

HILLTOPICS ²⁰¹⁹ Since 1965

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Saint Lawrence Seminary



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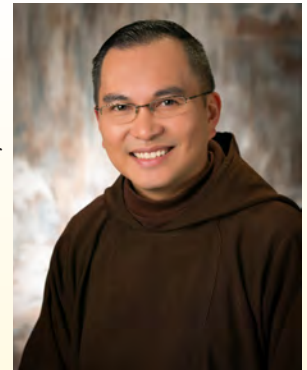
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Rector's Corner

By: Fr. Zoy Garibay



“We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.”

There may be no other prayer in the Catholic Church that is most associated with the holy season of Lent than the Way of the Cross. Sometimes called, Via Crucis or Stations of the Cross, this popular Lenten devotion commemorates the Passion of our Lord. The prayer highlights the final moments in Jesus's life, on his way to Calvary. These moments are represented in “stations” arranged chronologically: (1) Jesus is condemned to death. (2) Jesus takes up his cross. (3) Jesus falls the first time. (4) Jesus encounters his sorrowful mother. (5) Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry his cross. (6) Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. (7) Jesus falls the second time. (8) Jesus comforts to the women of Jerusalem. (9) Jesus falls the third time. (10) Jesus is stripped of his garments. (11) Jesus is nailed to the cross. (12) Jesus dies on the cross. (13) Jesus is taken down from the cross, and (14) Jesus is buried in the tomb.

Growing up as a young boy in the Philippines, I remember participating in the Via Crucis every Friday during Lent in our barangay (village), and the one in the banwa (town) on Good Friday. In the latter, the Via Crucis would take almost two hours from start to finish because of the large number of people taking part in the long procession. It is a time-honored tradition and the townsfolk call this particular custom *bári-bári* (to break) perhaps because by the time it is all finished, your legs and feet feel like they are being broken. Nevertheless, people young and old would take part in that custom, and it never ceases to amaze me.

The Way of the Cross, when entered into with an open mind and heart and with empathy, can be a meaningful and trans-formative spiritual experience. What makes this prayer so special is that it allows the faithful to engage their imagination to walk with Jesus, while reflecting on his suffering and death on the cross. When we pray the Stations of the Cross and enter more deeply into its mystery, we realize that we are delving into the mystery of life itself. In life, there may be a time when we were judged or condemned by others, or stripped of our dignity. In life there may be times when we carry a cross on our shoulder or stumble and fall. But there are also times when we encounter people who love and care about us, who wipe our tears and help lighten our burden when it gets too heavy for us to bear. When we pray the Stations of the Cross, we are invited not only to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, but also to share in his suffering and pain for the salvation of the world.

In these final days of Lent, I invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross, so that in following Christ faithfully and enduring with him in this valley of tears, we may be led one day from death to the resurrection, and into life everlasting.

Heritage Hoopla

By: Ellison Juern

With such a diverse group of students at SLS, it is hard to represent all of the ethnicities present. However, this year on the evening of March 3rd, SLS held its annual Cultural Heritage Festival. Every year students form groups to represent different countries, such as Korea, Italy, and Africa. This year the festival represented twelve countries. Freshman Jacob Lim said, “It was cool to see all the different groups and their foods represented.” The night was a huge success.

The success was mostly due to the hard work of the students who volunteered their time to get ready for the event. The different groups divided the responsibilities to make things easier. Some students were in the kitchen working with the Sodexo staff and cooking their country’s food, while others were working on colorful posters to represent their country and the food they served. Other students were also responsible for plating and selling the food. The Korean group leader junior Hyeonyu Kim said, “It was great to have a diverse and helpful group of students to participate in the Korean group.”

When the event started and the time came to start buying food, students lined up outside the refectory doors and on their way in received tickets to buy food and a beverage. As the students rushed in, eager to sample the food, the groups got ready to start selling. Some of the first food items to sell out were the Filipino group’s BBQ pork skewers and the German group’s black forest cake. Senior Sullivan Stier said, “My favorite food came from the Korean group; it was a noodle and meat dish.”

Cultural Heritage night does not just consist of food; the end of the night included a raffle. The prizes are different every year and it is exciting to see what the prizes are. This year’s prizes were *Black Panther* themed blankets, a sports backpack, a box of Indomie Noodles and an SLS sweatshirt. All students were entered in the raffle at least once and students could receive an extra entry for each positive write-up that they received over the previous three weeks. With an incentive like that, it was no surprise that there was an increase in positive write-ups. This year’s Cultural Heritage Festival was one for many to remember.



Members of the Mexican group hold up the Mexican flag.



Junior Robert Little helps grill food for the Bahamas group.



The Greatest Servants

By: *Khang Chau*



Each February St. Lawrence Seminary recognizes the most notable students as they are inducted into the prestigious National Honor Society. Founded in 1921, the NHS defined its central mission: to honor and reward students who demonstrate academic excellence and significantly contribute to their high school communities, and the tradition has been preserved at SLS. A chosen committee of five faculty members vote on the applicants. The committee looks for specific values in the applicants, which include service, scholarship, character and leadership. More than just exceptionally smart students, the NHS needs capable leaders who are ready to exceed expectations and assist the community responsibly. “The way you deal with an assigned duty says a lot about who you are,” emphasized SLS’s Academic Dean, Mr. David Bartel, to the assembly.

Anthony Le, a current member of the NHS, was chosen to host the ceremony. He announced the NHS values, prior to other current members, Peter Hall, Isaac Villegas, and Alex Thao lighting the respective candles and explaining them further. They then took turns escorting the new inductees to the stage, where they wrote their names into the register. The newly-chosen NHS members were seniors Jacob Koehler, Daniel McTigue, Ricardo Rodriguez and Joseph Tran and juniors Khang Chau, Vito Correa, Dominic Nguyen, Julio Perea, Nicholas Rodriguez, William Shaferly, Kevin Suzuki and Philip Zampino. At the end of the induction, they were congratulated by peers and faculty members. Inductee Julio Perea commented, “I am excited to help tutor other students. Seeing my schoolmates improve day by day is a joy of mine.” The new NHS members, as well as the SLS student body, were motivated to live up to the virtues and become “Super Students” who contribute significantly to the community while assisting their brothers with love.

Saint Lawrence + Math = Unbeatable

By: *Nicholas Rodriguez*

The Mighty Math Marvels have been on a roll. They have been doing exceptionally well this year, due to the fact that SLS brought back the Math Club. Many that attend the Math Club, with Ms. Stephanie, are students who are on the math team, or are interested in being on the math team. While the students meet with Ms. Stephanie they go over previous years’ math meet questions and review many core math principals. They also review many other tips and tricks in order to earn the best score in the upcoming meets. Senior Michael Nguyen said, “I find that the Math Club helps me remember concepts I had forgotten and gives me some tips that are useful during competition.” Not only does the Math Club help mathletes get higher scores, it also is fun and enjoyable to solve complex math problems as a group.

The math team is one of the best, if not the best team within the proximity of Saint Lawrence Seminary. SLS usually places first at each meet, with an occasional second place from time to time. The Mighty Math Marvels are comprised of five small teams with team one and team two being the most successful representing Saint Lawrence Seminary. Team one most frequently received the trophy for first or second place, while team two does not stray too far behind, getting third, fourth or fifth place. It is not easy to place at each math meet, especially since the questions tend to be very difficult and confusing. Junior Khang Chau said, “I have a terrific time at each math meet because I enjoy solving difficult problems, and I enjoy getting a medal if I do it well enough.” The Mighty Math Marvels have done a fantastic job this year thus far with hopes of continued success.



Senior Michael Nguyen receives his first place award at the math meet.



Basketball Scoreboard 2018-2019

By: Robert Little

Spring is right around the corner and that means that the winter sports season has come to a close. This season, due to much inclement weather, the SLS basketball team played 13 games and finished with a record of 4-9. The season was led by six seniors, Benjamin Truong, manager, and players, Peter Hall, Alex Thao, Pedro Fernandez, Paohow Lor, and Isaac Villegas. On February 18, SLS celebrated Senior Night to honor the time the seniors put into the sport. The game was against Stockbridge and didn't go the way SLS would have wanted. The final score was 46-88, ending the seniors season playing at home. The emotion was a bit different in the gym that night as Peter Hall stated, "The atmosphere was great for the last home game of my high school career. It was fun making all the memories throughout the years on this court." A week later, February 26, SLS traveled to Chilton to play in the WIAA regional game where their season came to a close.

Basketball-Varsity

November 29- SLS 50: ALSA 47
 December 4- SLS 53: Carmen 64
 December 7- SLS 54: Elkhart Lake 49
 December 13- SLS 29: Stockbridge 66
 December 18- SLS 41: Elkhart Lake 56
 January 19- SLS 39: Cristo Rey Jesuit 17
 February 2- SLS 49: Gibraltar 93
 February 4- SLS 15: Reedsville 79
 February 9- SLS 49: Wayland 75
 February 14- SLS 32: Central WI Christian 53
 February 15- SLS 49: East Brook 46
 February 18- SLS 46: Stockbridge 88
 February 26- Regionals-SLS 25: Chilton 67

JV Basketball

November 29- SLS 32: ALSA 21
 December 4- SLS 39: Carmen 54
 December 7- SLS 27: Elkhart Lake 36
 December 13- SLS 40: Stockbridge 50
 December 18- SLS 27: Elkhart Lake 38
 January 19- SLS 25: Cristo Rey Jesuit 18
 February 2- SLS 28: Gibraltar 59
 February 4- SLS 28: Reedsville 60
 February 9- SLS 41: Wayland 36
 February 14- SLS 30: Central WI Christian 27
 February 15- SLS 35: St. Augustine 39
 February 18- SLS 31: Stockbridge 41

Run, Hit, Swing: Spring Into Sports

By: Dominic Nguyen

The conclusion of the winter season marks the beginning of the spring sports season. This year, as in many years, the Hilltoppers will be competing in tennis, baseball and track, led by Coaches Holm, Dowland, and McCabe. Coach Chad Dowland set a goal of competing strong and hard this baseball season. He strives to challenge each player to do their very best during the season. In addition, Coach Phil McCabe wants his team to be hardworking and dedicated in order to achieve success. Coach Dennis Holm, like every year, wants his tennis players to be able to compete hard in the conference. He stated, "There are no stand-out talents on the team; therefore, work ethic is essential in achieving success." Coach Holm is willing to push his team to work for each point, game, set, and every match during the tennis season. All in all, there are various goals set by the coaches, and the students, for the 2019 spring sports season. In order to achieve the goals, the teams must be determined to work hard.



Pioneering in Peru

By: Peter Hall

“Gentlemen, you will be the pioneers for the St. Lawrence Seminary exchange program to Colegio Santa Ana. Put your best foot forward.” These were the words spoken by Fr. Zoy in a meeting leading up to the departure of eight students to the city of Lima, Peru. And put their best foot forward they did. Throughout the time that they were in Lima, the students witnessed breathtaking architecture, tasted some of the world’s best and most famous foods, and created relationships that will hopefully last a lifetime, both with each other and with the Peruvian students who hosted them. None of those who were lucky enough to take part in the trip took it for granted, as they all felt they made unforgettable memories with amazing people.

At three a.m. on Thursday, March 15th, eight students, chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. Liborio, groggily made their way onto a bus to Chicago. After many hours of flight time, they finally reached their destination at Jorge Chavez International Airport in Lima. At the airport, they were greeted by Santa Ana staff and taken to the school. The drive to Colegio Santa Ana was the first taste of Peru for most of the students, as they witnessed dense traffic, bumpy roads, and a beautiful city. Upon their arrival at the school, the students of St. Lawrence were warmly greeted by their host families with signs and gifts. “As soon as we stepped off the bus, my host family came up to greet me and I knew I was welcome,” said junior Nelson Regalado. From the very beginning, the Peruvian host families made sure that the exchange students felt right at home.



The next day, St. Lawrence’s students were introduced at Santa Ana and given a presentation of typical dance by the students there. Next, they took a trip to Plaza de Armas, a historical main square, and toured the cathedral there. The students spent the weekend with their host families going out to the huge malls and trying new foods in some of Peru’s amazing restaurants. If Peru has one defining characteristic that makes it memorable, it’s the food. The country of Peru has been awarded the Top Culinary Destination in the World by The World Travel Awards for seven years in a row. “*Aji de gallina* was my favorite food,” said senior Anthony Le, “It’s basically a delicious chicken stew mixed with spices.” Needless to say, the exchange students made the most of their tasty opportunities.

Throughout the school week, students attended classes and partook in multiple excursions to museums, artisan shops, and restaurants. One highlight of the week was when they visited Ciudad de Los Ninos, a boarding school for children. On this trip, the eyes of the students were opened and they saw how lucky they were as they encountered children who came from very impoverished backgrounds. This was a time where the trip proved to be not just one for enjoyment, but also to be an educational opportunity.

At the end of the school week, St. Lawrence’s representatives were honored at Colegio Santa Ana. They had the weekend free to spend with their host families, who had at this point already become like real family, on the beach or tasting some last minute dishes. Finally, it was time to head back to chilly Wisconsin and after many hugs and tears at the airport, the students boarded the airplane and flew away, leaving perhaps the country behind but not the memories created there.



Clubs

On Your Mark, Get Set...Speech!

By: Benjamin Bartlett

The winter season is full of opportunities at SLS, including sports and extracurricular activities. One of these activities is Forensics. Forensics is a competition between individuals or teams in public speaking. Forensic tournaments are held at various high schools around the state, subdivided into districts in which schools compete against each other. The public speaking categories are split into two different groups: speech and interpretation. Speech is where one writes their own piece and presents it from memory; topics can include a special occasion, a world issue, or just an interesting story that the presenter wants to share. Interpretation is where one performs a written piece. These selections are divided into categories such as poetry, prose, radio speaking, play acting and group interpretation, just to name a few. Forensics is one of the most popular extracurricular activities at SLS, having around forty participants. The tournaments are very fun and exciting; allowing students to get to know others from the area. As sophomore Benedict Wood said, "You get to know your competitors in an interesting way. On one hand, only one of you can win; on the other hand, you're all friends. There really is nothing like it." Overall, forensics is a very fun activity that gets students off the Hill and involved in public speaking, a key skill in life. Students may not win first every time, but they can always have a good time trying.



International Endeavors

By: Robert Little

Learning about a new country is always fun. At SLS there is an International Club in which students research and present information about other countries. Every other Friday, students meet in the Fr. Louie Conference Room to learn about a new country. These countries are from anywhere around the world, and the presenters try to change the continent the country comes from every time. Each presentation is done by students and includes multiple facts, like population, GDP, currency, flag, historical figures, popular foods, and much more. As a member, junior Franklin Fisher stated, "International Club is a great experience for people to learn about all ethnicities." The International Club, just like many others offered on campus, brings students together, only this time through culture.



Hilltoppers Go to Pride Rock

By: Claiemore Tango-an

On Wednesday, February 20th, thanks to the generosity of Fr. Zoy, the Rector, the entire student body received the rare opportunity to travel to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, WI, to attend the theatrical performance of the world's number one musical, *The Lion King*. Not only did the students get to experience one of their childhood movie memories, but they also got to marvel at the spectacular costumes and performances of the actors and actresses.

The Lion King is a world-famous Disney animated feature that follows the story of a young lion cub named Simba. The performance featured a lot of wondrous songs from the original movie, phenomenal choreography, stunning special effects, and the excellent use of props. With its ninety million audience members worldwide, it was not surprising that the whole theater was jam-packed with parents and children waiting to witness one of the best productions in the world. For some SLS students, this was the first time that they experienced a live theater performance. "It was a really good experience for me. The theater was amazing! There were so many people. The building was filled all the way to the top," explained sophomore Christian Frank.

The performance featured thrilling animals brought to life by a cast of more than forty actors. One of the many aspects that made this play astonishing was the remarkable use of the puppets, manipulated by a talented cast. There were over 200 puppets used in the play, and it took 17,000 hours to create the puppets and masks. The whole performance was visually appealing. The music and the lyrics were brilliantly done by Elton John and Tim Rice. "The music was really well done, I thought that the words sung were lip-synced, but then I noticed the band directly below the stage and I knew that the songs were sung live. I was amazed," junior Jeongbin Lee explained his astonishment. The lyrics are sung by the cast and the music done by the band brilliantly mixed together and created this magical feeling that reminded audiences of their own childhood. Junior Julio Perea mentioned, "The scene with Pumbaa and Timon reminded me of the time when I watched the movie with my mom and my sister."

The recreation of Disney's animation of *The Lion King* as a theatrical musical production was nothing short of amazing for most of the students. The music was vibrant and exciting. The costumes were amazing. And the message of love and redemption was successfully portrayed. Attending the all-school field trip may have been one of the most memorable events of the school year.



Mr. Buelow Receives a Write Up

By: Aaron Tarpinian

Throughout today's society, many prominent figures contribute to the well-being of the community. Just like society, we have prominent figures that help Saint Lawrence Seminary advance as an institution. One of these figures is Mr. Kevin Buelow. Mr. Buelow started his high school career at SLS in 1994 and graduated in 1998. Mr. Buelow immediately came back to his alma mater that summer to work on the summer cleaning crew. He continued his position on the cleaning crew for six consecutive summers. During the 2000-2001 school year, he took on a supervisory role, as a weekend gym supervisor. In 2001, he permanently joined the supervisory staff as a sophomore dorm supervisor. He continued the supervisory role as a sophomore supervisor through the 2004-2005 school year.

In August of 2005, Mr. Buelow joined the staff as a teacher at SLS. He started out teaching Economics, History, and German. Over the years he has also taught Government and Freshman Guidance. The 2006-2007 school year added to Mr. Buelow's resume taking on the responsibilities of Athletic Director and coaching. He coached cross country and track and field, both of which he still coaches today. When asked about why he likes coaching, Mr. Buelow stated, "I enjoy watching the students in a different perspective and partaking in what they like to do."

In 2012-2013, Mr. Buelow was offered the opportunity to become the Dean of Students. He gladly accepted the offer and made a strong impact on the community. The main duties of the Dean of Students is to actively enforce the rules of the student handbook and to help the incoming freshmen learn and execute the values of the social skills program. The social skills program came from Boys Town, which is a ministry with a mission to help children and heal families. Now, since serving as the Dean the Students, Mr. Buelow needed to lessen his teaching load and teaches only German and Freshman Guidance. Mr. Buelow strongly emphasized his joy of teaching and being a school administrator by saying, "I love teaching, it makes me feel fulfilled when a student gets it, the 'aha' moment."

At the end of the day, Mr. Buelow is a strong, good-hearted, and trustworthy adult who students can rely on. Even though he may give community service hours and detentions, he is doing this for the community's well-being. The students are extremely grateful for all that Mr. Buelow does. He has helped shape many students into well rounded, responsible young adults and has helped prepare many for the future.



Student Spotlight

By: Thomas Nguyen and Benjamin Bartlett



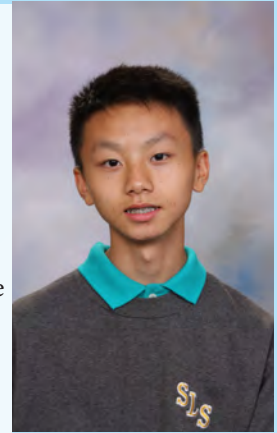
Andrzej Kielar
Hometown: Lockport, Illinois
Grade: Freshman
Age: 14
Hobbies: Soccer, wrestling, and working-out
Favorite foods: Pizza, Pierogi
Favorite Teacher?: “Mr. Krieg because he makes classes fun and interesting.”
What brought you to SLS?: “I searched for a Catholic school online and found SLS”



An Hoang
Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Grade: Sophomore
Age: 15
Hobbies: Ping pong, soccer, and basketball
Favorite foods: Pho, Fried Chicken
Favorite Teacher?: “Mr. Holm because I like the way he teaches.”
What brought you to SLS?: “This school is Catholic and the academics are cool.”



Ekin Her
Hometown: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Grade: Freshman
Age: 15
Hobbies: Playing video games, hanging out with friends, eating, playing sports, and sleeping
Favorite foods: Steak, Orange Chicken
Favorite Teacher?: “Mr. Krieg because he knows how to crack a joke.”
What brought you to SLS?: “I wanted a new experience like uncle went to before he went to Marquette University.”



Shue Yang
Hometown: Champlin, Minnesota
Grade: Freshman
Age: 15
Hobbies: Video games, playing soccer, and watching television
Favorite foods: Greek Salad, Pizza, and Sushi
Favorite Teacher?: “Mr. Buelow because he is very chill.”
What brought you to SLS?: “My father graduated from here and my brother also attends this school.”

Fresh Faculty Faces



Mrs. Andrea School

Reason Why You Came to SLS: “I’ve known about SLS since I was a little kid. My uncle is an alumnus, as well as, several kids from families I grew up with. My knowledge of SLS was strengthened during my time working with the SPIRITUS Missionaries who have led retreats here for several years.”

Favorite Part About SLS: “What I love the most about SLS is the community. I was nervous to leave a working environment that felt like family, but I’ve found that the community here is a family too, just on a larger scale. Between my time working with SPIRITUS and my time with the professional Boy Scouts, I know my fair share of schools and find that SLS is a school unlike any other I have ever encountered! It’s such an honor to be here and to be a part of this mission.”

How Are You Adapting to SLS: “I’m still getting used to how to talk about SLS with people who’ve never heard of it before but am doing my best by getting out in different communities and practicing. I’m very blessed to know so many people who have been so supportive of my new role and are willing to partner with me in spreading the word about SLS.”

Reason Why You Came to SLS: “There was a fraternal collaboration among the Capuchins. I was brought from the Province of Tanzania and the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph assigned me here.”

Favorite Part About SLS: “Since I came here, there was something that touched me the most—It was the calm and welcoming nature. I have not suffered any homesickness because of this community. The school is also very well and greatly organized and the students are respectful. The program here is overall very great.”

How Are You Adapting to SLS: “I am adapting very well; everyone has made me feel at home. They have welcomed me and integrated me with the program.”



Fr. Chrispin Shirima

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From The Editors

ISAAC

So far this school year we have been given many opportunities. At this point in my senior year, I have been reflecting on what has happened to me recently. The most recent opportunity that I have been given was to attend the student exchange program in Peru. To me, I think it was an unforgettable experience that I wish I could do again. I made many new friendships and strengthened existing ones. I could honestly say that the trip was one of the most enjoyable things I have ever done. I can't wait to see what the end of my senior year has in store for me!



PETER

Two months is a short amount of time. Unfortunately, when waiting to graduate, it can feel like an eternity. Until that time comes, however, I will continue to make the most of the time that I still have here. I just recently came back from traveling to Peru as part of an exchange program. It was an amazing experience that proved to be both educational and unforgettable. I was able to spend fun times with my classmates all while meeting some pretty amazing people. I can't wait to see what the rest of my senior year brings!

