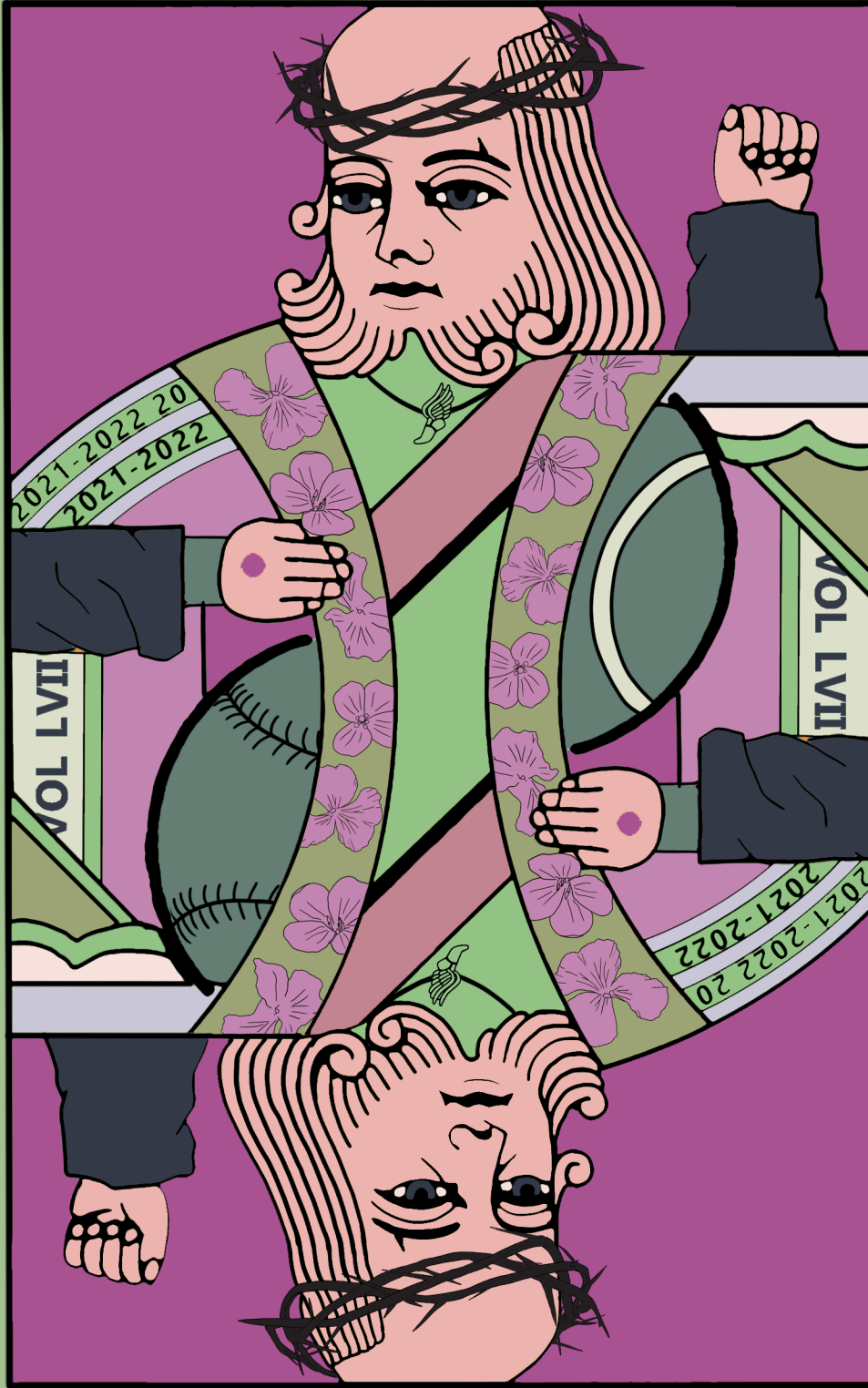


HILLTOPICS

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

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VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

HILLTOPICS

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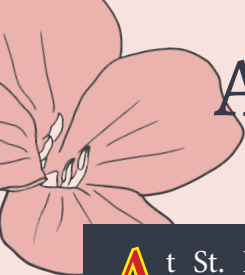
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ADVICE CORNER

Kiet Do ('22)

At St. Lawrence Seminary, between attending classes, wrapping up homework, and squeezing in afternoon sport activity with friends, students can feel like the 24 hours in a day just fly by. Each hour is filled with excitement and learning, but it can be tricky to know how to balance every task with excellence. As the school year is coming to an end, it is common that most students, especially upper classmen have learned to manage their time, but it can still be valuable to review the best tips to help you better manage your time at SLS.

- **Prioritize your time wisely**

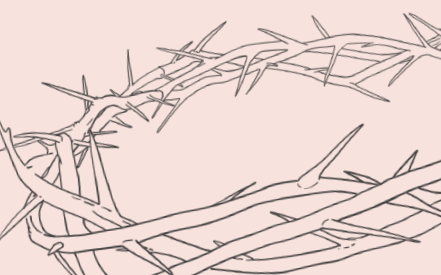
Before you can game-plan your time management strategies, you need to list your priorities.

As a boarding school student, your academics should come in first place. This means that your classes, homework, and studying takes precedence over other social activities. We know that may not be what you want to hear, but it is necessary for success!

- **Break down big tasks into small goals**

Feeling overwhelmed by the slate of assignments on your horizon? Take it one step at a time. Breaking down a big project into a series of actionable steps has been proven time and time again to work well for productivity. It will also take some of the pressure off.

Believe it or not, mastering time management requires lots of time. However, with consistent effort and determination to do better at school, everyone is capable of achieving this.



Rector's

CORNER

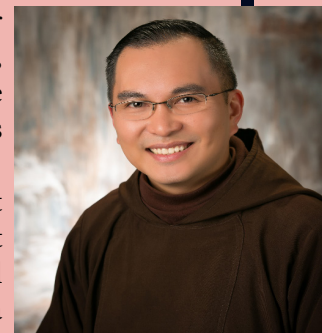
On April 10, the Universal Church will celebrate Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week. The Mass that day begins with a reading from the Gospel of Mark, wherein we hear the account of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Jesus enters the city on a donkey, he was accorded the royal treatment: cloaks and palm branches were spread on his path, people were shouting "Hosanna," others calling him "Blessed," and still others acclaiming him as "He who comes in the name of the Lord." A blessing of the palm branches and procession to the church follows the reading of the Gospel, then the Mass continues.

During the Liturgy of the Word, another Gospel is read, also from Mark. This time, we hear the account of Jesus' Passion, and we find quite a reversal of events. The mood has changed.

When people realized that Jesus was not the Messiah they thought he was, they want him dead. Jesus is no longer given the royal treatment. He is now being treated like a criminal.

The waving of palm branches is now replaced with whips, spits and choking dust. Cries of "Hosanna" have been replaced with shouts of "Crucify him!" The triumphal entry is turned into a death march. Perhaps the questions for us to ponder as we enter into Holy Week is: Where do we stand in this great drama?

As we look back to the beginning of Lent, we could also ask ourselves: How focused were we on fulfilling our promise to God? How engaged were we in prayer, fasting, abstinence, and doing works of charity? Have we been faithful like Jesus or fickle like the crowd—steady one day and shaky on the next? If we have been shaky or inconsistent, what have we done to strengthen our faith? As we make our journey through Holy Week, I invite you to strive to imitate Jesus, who was focused on accomplishing God's will, engaged, and faithful unto death. Jesus knows his mission. So should we. Jesus was determined to accomplish it. So must we.



New on the Hill

Harvey Nguyen ('22)

Canh “Justin” Tran, a freshman who joined SLS in the second semester, is from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He is a young man of the arts, who knows how to play the guitar and enjoys listening to ballad music. His favorite singer is Charlie Puth. Reading books is one of the things he enjoys doing in his free time. Even though he joined the school year later, he did a fine job in communicating with teachers and blended in with his class quickly. He has gotten involved in a lot of school activities, especially ministry opportunities and helps with the dish cleaning crew in the refectory.



Canh “Justin” Tran ('25)



Tristan King ('25)

Tristan King is a freshman who comes to SLS from Appleton, Wisconsin. Many students at school find Tristan to be a very interesting person; perhaps, this is because last summer he traveled with a circus as a trapeze artist for a seasonal job. Tristan’s favorite foods are Beef Wellington and McChicken. During his free time, Tristan enjoys listening to music, especially Lil Nas X, Frank Sinatra and 21 Pilots. When asked what he enjoys most about SLS, Tristan said that it is the unique group of friends that he has made and the memorable experiences of dorm life. Nevertheless, Tristan also has a big fear on campus and that fear is Henry, the principal’s little white dog, who continuously chases after him. The most unique thing about Tristan is his fashion style, which he describes as “thrifed all over the place” with interesting color choice and eye-catching graphics.

Tri “Paul” Phan, a sophomore who also joined SLS in the second semester and is also from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, seems to be a very quiet person; nevertheless, if you talk to him, you will discover many surprising facts about him. One of the most surprising facts about Paul is that he knows how to beatbox. Unlike others who enjoy either rap or pop music, Paul enjoys listening to NCS - NoCopyRightSounds - which pairs well with his beatbox skill. His favorite musician is The Fat Rat. In his free time, he enjoys playing games with his friends. Two of his favorite games are *Ghensin Impact* and *Arena of Valor*.



Tri “Paul” Phan ('24)

Tabletops

on a Hilltop

Ricky Conlin ('22)



Ironically, the newest club at SLS is centered around something far from new: tabletop games. The Tabletop Games Club was formed at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, and its members play a myriad of card games, board games, and other tabletop games. Its co-presidents are Alex Krause and Ricky Conlin, and it's supervised by Mr. Mattes, one of the newest supervisors on the Hill. We picked up the torch of leadership from the previous seniors in hopes of helping other students discover the fun and enjoyment that tabletop games can bring.

At a Tabletop Games Club meeting, the co-presidents bring at least a dozen different games to the Fr. Louie Conference Room and place them on the tables. As the club members enter, Alex Krause pulls people's focus to a variety of games, whether it be one that the club hasn't played yet, a club favorite, or a new game Alex Krause just bought. On a different table, I am playing *Magic: The Gathering* or teaching someone how to play my favorite collectible card game. Mr. Mattes brings in some new books or modules for *Dungeons and Dragons* or some other tabletop role playing game.

When asked about the club, Alex Krause responded, "I loved the energy the club members brought to the first meeting. It felt good to see that there was an interest in tabletop games at the school." Alex and I hope to end the club's second year strongly, and we hope even more that it continues for a long time to come. Tabletop games provide a way to make friends, have fun and talk with friends, and think in new and creative ways, and Tabletop Games Club works to make that all possible on campus.

ON, WISCONSIN!

Kiet Do ('22)

On Friday, February 18th, Mr. John Ahlstrom, SLS band and choir director, and 24 students attended the Badger Band concert at the Kiel Performing Arts Center. After years of postponements due to COVID restrictions, the concert this year did not disappoint the Hilltoppers, as students were energized by the amazing show put on by the Badger Band. Although the weather outside was frightful (due to a rare snow squall), inside the beautiful performing arts center, the sights and sounds were delightful. Sophomore Jonathan Prado had a chance to participate in one of the interactive exercises hosted by members of the Badger Band; he shared, "Overall, one of my favorite aspects of the marching bands was the crazy dynamics in the concert. A really good concert will move you and make you feel like you are going through the motions of the song, while a worse concert will just be a song that the band is playing." The band played through various well-known songs such as "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond, "UCLA" by R.L. Gime, and "Sweet Georgia Brown" by Django Reinhardt. The experience was made possible through Fr. Zoy's generosity. Fr. Zoy paid for the student tickets, hoping they would enjoy the experience. After the concert, the students were grateful for having the opportunity to listen to the Badger Band, especially the SLS Pep Band members, for whom the concert was an inspiration for their own playing at home events.



SPRING SPORTS

The common-sense dress code period is finally upon us! One of the most awaited announcements on the Hill, the common-sense period, when students may choose how to dress and what to wear outside, indirectly confirms the beginning of spring in Wisconsin. For students, that time also means a start to the new sports season and a final push to the end of the school year. In spring, SLS continues to offer three competitive sports: baseball, track and field, and tennis.

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TRACK

Harvey Nguyen ('22)

Spring has come and campus is beginning to look lively again with green grass, flowers, and outdoor sports. One of three spring sports offered at SLS is track, which has attracted a large number of students this year. On the first day, 40 students showed up to join Mr. Phil McCabe, the head coach, for practice. Track members compete in different areas: discus, shot put, speed running and distance running. In order to prepare the team for competition, Mr. McCabe has created a training program, which balances teaching technique and condition training. According to Mr. McCabe, what makes coaching track so enjoyable is the ability to see the students improve over time. He stated, "Seeing runners run a little faster and throwers throw a little farther makes coaching worth it." The track season has just begun with meets in the not-so-distant future, but it sounds like the team will be prepared for it. This will be the first year since COVID that the track team will have a full season, which will make the season more competitive.



TENNIS

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

The Hilltoppers have found impressive success in the latter sport throughout the years. Started in 2010, Mr. Dennis Holm led SLS to three consecutive conference championship titles and other accomplishments in the sport. Reflecting on his time as coach, Mr. Holm said, "The most enjoyable part was seeing how the players enjoyed the sport. They would always stay after practice to play and at both home and away meets they would play on any open court after they finished their match." In 2022, Mr. Holm finally resigned leaving behind 12 years of memories and accomplishment.

This year, the tennis team headed into the season with the same desire to win, but with fresh faces. Dr. Michael Donahou began his first year, hoping for a strong start. "I started playing tennis as an elementary school student with my family. My senior year of high school, I made it to the state tennis tournament and lost in the quarterfinals. I coached tennis for about five years and this year I am looking forward to working with SLS students outside the classroom and helping them to develop some tennis skills that could help them play the game of tennis for a lifetime." Together with Mr. Tre Waldren, in his second season as a coach, the 2022 SLS tennis team clearly has one vision: victory.



BASEBALL

Christopher Lor ('23)

It's the start of the 2022 baseball season, and SLS's team looks ready to strike big. The team is coached by Mr. Noel Sippel, Mr. Matthew Bahr, Mr. Chad Dowland, and Mr. Alan Kraus. Mr. Sippel feels optimistic about the upcoming season. He said, "We have a bunch of players that are willing to learn the sport. I know that they will grow throughout the season." Like many other coaches, Mr. Sippel wants his team to win but to also learn the fundamentals. There are quite a few new students trying out for the team this year. Returning player junior Diego Orozco said, "I am excited about this season. I feel that I improved a lot over the past two years. Hopefully, this will be my best year." Once the team is finalized, they will practice and compete against other schools. No matter what the result, the Hilltoppers look forward to playing with their peers and having fun!



The MORE the MERRIER

Rem Quintin V. David ('22)



The Capuchins have managed St. Lawrence Seminary from its founding and have had friars on the Hill taking on many positions. This year, the school welcomed two new Capuchin members: Fr. Peter Kafumu and Br. Anthony Yousef. Fr. Peter came as a visitor near the end of first semester, while Br. Anthony arrived at the start of the second semester. Both started out as guests, but they have integrated into life on the Hill.

Fr. Peter is part of the same Capuchin province in Tanzania as Fr. Chrispin Shirima. Before he took his vows, he was a mathematics and physics teacher at a Franciscan seminary in Maua, Tanzania. The seminary's Rector was a close friend to him. Looking back Fr. Peter stated, "He inspired me a lot, and he employed me to work in the school." Other than teaching, he was given the opportunity to share life with the friars. After two years, he joined the order. He explained, "I was inspired by the friars and their lives." In 2018, Fr. Peter along with others from his province were invited to the United States for a social skills workshop. SLS sponsored them, and this is how he first heard about SLS. Since the St. Joseph Province in the U.S. collaborates with the province in Tanzania, friars like Fr. Peter and Fr. Chrispin generously offer to minister in the United States at Capuchin missions. Fr. Peter is currently the senior dorm supervisor at SLS, and he helps the friars who live and work on the Hill. He likes to play soccer and read books when he's alone. He also enjoys watching YouTube videos about animal wildlife. Fr. Peter is glad and proud to be working here.

Br. Anthony is originally from Iraq, but his family moved to Jordan because of the ISIS presence in Iraq. In 2014, his family moved to Michigan, USA, where they had relatives living. There he learned about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, which was organized by the Capuchin friars. Br. Anthony stated, "I volunteered as a chef, and I fell in love with all the friars did. This was my calling to join the Capuchins." Br. Anthony graduated as a chef from a culinary arts school in Los Angeles. He specializes in healthy and more organic cuisine. In August 2021 he officially joined the Order, taking his first vows. Prior to coming to the Hill, Br. Anthony was studying in Chicago, but his school planned to go online during the second semester. Then the Provincial asked if he'd want to take his online semester while living and working at SLS to help the friars. He accepted and is here now. Br. Anthony also helps with student supervision, mostly in places like the gym, canteen, or study hall. Br. Anthony and Fr. Peter have quickly become accustomed to life on the Hill and demonstrated their importance to the community.

For most Hilltoppers, the next major step in their lives after graduation is college. While most decision deadlines have not yet been reached, a few brave souls have already chosen their colleges for next year. One of these men is William McTigue. William has chosen to attend Butler University this fall because, as he put it, “They have the major that I want-sound engineering-and I could find it at very few schools.” To help pay for the experience William is planning to apply for work study and his parents have offered to help him.

Emiliano Ochoa had a very different decision process. “I will be attending Calumet College of St. Joseph for a few different reasons. First, they offered me a great scholarship to play soccer for them. Second, they have a very tightly-knit community. Finally, I already know a few people there and some that will be going next year as well,” he said. Steven Nguyen and Jacob Lim are both planning to attend the University of Houston. Jacob Lim said, “It’s affordable and close to home. I should be able to work my way through it and get by with little debt.”

Caulodrino Williams has similar thoughts. “I’m planning to go to East-West University in Chicago because some of my friends are planning to attend, also it’s close to home, and they are offering me a very good scholarship.” As is easily seen, many students are excited for the next step but want to do it in the most secure and responsible manner. Good luck to all Hilltoppers as they move into the next stage of their lives!

The Next Step

Joseph Hall ('22)



FROZEN MOMENTS



Noel Choi ('23)

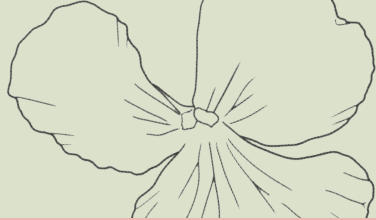
When SLS students and staff members are exhausted from the never-ending winter, they receive a much needed break before the start of the fourth quarter. Even though the winter break was short, students and staff members were able to spend their time usefully.

Seniors Kiet Do, Anh Ngo, Duy Nguyen, and Hai Hoang visited Ian Le’s home in New Orleans, Louisiana. They experienced many new things, such as enjoying the culture of New Orleans, visiting the church that Ian Le attends, trying new foods, and most importantly, getting perms.

Fr. Zoy Garibay and Mr. Martin Vu visited Houston, Texas, to promote St. Lawrence Seminary High School during winter break. From March 5th to March 7th, Fr. Zoy and Mr. Vu spent their time efficiently. First, they visited Jacob Lim ('22) and his family and had dinner at an

Asian restaurant. Not only was the Lim family there, but also the Director of Religious Ed. from St. Johns VI came and discussed the school with Fr. Zoy. The next day, Fr. Zoy celebrated the Korean and youth Masses at St. Andrew Kim. He was able to meet Thomas Kim’s and Noel Choi’s families, as well as some incoming students of SLS. Mr. Vu also successfully promoted SLS to the students of St. Andrew Kim. After Mass, Fr. Zoy and Mr. Vu attended a Korean barbecue with the students and incoming students. The same day, Fr. Zoy and Mr. Vu had dinner with former SLS teachers, Mr. William Mattes and alumni Kha Nguyen and Min Nguyen.

Winter break was welcomed by all. Many of the students and staff members spent their breaks resting from the tiring winter months and third quarter. It gave everyone a chance to recharge going into the fourth quarter and the busy spring.



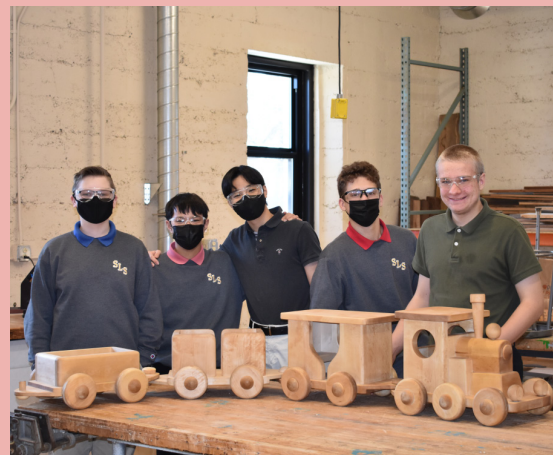
TINKERING TOY TRAIN

on a

Ricky Conlin ('22)



Nothing can compare with the simplicity of childhood and playing with toys after school. After a broken toy train most likely made by a friar with extensive experience in woodworking was found in the friary, Mr. Matthew Bahr and his freshman Wood Fabrication class took it upon themselves to repair the dismantled toy. The freshman that participated in the repair were Thien Hanh Mai, Will Hying, Cameron Nolte, James Neumaier, and Andrew Lee. The repair process included sanding off a layer of wood, gluing the parts back together, and applying a new layer of oil and stain. Mr. Bahr said, “the experience was a good example to show the students the importance of the quality material used because cheap materials would not have lasted as long as the train did.” With the repairs completed, the train will last for many more years to come.



Show me your Moves!

Hung Dao ('23)



SLS students come from many different backgrounds with different upbringings, so it is no surprise that some of them have hidden talents up their sleeves. The SLS Talent Show is the opportunity for those students to perform their talents. Mr. Quan Nguyen, the Activities Director who organizes the show, explained, “We do this so that students can share their talents with the community, and so that the community can appreciate them.”

The Talent Show started with a sign-up, where students put their names forth to be considered for the show. Then, they went through auditions to determine how long the show would last and whether anything needed to be cut. And finally, they went through a dress rehearsal the night before to make sure everything flowed smoothly.

Every year, several seniors MC the event, and they choose a theme and create a video to go with it. This year, they chose to parody *Avengers: Infinity War*. The video showed fan-favorite characters such as Captain Mexico, the yearbook editors, and a surprise guest appearance by Mr. Jeff Krieg, an SLS history teacher. Senior Gael Palacios-Prieto, who worked on the video, said, “We worked on the video very quickly, within about two or three days. The hardest part was convincing Mr. Krieg that we weren’t wasting his time.”

The Talent Show provided a wide variety of performances. Students went on stage to perform a variety of pieces, including a stand-up comedy show, a guitar solo, and an instrumental rendition of Lil Nas X’s “Industry Baby.” This year, the winning act was sophomore Andrew Nguyen’s piano performance of Franz Liszt’s *Liebestraum No. 3 in A-flat major*. The Talent Show was entertaining and perfectly showcased the talents of the SLS students.

Teaching Seniors To Serve

Earl D' Souza ('22)



The Milwaukee Experience is a ministry opportunity for the seniors of SLS to visit the city of Milwaukee and learn about the Franciscan-run ministries. Fr. Zoy Garibay, the Rector, said, “The Milwaukee Experience was started to teach our seniors about ministry programs in Milwaukee and to drive them towards a life of service, whether as a Capuchin or as a lay member.” The students experience a variety of different community service programs, including the House of Peace, a food pantry and clothing bank, Saint Ben’s, a community kitchen. They also have the opportunity to experience some fun things like going to the Milwaukee Rep, a renowned theater in Milwaukee, for a play and eating frozen custard at Kopp’s. Another experience that students say stood out for them was volunteering at a community center for victims of sexual trafficking, which was described as a very eye-opening experience. Gael Palacios-Prieto stated, “This was a powerful experience, despite the slow process the victims take to retreat from that life.”

Fr. Zoy stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has affected how the Milwaukee Experience is conducted, the places where students are allowed to visit may vary from trip to trip. There are four trips this year, with eight seniors attending each one. Some of these service programs have had to turn down visitors due to issues caused by the pandemic; however, Fr. Zoy was extremely glad to be able to offer this opportunity to the seniors again. The play for the first group had to be canceled due to COVID restrictions at the time; instead, they visited the Van Gogh Alive exhibit at the Wisconsin Center. The second group was able to watch *Toni Stone* at the Milwaukee Rep. The group that went in March also attended a play at the Rep, *As You Like It*. The students stayed the night in accommodations operated by the Capuchin Order – for example, the students who went on the first trip stayed in the basement of a historic building that also accommodated some Capuchin priests. William McTigue, a senior who has been on the experience, said, “I really liked getting the chance to learn about all the different ministry opportunities that the Capuchins offer in Milwaukee – I especially liked visiting the House of Peace - and the play, *Toni Stone*, was a lot of fun to watch.” The Milwaukee Experience is not only a ministry opportunity for the SLS seniors, but also a cultural experience to say the least.



Hilltopics
301 Church Street
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057



SCAVENGER HUNT

Issue IV's prize is yet to be solved and its prize remains unclaimed

The day this issue of Hilltopics was delivered to students' mailboxes, a note was hidden somewhere on campus, and this riddle will tell you where it is. Bring that note to either Kiet Do or Ricky Conlin, and you will receive a prize. Be quick, though, because only the first person to find the note gets the prize.

Good luck!

Some may call me wise, some call me a fool
Most call me a mixture of both, a mule
But unlike beasts of burden low I lay
Like my brother who foretold Christmas day
Same position, different location,
A location that makes a big station
So go, be quick, be fast,
For this prize will not last