



SAINT LAWRENCE SEMINARY

HILLTOPICS

Volume LV Issue II
STUDENT PUBLICATION SINCE 1965

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Issue II Theme

SYZYGY

noun, astronomy
/sɪzɪjē/ the straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies, i.e. a solar and/or lunar eclipse



Martin Nguyen, 16, Sophomore

Ethnicity: Vietnamese
City: Arlington, Texas
Favorite foods: Fried chicken & Ramen
Hobbies: Running, gaming and reading
What did you do over the summer?
"I went to Virginia Beach and swam there."

What are your goals for the school year?

"To get straight A's."

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

"Dr. Voell. He is really nice and welcoming."

How did you find out about SLS?

"My cousin Jacob Cao ('21) recommended it to me."



Irving Miranda, 16, Sophomore

Ethnicity: Hispanic
City: Chicago, Illinois
Favorite foods: Chinese foods
Hobbies: Drawing, gaming and reading
What did you do over the summer?
"I drew a lot, also I read many books."

What are your goals for the school year?

"To make it onto the Dean's List."

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

"Mr. Schultz. I like what he teaches and how he teaches it."

How did you find out about SLS?

"My brother, Kevin Miranda ('18) is an alumnus."



Hai Hoang, 16, Sophomore

Ethnicity: Vietnamese
City: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Favorite foods: Pho and Sushi
Hobbies: Gaming and reading
What did you do over the summer?
"I mostly stayed home and helped my parents."

What are your goals for the school year?

"To make it onto the Rector's List."

Who is your favorite teacher and why?

"Mr. Schultz. He is a funny and helpful person."

How did you find out about SLS?

"I heard of the school through my mom's friend."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Thomas Nguyen ('21)

LOVE is an open DOOR

Joseph Hall ('22)

Carrying on with the tradition of the past 20 years, Saint Lawrence Seminary held its Benefactors' Open House on Sunday, October 20th. This year, about 30,000 invitations were sent out, with a turnout of around one hundred-ten, including many former students. The invitations were specially made with an image of this year's seniors holding signs inviting the generous benefactors to "come and see" what they are contributing to. The benefactors, the SLS staff members, and the student body are three components of a sublime and harmonious SYZYGY. Beloved benefactors, you are the heroes that Hilltopics has chosen to represent through its theme for Issue II.

As the benefactors began to arrive they were greeted with a name tag and corsage. They then attended a beautiful liturgy with joyous singing from the Saint Lawrence choir. As the celebration came to an end, the generous contributors were invited to lunch and were taken on a golf cart tour of the campus led by the seniors. Some of the most popular locations were the new buildings, and the dorms in particular. "Giving tours to the benefactors was great because I was able to talk to them and it really made me appreciate them and what they do for us," said senior Dominic Nguyen. After the tours and some socializing, the benefactors headed home.

These benefactors are an amazing blessing to the school, providing around ninety percent of Saint Lawrence's funding. "If it weren't for benefactors, St. Lawrence wouldn't be possible," said Mr. John Riss, one of the organizers of the event. The funding from the benefactors allow many of the students to have the chance to attend the school. This is why

RECTOR'S CORNER

Once a year in the United States, we celebrate a time-honored tradition called Thanksgiving. On the last Thursday of November, people come together to celebrate this wonderful feast—and what a feast it is! People travel distances in order to be with family and loved ones, sit around the dinner table, partake of mom's or grandma's baked turkey, along with the stuffing, cranberries, pumpkin pies, and other delicious treats that go with it.

I have been to several Thanksgiving celebrations in the past. The ones I have been to prior to joining the Order were more of a party than a traditional Thanksgiving meal. I say that because never did I hear any thoughtful or sincere expressions of thanksgiving in those gatherings. I thought to myself: "Isn't that what this celebration is supposed to be about—to give thanks?"

When my sister hosted a Thanksgiving gathering several years ago, after I had already joined the Order, I was asked to lead the grace before meals. I had an idea: I invited everyone to gather around the table. Prior to leading the prayer and giving the blessing, I invited each one present to mention something or someone they were grateful for. What a revelation that was! There were some whose expression of thanksgiving put a smile on their face. For others, it prompted tears of joy. That made the celebration all the more meaningful for everyone present.

Giving thanks is something that we take for granted sometimes. When things go well for us, we assume the good that we have or the blessings that we've received. When things go wrong, we forget about them. Giving thanks is something that we should do—not just once a year but always; not just in good times, but also in the bad. We should always be thankful because God has done wonderful things for us, and continues to do so throughout our lives.

So what are you thankful for? As we approach Thanksgiving, I invite you to take a moment and think about what or who are you thankful for. Lift them up to God in prayer. Perhaps you can come up with a list. You might discover in the process how blessed you are. For me, I am thankful for the gift of life, my parents, my siblings, my relatives, my religious vocation, my Capuchin confreres, the gift of priesthood, the people I have served over the years in my various ministries, my colleagues, our benefactors . . . (the list continues). ☺



they appreciate the benefactors through events like this, or in other forms as simple as praying for them and their intentions on Friday mornings, or even just sending them a birthday or Christmas card. Overall, this benefactors weekend was a great success, a time to appreciate and meet some of the people who make our Hill possible. ☺



One Saint, United

Benjamin Bartlett ('21)



St. Lawrence, in the tradition of their Capuchin founders, holds *Transitus* and the Feast of St. Francis close to its heart. The *Transitus* service this year modeled an overview of St. Francis' life succinctly, while retaining finer details of his life. There were six songs and readings in total, depicting St. Francis' life and experiences. After this was a special Blessing of St. Francis sung by the St. Lawrence choir.

The Feast of St. Francis was celebrated the next day. Presided over by Fr. Zoy, the mass accentuated points from *Transitus* and emphasized the true impact of the Saint's mortal life. It wrought out the glory and joy of his passing into union with God; the assembly who mourned his death the night before rose with laud for his following in Jesus' footsteps.

The celebration came to an end over a traditional Italian feast, where both friars and students dined together. "I was very pleased with it," said Brother Brenton Ertel. "There was positive energy among the students and the staff, which the friars found in both the mass and *Transitus*."

Although St. Lawrence is owned by the Capuchin Franciscans, the students do not see many of them often. The only worthwhile interactions students typically have with the friars are if they are a dorm supervisor or during spiritual direction. However, the event brought both entities together and cemented the family of SLS. The celebration of St. Francis' death is the epitome of what St. Lawrence strives for: the creation of a holy and religious community that interacts willingly with their faith that crafts beautiful music



to praise and honor God and the humble actions of St. Francis, and that, above all, works towards peace for mankind. ☺

The S'COOL'S Representatives

Dominic Nguyen ('20)



What many may not know about the SLS student council is that they are in charge of planning many events throughout the school year. The student council is composed of members from each class, elected by the students. The student council representatives gather together in the Sister Mildred conference room every Sunday to discuss different events that will take place in the coming weeks or months of the school year. The council

is divided into three sub-committees and each committee is given the responsibility to take charge of one aspect of student life. The Food Committee brings to Chef Cindy Overton and her staff different ideas regarding the food served to the student body. Next, the Activities Committee plans different events for the student body, ensuring that the students are having fun throughout the school year. The Spirit Committee is in charge of making sure the student body is hyped for the SLS sporting events and activities. They are responsible for running events like the half time shootout during the basketball season. Senior Julio Perea stated, "I think

it is great that the student body is able to elect their peers to represent them. For me, it is a wonderful experience to collaborate with the administration to make changes that would positively affect the SLS community." The council members, led by Mr. Quan Nguyen, have already planned various events this year. They have prepared for the food trips, the Labor Day picnic, Halloween, Spirit Week and many others. All in all, the student council's vision for the 2019-2020 school year is clear, and it strives to exceed the expectations laid out. ☺

the PARENT TRAP

Andrew Tran ('21)

The Annual Parent Weekend

On September 28th, the students of St. Lawrence Seminary welcomed their parents to the Hill. It was the first time many of them had seen their parents since registration. Many families came to support the varsity and junior varsity soccer teams as they faced off at home against Cristo Rey. There were also special sessions scheduled for the parents. They attended talks on social skills, vocations, and college. In the afternoon, lunch was served in the refectory. Parents enjoyed a delicious meal with their sons. Junior Aaryan Studden commented, "It was really nice to see my parents and brother. I really enjoyed catching up with them." After lunch, parents were invited to face off against their sons in a softball and kickball game.

The games were very fun and exciting to watch. The moms took on their sons in kickball and had some big kicks that led them to victory. Afterwards, the fathers played softball against the students. Both sides swung for big hits and had some awesome catches. In the end, the dads won and both sides shook hands and shared a lot of laughs about the game. Later, families were welcomed to the refectory for a cook-out. Saturday evening, families attended mass together in the Chapel, where the choir led the music for the mass. Overall, the Parents Weekend was very relaxing and joyful. 🍷



SCHOOL SPIRIT

Soaring

Aaron Villegas ('21)

Every year at Saint Lawrence Seminary, one week in October is dedicated to fun, enjoyment, and showing off your school spirit. This event is called Spirit Week. It is one of the most anticipated weeks of the whole school year. During this week many amusing activities, entertaining events, and enjoyable games are held. Throughout the week the fraternities also try to gain points through a variety of competitions to win prizes.

On Saturday, October 26th, the season of Halloween began with scary movies being played throughout the day in a pitch black St. Conrad Hall, the auditorium. At night, Halloween-themed cartoons were played for the student body. This was the “waiting room” for one of the most anticipated events of the week, the Haunted House.

Throughout the upcoming school week the enjoyment continued. Monday, October 28th, the students competed by fraternities in flag football on the upper-ball-diamond. On Tuesday, fraternities played Saint Lawrence’s very own version of capture the flag. The object of this game is to capture the other team’s flag without getting out. Junior Grant Bargender said, “I loved capture the flag, I liked throwing the sacks at people. It was satisfying to see them get hit.”

On Wednesday, students were able to wear a jersey or sport-related gear in what was called "Sports Day." After school, frats got to show off their artistic skills in a pumpkin carving contest. On Thursday, students were able to dress up in Halloween costumes and Trick-or-Treat. Spirit Week continued on Friday with one of the most anticipated days, Decade Day. On this day classes were able to dress up in attire of an assigned decade. Freshman had the early 2000's, Sophomores had the 70's, Juniors had the 80's and Seniors had the 90's. Later in the evening, the students got to play Cops and Robbers before enjoying donuts in the refectory. Overall, Spirit Week was a fantastic way to celebrate Halloween, and a great way to show the SLS school spirit.



45



90



135



180



225



270



315

WHY SO SERIOUS?

Claimore Tango-an ('20)

At the end of October, students at SLS embarked on the exhilarating journey of Spirit Week and Halloween. The highlight of the week was a spooky event in which the seniors spent their entire Saturday planning and designing: The Haunted House.

Unlike previous years, this year Spirit Week started with the Haunted House. The setup by the senior class took most of Friday evening and all of Saturday. The Haunted House engulfed much of St. Fidelis Hall. The theme was "Pseudo-Joker" or "Why So Serious?"

Each fraternity had to watch a video created by the seniors, introducing the house's theme. Senior John-Paul Allan, who was the main character of the video, watched the movie *Joker* and was inspired, so he adopted the Joker's personality (and look) and became a Pseudo-Joker himself. This Pseudo-Joker is now walking around campus and infecting people with his possessive character through pulling people's mouths up and forcing them to smile. The groups went from room to room with demented clowns and hallways jam-packed with jump scares to ensure they had fun. Senior Hyeonyu Kim stated, "Even though making the haunted house was hard, it was a great opportunity to bond with my classmates, and have fun scaring the underclassmen." At the end of the day, the students gathered in the school refectory for a party filled with games, cookies and ice cream.

Toward the end of Spirit Week, Halloween was celebrated with Trick-or-Treating after school. A group of juniors dressed up as greasers from the movie, *The Outsiders* and a few seniors dressed up as jack o' lanterns. Students also dressed up as teachers and staff members. Junior Ellison Juern stated, "It was really fun to dress up as Mr. Miley." At the end of the week, all students had fun participating in the events. 🍬



You are the Apple of my Pie

Nicholas Rodriguez ('20)

On October 4th, SLS English teacher, Mrs. Katie Daane, took a group of students to her parish, Sts. Peter and Paul in Kiel, to help the parishioners make apple pies for their annual fundraiser. The process of making the apple pies was a somewhat long and tedious task. At the first station, the apples were peeled by a hand-powered, rotating appliance that removed most of the skin. At the second station, the apples were cored with a hand-levered apple corer. The apples were put into the gap of the appliance, and when the lever was pulled, the fruits were sliced. At the third station, the apples were hand-scalped to get rid of any excess skin, thus readying them to be made into apple pies. At the final station, the apples were put into pie shells and covered with a layer of sugar-cinnamon crumble. The finished

pies were boxed to be sold. The Hilltoppers, alongside with Mrs. Daane, were there to assist at every station, cranking out numerous pies. Mrs. Daane remarked with satisfaction, "My parish is always so grateful for their help because they know the students lighten the work load."

The students enjoyed doing the Apple Pie ministry because it was greatly different from any of the other ministries offered at SLS. Senior Ryan Suzuki said, "Apple Pie Ministry is really interactive and hands-on, and the other volunteers love to talk to us about SLS." At the end of the day, Mrs. Daane was perhaps the happiest person. She was pleased with the students' help, saying, "I always enjoy taking our students to make apple pies because they are such hard workers, and we finished well ahead of schedule with their help." Just like how the stations worked in accord, the Hilltoppers, in their very own SYZYGY, continued to positively affect the community outside of the Hill. 🍏



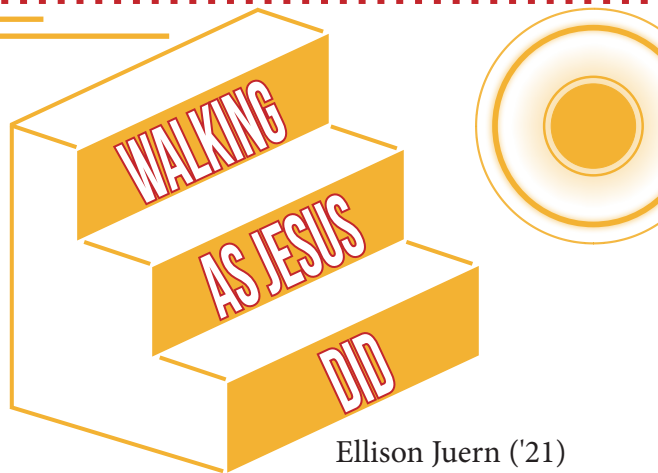
Crawling for Nature

Ricky Conlin ('22)

Seniors at SLS provide assistance however, most of them put on animal to the areas near campus in costumes and acted out informational many different ways, which the scenes and skits for the children in the Halloween Cave Ministry, offered the nature center. The costumes worn again this year, is a prominent example. by the seniors ranged from raccoons, The Ledgeview Nature Center in to snails, to spiders and owls. The Chilton is the location for this special skits and scenes explained the role the occasion. It frequently holds tours of animals in the natural area. The seniors of its caves and surrounding area to the were stationed in groups so that they public and SLS has taken field trips could create a more immersive and in the past to partake in the tours. enjoyable experience for the children. The seniors helped with constructing Some Hilltoppers acted as tour guides and lead the children throughout the the tours in a wide variety of ways,



nature center. Senior Eneo Tech commented, "It was very cold and dark, but the joy that the children had from the experience really made my day." The Hilltoppers' hard work and sacrifice really paid off at the end of the day. 🍏



Ellison Juern ('21)

On Saturday, October 19th, a majority of the SLS students and a few staff members ventured down to Mount Mary College in Milwaukee to participate in the Catholic Soles Walk for Education. The purpose of the walk is to raise money and awareness for the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Students and parents from the Archdiocese's schools came together to spend the morning walking in the community. The event offered many other activities along with the walk. The attendees could play giant versions of popular household games. During the walk, a scavenger hunt was put on for the kids. They searched for dates and names that were related to the history of the schools that participated in the walk.

Overall, the Hilltoppers had a great time at the Soles Walk. Although many students may not have enjoyed waking up early on a Saturday, they still enjoyed the rest of the morning in the community with their brothers and other Catholics. Senior Eneo Tech said, "The Soles Walk was a great opportunity to see other schools in the area, and come together to celebrate Catholic schools." Some of the SLS students helped out in the school's tent, giving out candies and information about SLS. Whether the students walked in the event or helped out in the tent, the St. Lawrence students were able to spread the message and values of the seminary. ☺



SPARE *some Love* STR/KE *some Hearts*

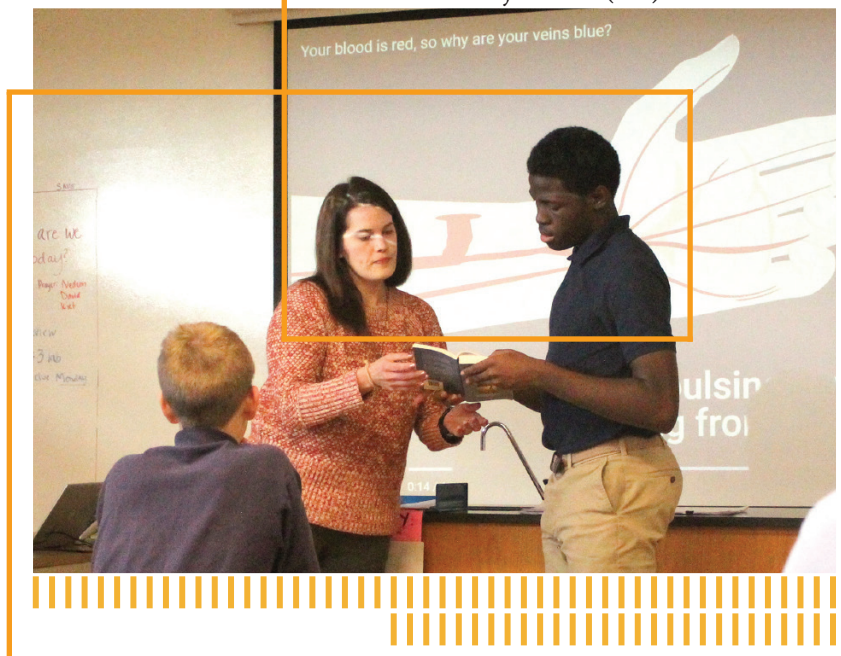
Dominic Soto ('20)

Throughout the year, SLS students have to complete a specific number of ministry hours. In order to graduate, seniors have to complete 30 hours throughout the year. There are many opportunities to accumulate these hours and one of the most popular opportunities is an event called Special Olympics. The event is organized by a group called Arc of Fond du Lac. Arc is an advocacy group who helps people with mental and physical disabilities. The program is designed to create an opportunity for the challenged individuals to socialize and be active every week. The SLS students are there to simply cheer on the athletes, which raises their self-esteem. The students enjoy seeing the athletes there every week. Senior Kha Nguyen stated, "I love to see them get a strike and get all happy." The athletes love it too: they enjoy being cheered on by their new friends and overall just having fun. Senior Long Do said, "I love working with the athletes, they have so much loving energy. It's fun to cheer them on and see them smile." The students do a great job of setting a good example and encouraging the athletes. It goes to show a little bit of kindness goes a long way. ☺



A+ NEW LIFE in Biology

Andrzej Kielar ('22)



DID YOU KNOW



Ms. Peterson has experience in working with tigers.



Ms. Peterson has cameo roles in multiple movies.



Ms. Peterson loves painting in her free time.

As one walks into classroom 340, his attention is immediately enveloped to the decorations adorning the biology classroom. These simple, yet effective details demonstrate Ms. Peterson's kind and funny personality. Her attention to detail is seen around the hard-work put in decorating the classroom and preparing daily lessons and assignments.

Her passion for biology started from a very young age. As she recounts, her father bought her a microscope kit, which evoked the curiosity for the science of life in her. That was when Ms. Peterson knew she wanted to pursue a science-related career. In order to bring this dream to reality, she enrolled into University of Wisconsin-Madison's undergraduate program in Biology. She later received her teaching license

at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is now getting her masters in Curriculum and Instruction.

Alongside biology, she teaches Freshman Guidance, a class designed to prepare our newest students for life at SLS. It is a course that guides students through all four years on the Hill and the rest of their lives. Her enthusiasm and understanding has earned her a special place among the SLS staff. It cannot be summed up better than by her own students. Freshman Angel Hernandez stated, "Ms. Peterson shares the value of education and has the extraordinary ability to include everyone during class." She has truly given the freshman a good start in their high school careers and in turn the students have high hopes for their new teacher. Ms. Peterson's goal for

her students is for them to "grow in appreciation for science; it doesn't have to be their favorite, but to just learn to appreciate it." Without any doubt in mind, one can truly believe that Ms. Peterson has not only met the expectations, but will continue to blow the students away. 🍷

VARSITY SOCCER

10 - 9 - 2

- SLS-Sheboygan Christian 0-1
- SLS-New Holstein 8-1
- SLS-WLA 0-0
- SLS-S.Milwaukee 4-0
- SLS-KML 1-3
- SLS-United 6-0
- SLS-Omro 0-0
- SLS-St. Augustine 1-2
- SLS-CWC 1-2
- SLS-Cristo Rey 2-3
- SLS-Kohler 2-4
- SLS-Wayland 5-3
- SLS-Lomira 6-1
- SLS-Howards Grove 2-0
- SLS-Lourdes 1-2
- SLS-Mayville 5-1
- SLS-Clintonville 1-0
- SLS-Oostburg 0-1



The SLS fall sports season, despite being a long one, turned out to be great. The athletes did their best to represent the Calvary spirit. While many athletes were injured during the season, they persevered and played on. The Hilltoppers might be different in many aspects, yet, they formed an unbreakable SYZYGY, whether it being on the soccer field or on Bertha.

Dominic Soto ('20)

CROSS-COUNTRY

- Kiel Invite -15th place
- Jakubek Invite- 6th place
- WLA Challenge- 2nd place
- Roncalli Invite- 7th place
- Crusader Challenge- 12th place
- Hilltopper- 11th place
- Horicon Invite- 7th place
- Conference/Laconia- 5th place
- WIAA Sectionals- 14th place
- Joaquin Barajas - 1st team all Conference
- Josh Prado - All Conference Honorable Mention



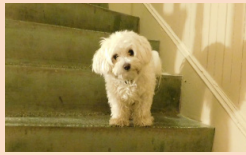
- SLS-Sheboygan Christian 3-7
- SLS-KML 6-2
- SLS-WLA 1-8
- SLS-Beaver Dam 1-4
- SLS-CWC 2-2
- SLS-S. Milwaukee 2-9
- SLS-KML 0-7
- SLS-Beaver Dam 1-3
- SLS-St. Augustine 0-4
- SLS-CWC 4-3
- SLS-Cristo Rey 2-3

JV SOCCER

4 - 9 - 1

- SLS-Beaver Dam 4-2
- SLS-Beaver Dam 9-3
- SLS-WLA 1-7

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HALLOWEEN



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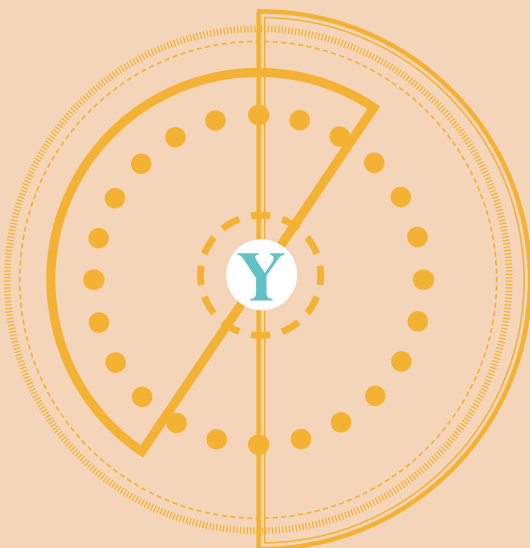
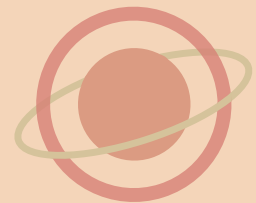
Issue II Theme

Aaron Tarpinian ('20)
Khang Chau ('20)

syzygy

noun, astronomy

/sɪzɪjē/ the straight-line configuration of three celestial bodies, i.e. a solar and/or lunar eclipse



From six different countries, 19 states, a myriad of different upbringings, as well as visions for the future, the Hilltoppers are united in one close-knit community under the name of Saint Lawrence Seminary. Each young man here on the Hill carries within a desire to win, to be the best at what he does, and this goal drives us to constantly challenge ourselves to work harder, to think deeper, to be better leaders, to love more and contribute more to the world. Whether it is on the soccer field or on the basketball court, on the track or on the holy ground of campus, in class or at ministry centers, there exists a sublime harmony, a marvelous alignment between the souls of the sons of Calvary. Issue II of Volume LV is our attempt to completely capture the precious moment of SYZYGY observed in Spirit Week, in spiritual celebrations, in apostolic ministries, and in special occasions that occurred during the past month. Just like how the celestial bodies align flawlessly on the night sky, the Hilltoppers' visions are also aligned to the values cherished by the teachings of Jesus Christ.