



SAINT LAWRENCE SEMINARY

# HILLTOPPERS

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STUDENT PUBLICATION SINCE 1965

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Issue 1 Theme

# INVICTA

adjective, Latin

/in'vikta/ unconquered, dauntless, invincible

*Andrew Le, 16, Junior*



**Nationality:** Vietnamese  
**City:** Sai Gon, Vietnam  
**Hobbies:** Watching soccer and reading books  
**What did you do over the summer?**  
 "I was at a pilgrimage site in Vietnam."

**What are your goals for the school year?**  
 "I want to get A's in all subjects."  
**What do you like best about the school?**  
 "The emphasis on spirituality."  
**How did you find out about SLS?**  
 "My parents attended a conference in Vietnam."

*Juan-Carlos Bayocot, 16, Junior*



**Nationality:** Filipino  
**City:** Manila, Philippines  
**Hobbies:** Basketball, dancing, and photography  
**What did you do over the summer?**  
 "I traveled to the Philippines."

**What are your goals for the school year?**  
 "I want to get good grades and do well in sports."  
**What do you like best about the school?**  
 "The warm welcome I got when coming here."  
**How did you find out about SLS?**  
 "Raynier Hurtado ('19) introduced me."

*Kiet Do, 15, Sophomore*



**Nationality:** Vietnamese  
**City:** Hanoi City, Vietnam  
**Hobbies:** Playing soccer & video games  
**What did you do over the summer?**  
 "I spent time with my family. We went to visit tourist attractions in Vietnam."

**What are your goals for the school year?**  
 "I want to have good grades and participate well at SLS."  
**What do you like best about the school?**  
 "The friendliness of everyone at the school."  
**How did you find out about SLS?**  
 "Khang Chau ('20) introduced me."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

# A BURNING SPIRIT

Dominic Nguyen ('20)


**B**rother Brenton Ertel's joyous attitude towards serving the SLS community brings happiness to all those around him. Although he is a new face among the SLS staff for the 2019-2020 school year, his presence on campus has become evident to many. As Brother Brenton Ertel perfectly exemplifies Issue I's theme, *IIIVICTA*, we have chosen him as one of the two unconquerable heroes in the spotlight this time.

Br. Brenton has been around Saint Lawrence for longer than many may think. He stated, "I have been at SLS since 2013. I was first exploring the order at the time. On my first visit to St. Lawrence, I was a candidate for the order." He came to know of St. Lawrence Seminary through the Capuchin Franciscans. The appearance of Capuchin Franciscans here at SLS is vital; they serve as examples of St. Francis of Assisi, who greatly influences the values that SLS upholds.

Br. Brenton was welcomed when he joined the faculty in 2019. "The community was very kind and helpful. They helped me get settled in and helped with anything I needed," he noted. He greatly enjoyed the hospitality shown by both the students and the staff. In addition, Br. Brenton said that he loves the scenery around St. Lawrence. Like many, he exclaimed, "the views from the Hill are always breathtaking!"

Br. Brenton holds a number of responsibilities on the Hill. He is the Campus Minister for the school, working to prepare different liturgical events throughout the year, making sure that evening prayer goes smoothly every night. He also watches over different ministries done by the students. He helps to organize the spiritual direction program for the upperclassmen. Not only is Br. Brenton a Spiritual Director himself,


he also chooses the spiritual directors for students. In addition, he serves as a Vocations Recruiter at the school. He helps different students to seek God's calling in their lives. Later in the year, Br. Brenton will teach a Church history class, which he is very excited to do.

Br. Brenton, although new, has already contributed greatly to the SLS community. His dedication and delicacy in all that he does gains him trust from the faculty members and the Hilltoppers as well. Although things can be challenging at times, he keeps his faith in God and his passion in doing God's will. His determination is the perfect example of the *IIIVICTA* spirit. 

**O**n October 4, the Catholic Church and the Franciscans worldwide celebrate the feast of Francis of Assisi. Francis is a beloved figure and a saint for our times. He recognized God's Providence in all of creation. He saw the good in everyone and in everything—including the most wretched—and he regarded each one as brother or sister. Stories like that abound in the chronicles of his life. One such story is that of his encounter with a wolf.

In Gubbio, a wolf was threatening the lives of many. People were afraid to leave the city walls. Francis, who was visiting the place, decided to go out and meet the creature. As he approached it, he made the sign of the cross toward it and said, "Come, brother wolf. In the name of Christ, I order you not to hurt anyone." At that moment, the wolf was tamed. Francis explained to the wolf how it had been terrorizing the people of Gubbio, and that he wanted to restore peace. The wolf, in return, told Francis its story. Francis listened and then proposed a solution to the problem. As Francis extended his hand to the wolf, the wolf extended its paw and placed it into Francis' hand. Both returned to the city, walking side by side. The people saw it and were amazed. With the wolf at his side, Francis went on to preach about repentance and forgiveness. Moved by what they saw and heard, the townfolks promised to provide food for the wolf. The wolf, in return, promised not to threaten the people anymore. From that day on, the people and the wolf lived together in harmony and peace was restored.

This story reminds us that repentance and forgiveness are necessary for peace. When we are honest in acknowledging the wrong we have done, sincere in our contrition, and humble in asking for forgiveness, and when we are generous in forgiving others, then peace will reign—not only in our hearts, but in our homes in our communities as well.

This month, as we celebrate the life and legacy of Saint Francis, and as we make our journey into this new school year, I would invite us to reflect on our willingness and our readiness to repent and forgive. Let us pray for the grace and strive to grow in these virtues, so that like Saint Francis, we may become channels of God's peace in our world. 



## RECTOR'S CORNER



# AUTUMN SPORTS

Nicholas Rodriguez ('20)

SOCER

**What was the biggest challenge for this season?**

DB: "It is for the team to learn to come together. The work ethic in the beginning was not the best we have seen. We have a lot of talent, but all that talent doesn't mean anything if we don't put in the work. Also, we have a lot of interchangeable parts—it's like putting together a puzzle. We are trying to figure out where each player should be."

**How do you feel the team will do?**

DB: "SLS has always had a winning tradition and the players expect to win as well. We expect to be successful; however, success is determined on the field. We have a tough schedule this year with frequent games, and we challenge ourselves to rise against all. The team's success is determined by how well we face the adversary."



Axel Huicochea (AH)  
Soccer Team Captain



Mr. David Bartel (DB)  
Varsity Soccer Coach


**What are your goals for the season?**

AH: "My goals are simple: win conference, then regionals, then sectionals, and then ultimately state."

**What is the biggest challenge the team has faced?**

AH: "Working with each other could be better, and we need to learn how to work as a team."

**What have you done to prepare for the season?**

AH: "Over the summer I contacted some of the players who live near me so that we could practice and get into shape." 

**Did you come up with ideas for more efficient practices?**

KB: "I talked it over with Coach Joshua Brath and we decided to try new types of practices and creative ways of coaching, including a new set of exercises to strengthen the runners' stamina."

**How do you think the team is potential-wise?**

KB: "There are seniors who have been in the sport for four years and a lot of new runners as well. The new runners bring in a lot of potential, and with the seniors leading and encouraging them, they can create an even better team for future seasons. I have really high hopes for the team this year."



Joshua Prado (JP)  
Cross Country Team Captain



Mr. Kevin Buelow (KB)  
Cross Country Coach


**What are your goals for this season?**

JP: "Personally, I want to run under twenty minutes consistently, and as a team, I would like to get the varsity to below twenty-one minutes."

**What do you think the biggest challenge is?**

JP: "The biggest challenge is that there are a lot of new runners and we have to train the new talents a lot."

**What have you done to prepare for this season?**

JP: "I worked out during summer and outside of practice. Also, I messaged other runners over the summer to run to get into shape for the season." 




# HILLTOPPER 42

## With Running Comes Brotherhood

Benjamin Bartlett ('21)

### The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hilltopper Invitational

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, the annual Hilltopper and Alumni Reunion were held to mark yet another year of running and reunification of graduated brothers. Schools all across Fond du Lac county and beyond participated in the run, starting with the girls varsity run, then the boys varsity run, then the junior-varsity run, and finally a fun run for anyone who wanted to do it just for kicks. Meanwhile, alumni arrived from all across the country, watching the events and visiting amongst themselves and students. After all the running had finished, the famed alumni-versus-student soccer game took place. The alumni/student Mass followed as all united in God's house in prayer and celebration. The Brindisi Awards were given out for the year's most notable alumni— Mr. Peter Kolar, Mr. Mark Crowley, Fr. Wally Kazabaski, and Br. John Willger. To cap it all off, the alumni had a social in the friary, a time for them to simply socialize and catch up after all of the festivities.

The Hilltopper is a true representation of the spirit of Saint Lawrence, depicting the raw power and unconquerable unification the school has. For some, this is the only opportunity they have to see their brothers after they head off to college and begin their adult careers. Alumni visit; they chat; they laugh; they cry, together again in the place where it all began, where they learned what comradeship meant and how to become one community living together in Christ. It is that friendship that drives this school. The oneness of Saint Lawrence's student and alumni body in its purest form defines the spirit of the Hilltopper. This spirit would have never been as incredible as it is now without the invincible brotherhood prided so deeply by all who attend the Hill of Happiness. 



# Do This, in *Memory* of Me

Andrzej Kielar ('22)

Without cassock or stole, SLS's upperclassmen are assuming roles in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. On the morning of August 25<sup>th</sup> the seniors proudly stood before the congregation and were commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers. This honor is a life-long commitment that all SLS alumni still possess and may be a memory cherished forever.

As their names were announced through the microphone, one by one, the seniors stood up and prepared to be commissioned. As Franklin Fisher recounts, "I felt blessed to become a Eucharistic Minister as I've wanted to become one for a long time." Brother Brenton Ertel also shared his journey to the position of Eucharistic Minister, and periodically paused to tell his amazing story of achieving this extraordinary position.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, the juniors were instituted as Ministers of Hospitality. The juniors are now in charge of the Sunday collection and helping our guests find their seats. Every Sunday, they will be the first to greet visitors with a smile on their faces and their hands full of liturgical handouts.

Both of these ceremonies left a lasting impression, on those receiving the positions and the underclassmen who long to one day stand in their shoes. Proud parents and distinguished guests were also glad to see these young men step into positions as leaders of the church today.  $\Delta$

The teachers and staff at Saint Lawrence Seminary do many things for the students and community. We choose to share God's blessing with everyone, and this serves as a testament of our involvement with our faith. Each year, students bless the teachers and staff so they may be guided by God's will throughout the year to be wonderful teachers, mentors and honorable examples of Jesus' followers.

Every year, at the first Friday Mass, the student body blesses the teachers and staff of Saint Lawrence Seminary. It has been a tradition going back for many years. The blessing of the staff is the student body's way of acknowledging them and all that they do throughout the school year. After communion, the entire student body gathers in the sanctuary to bless the staff.

This year, the prayer was read by the Student Council President, Axel Huicochea. As the prayer was being read, the students extended their hands over the teachers and the staff. The mass was then followed by a doughnut social for both the staff and the students in the chapel courtyard, and classes began at a later time that morning. The blessing of the staff is an extraordinary way to begin a new school year.  $\Delta$

**STRUCK** by the *Light*  
**OF GOD** Ellison Juern ('21)





# WE *"Know-A"* Trip

Claiemore Tango-an ('20)



**I**t is a school tradition that on the second Saturday of the school year, the senior class has the opportunity to leave campus to do something fun and bond as a class. This year on August 24<sup>th</sup>, the SLS class of 2020 took a trip to Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells, the "Waterpark Capital of the World." Senior Emilio Silva said, "It was a great way to interact with our classmates and hang out with different groups."

During the day at Noah's Ark, the seniors traveled in groups and tried various rides. Many of the students were fascinated by all the slides and wanted to go on all of them. Ryan Suzuki expressed with enthusiasm, "Black Anaconda was my favorite slide and standing in line for a whole hour was worth the wait." Some students chose to take it slow and tried out the lazy river. Adrian Pereira

said, "I felt like I was floating away from Mr. Lou's senior English class, and all my worries were gone, though we were all freezing because the water was super cold, but to me, the class bonding kept us warm." Some students even took to a more relaxing route and just enjoyed the view as they sat in the sun. Eneo Tech said, "It was a really good way to get a tan."

As a whole, the seniors enjoyed their trip to Noah's Ark. In addition, the trip helped strengthen some friendships and, created fond memories. It also allowed the class to get away from their busy schedule and just relax from being a senior. Noah's Ark was a memory that the seniors can look back on for many years to come, and hopefully a memory beacon for the class of 2020.



## A Bright Start to a Brand New Year

**O**n August 17<sup>th</sup>, students from all over the world traveled to St. Lawrence Seminary to begin their new school year. For some, this was their first time seeing the Hill. Seniors met with their freshmen and helped them move into St. Anthony Hall. Senior Nelson Regalado said, "I felt happy that it was easy to communicate with my freshman and was pleased on how well he got along with the other new students." Sponsors of new juniors and sophomores also helped their new classmates find their way around. They showed them around campus, especially locations of classrooms. With the assistance of seniors, the morning went by smoothly.

After completing registration in the Fr. Louie Conference Room, parents took a picture with their sons, before going to the bank to deposit their money, or registering their sons for Driver's Ed. Many teachers helped with the registration process as well. After helping their sons get settled into their new dorms, families said their goodbyes. Hugs and kisses were exchanged before they departed for home. For the students, the day wasn't over. They continued to settle in and they met their new dorm supervisors. To end the day, the students went to an ice-cream social hosted by the seniors, and then the day was over for them. They are now ready to become unconquerable fighters of the 2019-2020 school year.

### Year

Andrew Tran ('21)





A major part in the lives of the Hilltoppers is ministry. A great way to showcase the value of ministry is the annual SLS Mission Trip. At the beginning of summer, SLS sent nine students of the incoming senior class and six staff members to do ministry in the Brownsville Diocese. The students participated in many ministry opportunities, including visiting the border wall, helping immigrants at a Respite Center, helping out at a local food drive at a local parish and joining a nonprofit organization, Proyecto Azteca. Proyecto Azteca builds houses for new immigrants and then sells the houses to them at an affordable price, due to their financial status. While helping with Proyecto Azteca, the students and staff cleaned out a lot for an elderly man so he

would not lose his house. At the Respite Center, students made lunches and gave clothes and toiletries to the new immigrants. Even though the SLS students worked a lot, they also had fun playing volleyball, going to South Padre Island, and taking a trip to Whataburger and a Mexican Restaurant. The ministry opportunities taught students how to help other people, how to see the world from a different perspective, and it opened their eyes to what is going on in today's world. Joshua Prado, a participant stated, "It was a fun trip that really brought me and my classmates closer together, along with helping me realize what's going on in other communities around the country."  $\Delta$

## Tear Down the WALL

Robert Little ('20)

## YOU Just Got SCHOOLED!

Aaron Villegas ('21)



Participating in ministries here at SLS is an essential part of every student's life. One of the ministry opportunities offered to the juniors was Operation Back-to-School. Almost all of the juniors traveled to the Boys and Girls Club of Fond Du Lac and helped in the distribution of school supplies to the less fortunate. Each junior was assigned a child to guide through a gym filled with school supplies. In the gym, each and every child was able to acquire the school supplies they needed for the upcoming school year. This was much more than a way to acquire ministry hours; for many it was a very valuable learning experience.

Junior Danny Draftz stated, "I learned that education is really valued by people who are less fortunate. This made me realize how much I take for granted." Along with getting the work done, students were able to have fun and enjoy themselves, as well as helping the children of God. Junior Benjamin Bartlett shared, "I really liked Operation Back-to-School, because I was able to have a good time helping other while also helping the community." The invincible spirit of the Hilltoppers in spreading God's Good News is once again exhibited through this Operation.  $\Delta$





Ricky Conlin ('22)

At the beginning of every school year, class elections are held, usually taking place on the third Monday. The officer positions available are Class President, Vice President, three Student Council Representatives, and a Spiritual Life Representative. Students interested in serving as class officers were given petitions from their dorm supervisors. The votings were carried out in the study halls, and results were announced immediately after that. The elected officers, as well as the four elected Student Council Leaders from last year were blessed by the congregation and given their Tau crosses as a symbol of their newly acquired leadership position on Thursday morning of the same week.

The elected officers were seniors President Khang Chau, Vice President Nicholas Rodriguez, Spiritual Life Representative Dominic Soto and Student Council Representatives Robert Little, Joshua Prado and Emilio Silva. President Aaryan Studden, Vice President Osvaldo Gonzalez, Spiritual Life Representative Benedict Wood, and Student Council Representatives Ellison Juern, Howxeng Lor and Andrew Tran were the elected juniors. The sophomore class officers were President David Meza, Vice President Jacob Lim, Spiritual Life Representative Joseph Hall and Student Council Representatives Shue Yang, Emiliano Ochoa and Ciproquio Williams. The elected Student Council leaders were President Axel Huicochea, Vice President Julio Perea, Treasurer Dominic Nguyen, and Secretary Maximus Gamino. Senior Nhat Phan shared his thought, "I trust in the newly elected officers that they will do a great job."

The freshmen, however, have not yet voted for their class officers. Freshmen are given some time to get to know their classmates and gain a firm understanding about each other. The freshman class officer elections will be held later in the year. ▲

## A VISIT TO REMEMBER

Joseph Hall ('22)



Saint Lawrence Seminary warmly welcomes young students from numerous cities and states to experience the school in a new way through a weekend visit. Arriving on the Hill Thursday afternoon, the visitors were shown to their rooms in the St. Clare guest house. After settling in, they were given a tour of the campus, guided by several of the freshmen students. "I enjoyed showing the visitors the campus, and getting to know the future freshmen," said Pio Nguyen, one of the freshmen tour guides. The tour was followed by free time, evening prayer, a pizza social with the student helpers, and bed time.

The next morning, the visitors rose with the students, headed to breakfast, and then mass. After that, they attended classes and took placement testing. Being the first weekend visitors of the year provided them the unique opportunity of seeing the current students get used to their new roles and responsibilities on campus. During the weekend, they went bowling in the campus bowling alley, played sports, and hung out with the current students. They were kept busy and entertained throughout.

Mrs. Falcon, the mother of one of the visitors was impressed by how SLS prepares students to be young adults. Mr. Francisco Saucedo, one of the coordinators for the event, noted, "the visits give the visitors an opportunity to see what life is like here." This is the main reason for the Weekend Visits, to help the visitors discern whether or not SLS is the school for them. Saint Lawrence hopes to see these visitors next year, as fellow students. ▲



# SAUCE UP YOUR DAY

Thomas Nguyen ('21)

**T**hroughout his 17 years of serving the SLS community, Mr. Francisco Saucedo has tackled challenges that would have easily made others quit. His dedication and reliability enabled him to overcome stress and excel at all that he did. Mr. Saucedo's unconquered spirit is a prominent example for Issue I's theme, IIIVICTA.

Every student that passes through the first floor of Saint Joseph's Hall is bound to be greeted by Mr. Francisco Saucedo's great big smile. Mr. Saucedo is truly loved by both students and staff members. His amazing energy helps create a fun and relaxed environment here at Saint Lawrence Seminary, while also directly constructing its wonderful


and dynamic character, through shaping the student body.

Mr. Saucedo is the director of the admission, marketing, public relation, and the alumni association office. His daily tasks are different according to the time of the year. Most of September, Mr. Saucedo was tasked with preparing for the annual alumni events, that is always the same day as the annual cross country Hilltopper. The success of the Alumni weekend is greatly due to the efforts of Mr. Saucedo and his team.

Mr. Saucedo is devoted to the Saint Lawrence Seminary community. The 2019-2020 school year, will mark his 17th year working with the school.

The best thing about SLS, according to Mr. Saucedo, is how the community's members are able to communicate. He loves the fact that students here are receptive to talking and interacting daily with him as well as

to each other. The staff members here are also very helpful and welcoming to him and he truly believes that SLS possess a caring environment. Mr. Saucedo believes that the new students should be able to recognize this. To these new Hilltoppers, his message is, "Have fun! It's hard, everything is challenging and you can get bogged down by many responsibilities, but it's a great place and you'll get used to it. It's going to be okay at the end."

Mr. Saucedo's visions for this school is to get students to take away the values that the school tries to instill here. He reminds the students that not everything is about technology, but memories and relationships are what each Hilltopper should prioritize during their time here on the Hill. "Be dauntless in all that you participate in," said the Admission Director, "because things will pay off." 

## DID YOU KNOW?

# 2002



The year in which Mr. Saucedo graduated from Saint Lawrence Seminary High School.



Mr. Saucedo was in the African Drum Quartet with Mr. Anthony Van Asten.



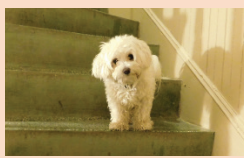
Mr. Saucedo got 1<sup>st</sup> at the State Solo Ensemble in marimba.

# What **YOU** Did *Do* THIS SUMMER ?

Aaron Tarpinian ('20)



- Joaquin Barajas ('23)** - "I went to Mexico."
- Chimnedum Osuala ('23)** - "I joined a basketball summer league."
- Christopher Lor ('23)** - "I went to HANCA (Hmong American National Catholic Association)."
- Harvey Nguyen ('22)** - "I traveled to Canada."
- Shue Yang ('22)** - "I went to Hawaii for a week."
- Izael Ornelas ('22)** - "I went to South Carolina."
- Russel Killian ('21)** - "I went to Japan to visit my brother."
- Christian Frank ('21)** - "I went to a concert with some friends."
- Maximus Gamino ('21)** - "I worked at Popeye's and made chicken sandwiches."
- Vito Correa ('20)** - "I went to Texas for the SLS Mission Trip and was stuck at the airport."
- David Le ('20)** - "I worked at a sushi restaurant and Mark Cuban came."
- Adrian Pereira ('20)** - "I went to Kerala, India."
- Fr. Chrispin Shirima** - "I got my driver's license."
- Mr. Kevin Buelow** - "I went on a Disney Cruise with my family."
- Mrs. Deann Sippel** - "I spent time at my cabin with my family, and four trees fell upon it in a storm." ▲



## Henry's Sudoku

				7	5			
7			1					4
5					2			
		1	3	9				8
3			7	8	6			4
8				4	1	7		
		8						9
	5				3			1
		4	6					

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# HILLTOPICS

Issue I Theme

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

## invicta

adjective, Latin  
/in'vikta/



unconquered, dauntless, invincible

**R**oma *invicta*, the inspirational motto, meaning "unconquered Rome," was printed by Romans onto gold coins as they took pride in their mighty empire. On the Hill of Happiness, this *invicta* spirit is not carved onto gold coins, but rather ingrained in the Hilltoppers' hearts. It is not hard for one to see brave spirits burning at the cores of endeavours carried out at SLS, whether it is apostolic ministries like Operation Back-to-School, Mission Trip, athletic competitions in soccer and cross country, or responsibilities being completed with humility and craftiness. In all that we do, the Hilltoppers keep faith and dauntlessly overcome all trials and tribulations. As you dive into Issue I of Volume LV, keep in mind that you are called to this world to spread the Good News through loving actions. Do so with delicacy. Do so with selflessness. Be bold. Be brave. Be **IIIVICTA**.

