The assembly then continued their procession to the area in front of St. Joseph Hall for a formal blessing and rite of dedication for the cor-



photos by: Carlos Nuñez '19

nerstones of both St. Joseph and St. Thomas Halls. Praying with gratitude for the Lord's blessings, Rector Fr. John Holly blessed the stones with oil. The assembly then was invited to a banquet in the refectory. Guests for the day included the school's Ministry Council and Alumni Boards as well as specially invited guests, including representatives of Uihlein Wilson and C.D. Smith. After the meal, students led visitors on tours of the new St. Joseph Hall and the renovated St. Thomas Hall. ■





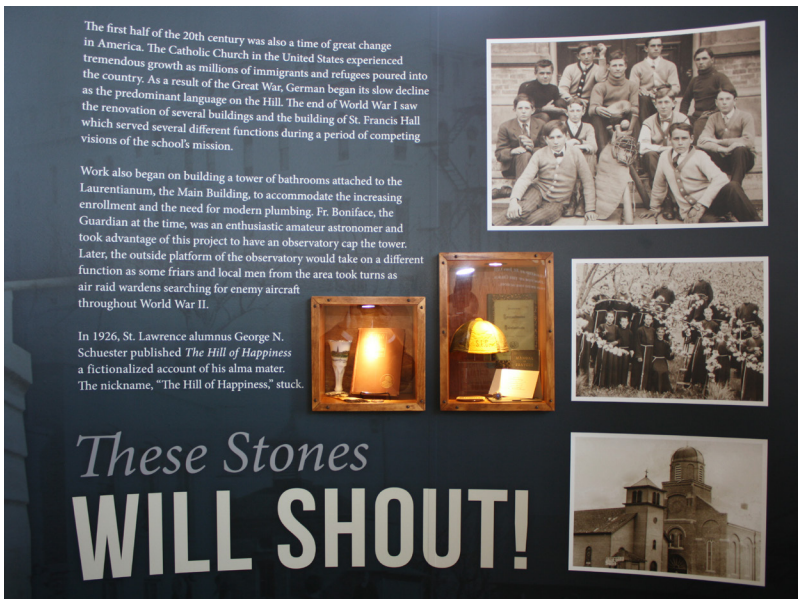
"Our construction and renovation efforts over the last three years have been a rededication to the future of our institution and the fulfillment of our mission of educating young men to be leaders in the Church for another 156 years."  
-Fr. John Holly '71





# Reclaim Our Heritage

The building committee and the architects recognized the need for a space at St. Lawrence for students, alumni and visitors to learn about the rich and storied history of the Hill of Happiness. So high up on the fourth floor of St. Joseph Hall, with breath-taking views of the rolling agrarian Wisconsin countryside that first attracted Fr. Bonaventure Frey and Fr. Francis Haas to this place, they included a beautiful Heritage Room packed with historical vignettes, photos and relics dating back to our founders. On your next visit to St. Lawrence, you must pop in to see it for yourself. But give yourself some time here—there's lots to read and enjoy! ■



Among the displays are these two signed original drawings from Charles Schulz and Walt Disney.



The doors to the Heritage Room open to a series of historical displays (middle left).



Visitors read about the history of St. Lawrence during this year's open house.



SLS Summer Action Retreat

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## LEAVING IT ALL ON THE PITCH

By: Sebastian Vervaeck '00



### PLAYER OF THE YEAR

There isn't much senior and team captain Isai Luevano didn't accomplish in his four years playing varsity soccer for SLS. Isai now holds the record for most assists with 47 and is 2<sup>nd</sup> in career goals with 58. No other player in the history of the program was involved in putting more goals on the scoreboard.

According to statistics compiled on *WisSports.net*, Isai's 25 goals and 26 assists this season earned him the 16<sup>th</sup> best ranking among all players in all divisions. Isai was also voted

MVP by his teammates and Player of the Year by Flyway Conference coaches at the annual All-Conference meeting.

Isai is a true student-athlete, exemplary leader and Son of Calvary we can all be proud of. He gave everything and left it all on the pitch.

### 2016 SOCCER SEASON RECAP

Not since joining the WIAA in the early 2000s had the SLS soccer team come this close to earning a ticket back to the State Tournament. This year's varsity squad lost 1-0 in overtime (the 101<sup>st</sup> minute to be exact!) in what the *FDL Reporter* newspaper described as an "epic" Sectional Final against perennial conference rival Winnebago Lutheran Academy (WLA). As heartbreaking as it was epic, we can now



look back with pride at what was without a doubt one of the best seasons in the program's history.

The team went undefeated in conference play (12-0-2, W/L/D) leading to a share in the Flyway Conference Championship title with WLA. The team finished the season with a record of 18-2-4.

The 2016 season will be one to emulate for SLS players for years to come and with only 10 seniors in the 23-man roster, there's good cause to be optimistic about the future of SLS soccer. ■

### RECORDS TIED OR BROKEN THIS SEASON

#### TEAM SEASON RECORDS:

- Most Wins – 18 (Tied 2007)
- Most Points – 40 (Previously 37)
- Most Goals – 124 (Previously 93)
- Most Assists – 81 (Previously 56)

#### INDIVIDUAL RECORDS:

- Goals in single season – 36 (Mitchell Yeakley '17)
- Assists in single season – 26 (Isai Luevano '17)

Lace up your high tops and stretch out those hamstrings.

Get ready for the third annual

## Alumni 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Saturday, February 4th, 5:30 p.m.

Come early to cheer on the Hilltoppers, stay late for the pizza social.

Not playing? Come anyway and cheer on your classmates.

REGISTER at: [http://www.stlawrence.edu/alumni/team\\_registration.php](http://www.stlawrence.edu/alumni/team_registration.php)



# CLASS NOTES

Several classes had reunions over the summer, including...

...the Class of '91

...the Class of '01



...and the Class of '06

Getting together with other Sons of Calvary? Send us a pic at: [sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu](mailto:sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Alumni 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament- Saturday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>
- School Play- *Aladdin*- and Alumni Dinner- Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Annual Alumni Reunion- Saturday, Sept 16<sup>th</sup>

Know of a young man who could thrive at St. Lawrence?  
Someone in your family?  
The son of a friend?  
Someone from your parish?

Tell him about your experience!  
Encourage him to learn more at

- \* a weekend visit!
- \* the Day of Discovery (May 7<sup>th</sup>)!
- \* the Summer Action Retreat (June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>)!



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The First Days of the First St. Joe's Hall

WHY ST. JOSEPH WAS CHOSEN AS

THE PATRON SAINT FOR THE SEMINARY'S 1872 ADDITION

*Taken from The History of Mount Calvary by Fr. Corbinian Vieracker OFM Cap., 1907, translated from German by Fr. Ronald Jansch, OFM Cap., 2007.*



(Top) Where the statue of St. Joseph stood for 142 years and (above) where it stands today.

On 22 October the frame for the roof was installed. Thereafter, every church officer was to invite 7 or 8 men to show up. Then, according to an old custom, their seating at mass, the group was to decide the decoration for the north side of the new building. Indeed, the north side needed a special decoration. They selected a solid pedestal of inlaid marble. It was to hold a life-sized statue of St. Joseph. On 8 December 1870 Pius IX had declared St. Joseph patron of the Universal Church. It was hoped that under this title lasting and limitless blessings would accrue. Perhaps, this was the first public recognition of St. Joseph in the country under his new title.

Sculpted artistically out of gray sandstone, St. Joseph stretches his right hand out over the stone church, while his left hand rests on the coat-of-arms of the Holy Father. The renowned Mr. Muer of Covington, Kentucky, sculpted the statue.

Since the erection of the statue and the blessing of the building were to be combined, Francis arranged for a Catholic folk festival. Invitations went out in all directions for 10 July 1872. The general vicar wanted to preside over the ceremony. At 10 a.m. a non-scheduled train arrived from Milwaukee with 600 passengers. By that time several church societies from Sheboygan, West Bend,

Barton, Fond du Lac and the neighboring areas were already present on the hill. In addition, a hundred wagons stood ready to transport the Milwaukee guests from Fond du Lac to the site of the celebration. To the accompaniment of cannon fire and music they ascended the hill. At 10:30 the High mass began. For the mass, the Men's Society from Milwaukee enchanted all present with their outstanding singing under the direction of Mr. H. Hutchbert.

After the mass a wonderful procession formed to progress to the new hall. Here, after the blessing of the building, Farther Kundig preached in English, followed by Father Fusseder who preached in German. Close to the dedication site tables and benches had been set up, as well as individual stands for refreshment of the guests. The ladies of the parish lovingly prepared the noon meal. In the afternoon there was a concert, interspersed with instructive and scholarly speeches. At 6 o'clock the college students presented a five-act drama in the new hall, titled "Julian the Apostate." Incidentally, only shortly before the curtain went up was the stage scenery finished. Nevertheless, the students earned high praise. Later, by the flickering glow of the many bonfires, the guests returned to their homes. ■

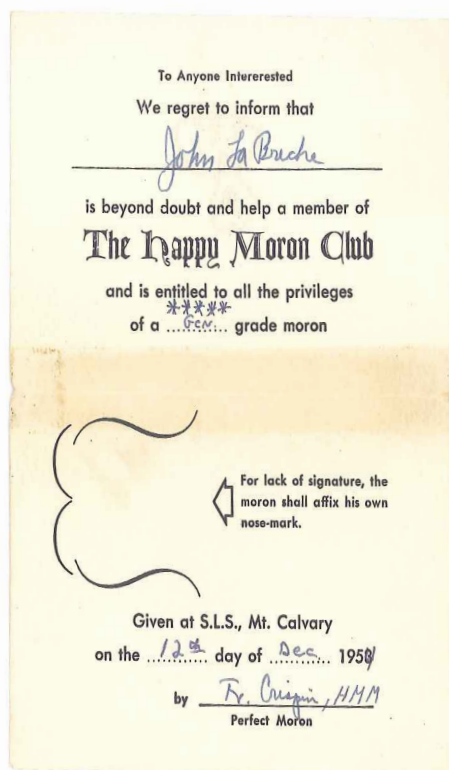


## The Joy of Raising Money One Envelope at a Time: How One Beloved SLS Club Got Its Name

by: John LaBreche '56, '58

While at SLS, I was involved in several extra-curricular activities, including on *The Tower* staff, in the canteen, photo lab, college store and even on the PA system from Fr. Gratian's office on Sundays, since I rarely had visitors. In college years I made many bread runs to Fond du Lac in the VW bus, usually with James Kenney who was from Fond du Lac and knew the city streets.

But the activity I perhaps enjoyed most was the "Morons Club." Around 1953 or '54 Fr. Crispin asked for volunteers for an intensive fundraising activity.



Several times per year we were supplied with tens of thousands of envelopes with preprinted addresses, many bound for New York, New Jersey and other big cities of the East.

The volunteers were to stuff the envelopes with a solicitation letter, sometimes other literature, and a rosary or scapular or other minor gift. We set up in a small, two-room suite on the third floor, southwest corner of the Laurentianum, opposite that narrow curling stairway that led to just outside the old chapel and St. Joseph Hall.

After being stuffed, envelopes were sealed by hand, bulked into rubber banded bundles according to city of the addressees and placed in large postal baskets. They were later delivered to the post office in the old VW bus.

As I recall, our efforts helped raise substantial amounts for St. Lawrence.

We set up an assembly system and quickly developed mind-numbing skills on the various work stations. I was very quick at stuffing the gifts after another stuffed the solicitations, and also on the "wetting" device with a water reservoir and brush that wetted the glue on the envelope. That envelope then was shoved off to another who bent the flap and rolled some sort of firm roller to assure firm seal.

During our "fun" we had much time to talk about whatever young



teenagers in a seminary might discuss. We got pretty good at this mind-numbing work, and regularly showed up to class the next morning with cuticles and hands damaged from paper cuts.

We developed great camaraderie with Fr. Crispin and joked that "any moron could do this."

Thus was birthed the "Morons Club." We hashed out a plan to reward time in "Crispin's Army" with ranks reached at various hour points. I do not recall the hours for each rank but it became, at times, an intense competition to achieve rank. Coincidentally, it encouraged retention of the staff needed to accomplish the work.

Fr. Crispin did not believe anyone would reach the five-star general rank, so he convinced his mother to agree to knit a gold sweater for anyone who reached that goal. He underestimated our tenacity. I think she ultimately provided five of us with the beautiful, brilliant gold sweaters. ■

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



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