



STATE CHAMPS



SOCCER OR
FOOTBALL?



WELCOME TO
THE RENAISSANCE

Hilltopics

Volume LIX

Issue 6

Student Publication Since 1965

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Letter from the Rector

When I was a little boy I enjoyed going to birthday parties. I found them to be a lot of fun. There was good food, plenty of desserts, balloons of different colors, fun games, and lots of giveaways. Some of the gifts I received as a child, I used quite often. But there were others that ended up on the shelf to be displayed or put inside a box and hidden inside a closet. What a shame that was!

On Sunday, May 19, the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. Pentecost is traditionally known as the birthday of the Church. On this day, more than two thousand years ago, the Church was born. The Book of Acts, recounts the event in which the disciples of Jesus gathered together in one place, when suddenly, tongues of fire descended upon them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit emboldened the disciples and enabled them to speak in different tongues “to proclaim the mighty acts of God” to the whole world (Acts 2:1-4). And in the penultimate chapter of John’s Gospel, Jesus said to his disciples, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22). The Holy Spirit then is God the Father’s and God the Son’s precious gift—the heavenly “giveaway”—to the disciples of Jesus and to those who come after them—those who are baptized in to the faith.

The Catechism teaches us that the Holy Spirit comes to us with its own gifts: wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety (or reverence), wonder and awe (or holy fear of the Lord). Wisdom enables us to see the world and others through God’s eyes. It helps us to recognize the value of creation and the dignity of every human being as a child of God. Knowledge enables us to think about God’s revelation and to recognize that there are mysteries of faith that is beyond our grasp. Understanding enables us to comprehend the meaning of God’s message. Counsel allows us to help others see God’s plan and assist them in following it. Fortitude is the courage to do what is right—what is God’s will—even when it is difficult. Piety allows us to devote ourselves totally to God. And finally, wonder and awe (or Fear Holy Fear of the Lord) allows us to marvel at God’s divine majesty and God’s mighty deeds in our lives.

We received God’s precious gift of the Holy Spirit along with its particular gifts on the day of our Baptism. As Jesus sends forth his disciples, so too we are sent to proclaim the Good News to the whole world, with the Holy Spirit as our advocate and guide. These Gifts that the Holy Spirit will embolden us and enable us to accomplish what Jesus has commissioned us to do. So let us not leave those gifts hidden or underutilized. Instead, let us put them to good use. Let us use them for the good of our community, the Church, and our world. Let us use them to build up the Kingdom of God in our midst. That would be a good way of honoring God’s generosity and a good way of commemorating the birthday of our Church.

2023 - 2024 Hilltopics Staff



Mr. Villegas
Orland Park, Illinois
Favorite Song: Second Chance
by Sundown
Hobbies: Weightlifting, Photography,
Hiking
Fun Fact: "I am one of the youngest
alumnus working for SLS."



Mrs. Schneider
Campbellsport, Wisconsin
Favorite Song: Need a Favor by Jelly Roll
Hobbies: Bird Watching
and Listening to Music
Fun Fact: "I have traveled to multiple
countries in Europe and the Americas."

Faculty Spotlight

By: Christopher Vu ('26)



Mr. Vanissaveth
Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Favorite Song: Shatter Me
by Lindsey Stirling
Hobbies: "I like playing tennis,
volleyball, and all outdoor activities."
Fun Fact: "I have never had
a surgery before."



Mr. Naegele
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Favorite Song: Anything Jazz or Classical
Hobbies: Car Maintenance,
Soccer, and Music Performance
Fun Fact: "I have experience in
teaching language and music."

Trip to Deutschland

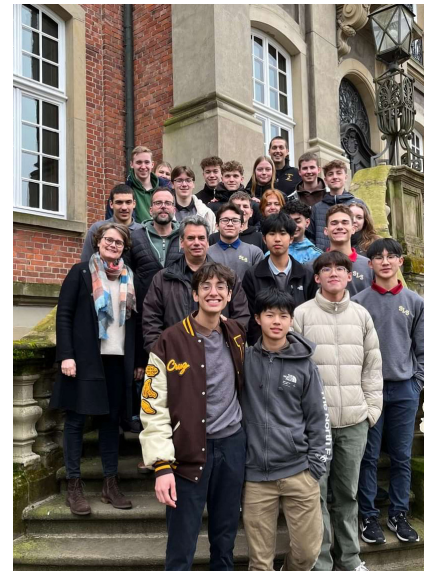
By: Diego Soto ('25)

Due to COVID the SLS German students haven't gone on the Germany trip since March 2020. Finally, on February 29, ten upper class level German students and two chaperones made the voyage to Frankfurt, Germany to visit our partner school, Collegium Johanneum (die Loburg). Mr. David Naegele and Mr. Anthony Van Asten, along with the ten students, traveled by train from Frankfurt to Ostbevern, Germany, where the group resided with die Loburg host families for the duration of the trip.

During the stay in Germany, the students did not only experience the German language, but were also given many opportunities to experience their culture and the food. Mr. Van Asten said, "The German exchange provides our students an invaluable experience to see what life is like outside of the U.S. We can become so isolated in the U.S. and think our reality is everyone's reality. This experience allows us to see things from an international perspective. From their education system, their transportation infrastructure, their holiday customs, cultural traditions, and diet." German 3 student, Cristian Cruz ('25) was asked about his experience and stated, "I attended a carnival in Münster, visited Cologne where we went to the Lego store, and ate pizza. We saw the amazing Cologne Cathedral and we went bowling together one day. After school, we engaged in a lot of sports activities with the German students." Because the SLS students stayed with different host families, each student may have experienced different opportunities. However, since the host families lived in close proximity of each other and were friends, most experienced the same activities after school and on the weekends. A unique experience, everyone attended a professional soccer game between Bayer Leverkusen and Wolfsburg.

Aside from the numerous activities, the SLS students also were able to see many cultural and classroom differences between the U.S. and Germany. Die Loburg classrooms for example, teachers seem to focus on developing student's critical and analytical thinking skills by using a discussion format and engaging in debates. This differs from the SLS classrooms, as our teachers use a lecture format. The food in Germany was exceptionally good, they eat much healthier and the proportions were sometimes much smaller. A traditional German meal is Weiner Schnitzel, served with potatoes and cabbage. The transportation is very different as well, Germans rely on public transportation, trains, rather than taking a personal vehicle. The architecture in this area of Germany is also quite different, many buildings look castle like and many look old.

The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience Germany and it also continues the amazing connection between die Loburg and Saint Lawrence Seminary. Next spring the students from Germany will visit SLS to keep the tradition going.



DIE LOBURG!!



DAY TRIP!!



BUNDESLIGA!!!!!!



CAFES!!!



JUST ARRIVED

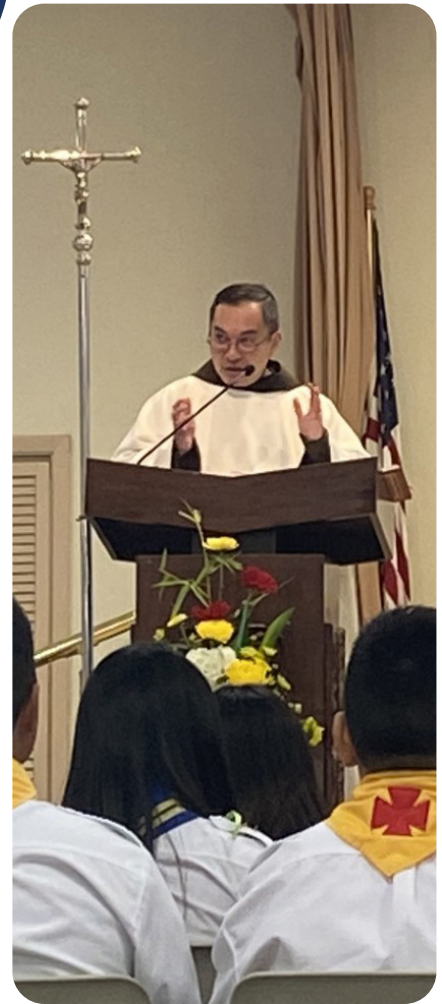


DINNER TIME!

Gathering Brothers

By: Alan Mora ('26)

St. Lawrence Seminary is a small school, population wise, and at times, it seems that there may be very few obvious candidates for the next school year. However, the SLS Admissions Team trips help to take care of this problem. Throughout the school year, mainly during breaks, Mr. Francisco Saucedo, Director of Admissions and Recruitment, and his team of recruiters, take trips to parishes and schools to promote SLS. These trips take place in distant states and other countries, such as Mexico. During winter break, the Admissions team visited Washington D.C. and Houston. And more recently, a trip was made to several schools and parishes in Detroit. The Admission Team is also planning to visit places such as, New York and Florida in the near future.



These trips help to promote the school and encourage future brothers of SLS. All this work isn't done just by the staff, current and past students also step in to offer a hand in promoting the school, by simply speaking of their personal experiences at SLS, handing out SLS flyers and supporting visits when asked. Mr. Saucedo stated, "We are always hopeful that the trips are productive."



Competition of Calculations

By: Thien Hanh Mai ('25)

Every year at SLS, the math department holds an in-school math meet, where students of all math levels show off their skills in problem-solving and mathematics. The students start out by taking three tests individually and the fourth test is taken as a team. The top scorers from last year are the team leaders, and they select their team members from those participating during the in-school math meet. The in-house meet was intense, and everyone performed well. Junior, Jae-Seoung Hong ('25) even wrote one of the questions/problems on one of the tests. Mrs. Stephanie was impressed by the scores and said, "The team leaders chose their teams well, because the difference in scores between the first and the last place team was only 26 points!"



The top 16 scorers from the in-house math meet were invited to join the Math Team and went to the Conference Math Meet on April 8th, hosted by Laconia High School, where they competed with other schools. Jae-Seoung Hong('25) and Tony Nguyen ('25) took First Team All-Conference, Thomas Kim ('25), Nam Nguyen ('24), Tyler Le ('24) and Phuoc Hoang ('24) took Second Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention went to Kiet Pham ('24), Quang Pham ('24), Khoi Hoang ('24) and Hung Nguyen ('25). Math is a skill that is used every day, and it's great to see students, who enjoy this skill, join the Math Club.



Musically Rotten

By: Jonah Lim ('26)

The days are counting down, as the musical, Something Rotten, grows near. Many of the actors expressed their excitement and high hopes for this year's show. There is a lot of prep work being done to make the event run successful and smooth, which includes learning lines, music, gestures, and choreography. Simultaneously, there is much work happening to create the set, costumes and promoting the play to the surrounding communities.



This year the lead role of Nick Bottom went to Justin Tran ('25). Taking on the lead role takes a lot of time and effort. Justin stated, "I was really honored to learn that I received the role of Nick Bottom. I know this task will be hard, but I will do my best to put on a great show for all to see." Other cast members include, Thienhanh Mai ('25), as Nigel Bottom and Tyler Le ('24), as Shakespeare, the antagonist of the story. Tyler said, "The musical took a lot of time and effort with late nights and many hours of help from Mrs. School and Mr. Matthew." Thienhanh said, "Learning the choreography from Mr. Vu was fun and exciting."



Something ROTTEN

Along with the SLS cast, four girls from different public schools in the area joined the show. The musical is one of the most anticipated events of the school year, especially with all the work, dedication, and effort that goes into putting on a show.

Turning a New Leaf

By: Jonathan Prado ('24)

Every year, as we approach graduation, the time comes for two students to rise to the challenge of being a **Hilltopics** Editor for the next school year. The editors for the 2024-2025 school year are Justin Tran ('25) and Thomas Kim ('25). They are very excited about this new role and enjoyed working with and learning from the current editors of **Hilltopics**. Embracing a new leadership role is often a challenge, as stated by Thomas Kim ('25), "I'm looking forward to being an editor, but it's a whole new field for me." However, challenges are nothing new to students of St. Lawrence Seminary and both new editors have gladly accepted the offer. Justin Tran ('25) has also shared his excitement and some of his visions for next year's volume by stating, "I'm very excited to learn the program **InDesign**, and I can't wait to introduce new art styles to **Hilltopics** next year." We can't wait to see what they have in store for next year!



Preparing for the Future

By: Said Villa ('25)



At Saint Lawrence Seminary, a unique opportunity is offered called "Lunch and Learn." This is where an alum returns to the Hill, during lunch, to lead a presentation about his career path after SLS. The new guidance counselor, Mr. Vanissaveth, took a new approach by focusing more on career paths, instead of colleges. He said, "By doing this, it gives the students the opportunity to ask questions about the alum's journey; how they made their college and careers choices." From Mr. Vanissaveth's perspective, "Lunch and Learn" should be about learning the many different opportunities life has to offer. It should also help with student choices after Saint Lawrence. Mr. Vanissaveth is trying to provide a variety of career options during the "Lunch and Learn" sessions, by inviting alumni back to the Hill, such as, Mr. Matt Swift ('98) who talked about important workforce skills, Mr. Louis Robles ('13) who shared his college and career journey and Dr. Paul Troung ('09) who came to talk about his work as a physician at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He hopes he can help students gain a better understanding of the many career paths and life after SLS.

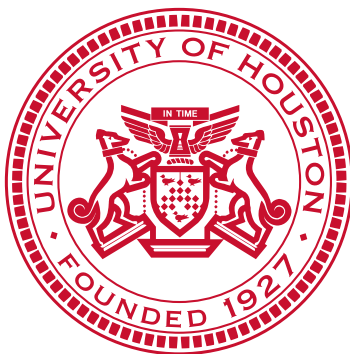
But Wait... There's MORE?

By: Cristian Cruz ('25)

All good things must come to an end, however sometimes the end may just be the beginning. The seniors are leaving SLS and some have put a lot of thought into what they would like to do after high school. Hunter Van plans to go home to Texas and to become a mechanical engineer. He wants to study at the University of Houston or at DMACC. Hunter said, "The reason I want to go into Mechanical Engineering is because it looks cool." Joseph Abraham wants to become a nurse and study at Malcolm X City College in Chicago. He has a few relatives who work in the medical field, who encouraged him it would be a good opportunity. Another reason Joseph is considering the medical field is because he likes helping others. Joseph said, "I'm really excited to go through life outside of SLS as an adult and see what's waiting for me." Jonathan Prado is going to UW Madison for either Economics or Accounting. He admitted, "I loved Mr. McCabe's classes." The class of 2024 is moving on, whether they choose to further their education, go into the military, start an apprenticeship or seek out a job, they will say good bye to SLS to find out what is waiting for them out in the real world. Good luck to all the seniors and we wish for successful futures for them.



HAMMERS!!!



MALCOLM X
CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO



MONEY!!



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



HEALING!!!

Game On!

By: Justin Tran ('25)

Saturday Night Live (SNL) is a brand-new student event held by the Executive Student Council members here at SLS this year. It's a night that not only students, but also staff members who are on campus can form small teams to compete in many sporting events and games. The first SNL was successful and included events such as, badminton, bowling, and basketball. Along with these sports, there were many fun activities in the canteen, including a golf simulator, board games and a dance challenge. With the success of the first SNL, a second SNL was scheduled with a new competitive hockey tournament, a bowling tournament, and more fun activities in the canteen. Thomas Kim ('25) shared, "the Student Council members put a lot of effort into making these events happen. I'm happy to see that everyone had a great time." During the second SNL, the canteen offered an insanely hot deal, \$0.50 Doctor Thunder and Cream Sodas, which everyone was so excited about. "It was really fun to spend time and play games with other classes," said Alan Gonzalez ('26). Participating in Saturday Night Live has left many great memories for the Hilltoppers, and hopefully it will become a regular event for students at SLS.



BATTLESHIP!!



JUST DANCE!!

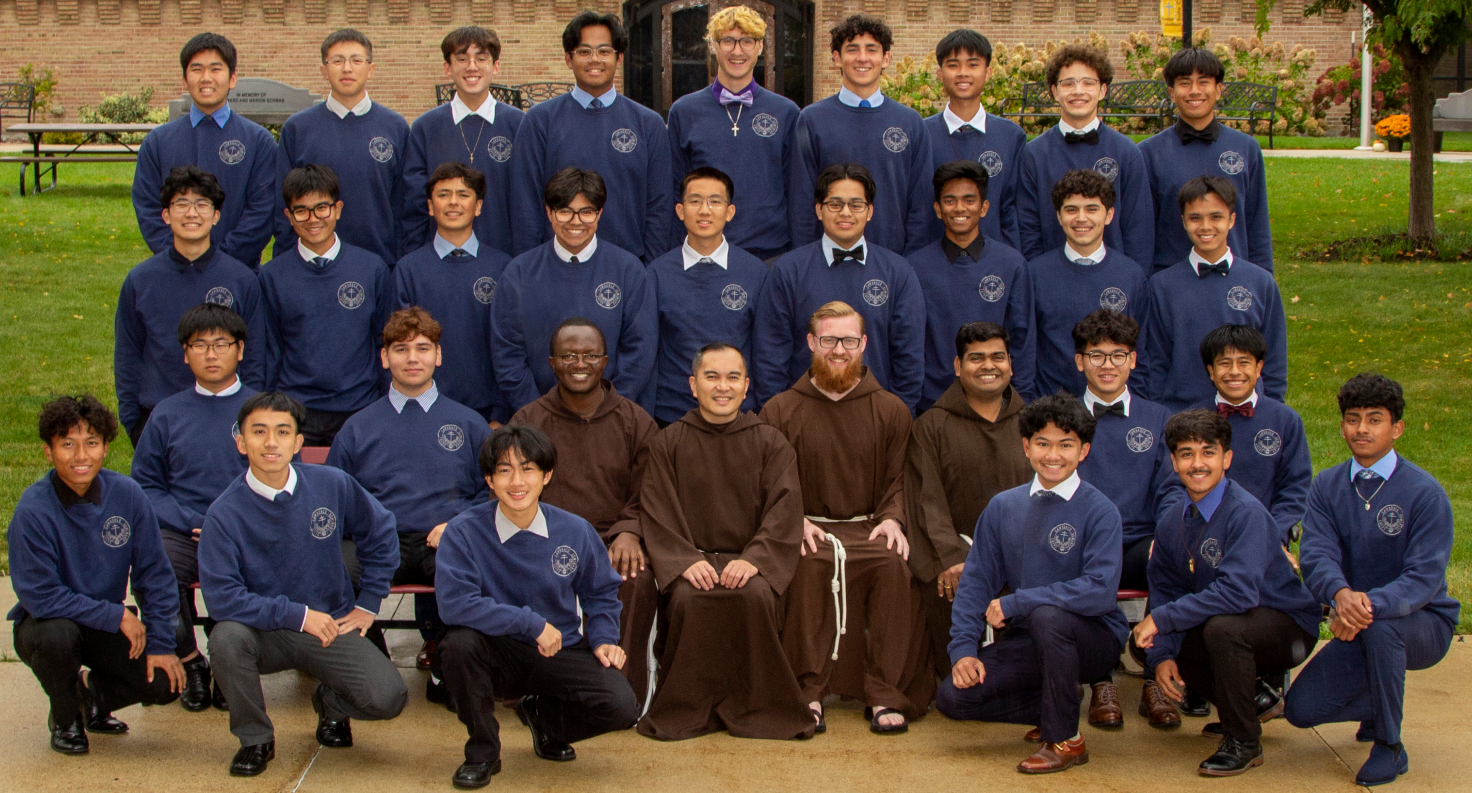


MARIO KART!!



VOLLEYBALL!!

Hilltopics
301 Church Street
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057



Jonathan Prado

Being a *Hilltopics* editor this year has been an amazing experience, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. I will be very honest in admitting that I was not expecting this role, but accepting it was a great decision. I've enjoyed learning the *InDesign* program and experimenting with layouts and colors. Massive thanks to Nile, my co-editor, and to Mrs. Sippel for helping us more than I can even explain. I am extremely excited to see what Justin and Thomas have in store for next year. I wish them the best of luck!



BRB TTYL XOXO
JON AND NILE

Nile Montes

The final issue of *Hilltopics* is here, and many thanks are due. Thank you Mrs. Sippel and the *Hilltopics* staff for being an incredible and dependable support group to work with. Thank you to my co-editor, Jonathan for bringing both his creative talent and unrivaled work ethic to complete our rendition of *Hilltopics* this year. Finally, I want to thank you, the readers. Thank you for reading our issues or if you only glanced at the photos, thank you for taking the time to review our hard work. This year has been one to remember, and I hope we cross paths in the future. I'm sure Thomas and Justin will do a great job for next year!