



# HILLTOPICS

SPOOKY SEASON

VOLUME LVIII

ISSUE II

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# New Faces of the Hill

Max Trinh ('25)



**Danny Pham**

**Grade:** Freshman  
**City:** Austin, Texas  
**Favorite class:** Latin  
**How did you hear about SLS?** "I heard about SLS from a pastor that was here for a visit."

**Hobbies:** Fishing and sleeping  
**Goals for the year:** "To excel in academics and survive wrestling."



**Seamus McCarthy**

**Grade:** Freshman  
**City:** Mora, Minnesota  
**Favorite class:** World History  
**How did you hear about SLS?** "I heard about SLS from Liam King ('26)."

**Hobbies:** Volleyball and watching Star Wars  
**Goals for the year:** "To win a couple of matches in tennis."

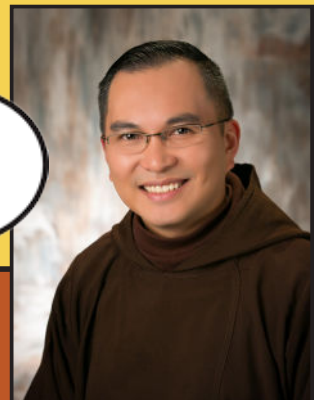


**Shane Sequeira**

**Grade:** Sophomore  
**City:** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates  
**Favorite class:** American Government  
**How did you hear about SLS?** "I heard from Dylan Lobo ('18), an alumnus"

**Hobbies:** Basketball and Soccer  
**Goals for the year:** "To make the basketball team."

## Rector's Bubble



*"I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6)*

Saint Paul, wrote these words in his letter to the Philippians around the year 50 A.D. Saint Paul's heart was filled with gratitude for his brothers and sisters in the faith for working with him and supporting his mission of spreading the Gospel. It is a poignant letter infused with so much love and affection.

These words of Saint Paul immediately come to mind as we approach the great American tradition of Thanksgiving on November 24, more than a month away, and as we prepare for the annual Benefactor Mass and luncheon, which will take place on October 23. Like Saint Paul, my heart is filled with gratitude and affection as I think of our generous and faithful benefactors during these celebrations.

For over 150 years, Saint Lawrence Seminary has been providing young men, from across this country and other parts of the world, an education and formation that prepare them for a life of service in whichever way of life God is calling them to.

The task is both noble and herculean. And we could not have done this without the help of the multitude of men and women who believe in our mission and support it time and time again. They are our partners in this mission. Their generous support has allowed us to continue to do God's marvelous work in the lives of the young men, who grace the halls of this time-honored institution.

And for that, I am truly grateful.

And this is my prayer: May the Lord hear their prayers and grant them their heart's desire. May the Lord look with favor upon their gifts and reward their generosity a hundredfold. May the Lord fill their hearts with joy and peace all their days.

Please join me in giving thanks to God for our beloved benefactors. Let us ever be mindful of their countless generosity. Let us remember them always with gratitude and affection. Let us lift them up always in our prayers and Masses.

October 2nd, parents came to the Hill to participate in Parent Weekend: an occasion for parents to spend time with their sons as a family and experience a bit of their lives on the Hill. The day started with two soccer matches, SLS JV and varsity against St Augustine. The weather was chilly, but that did not stop our athletes from competing whole-heartedly. It was a tough day for the JV team as they lost and varsity ended in a tie. After that, the students and parents had some lunch and rested for a bit. The afternoon started with the mother/son kickball game. The mothers participated actively, though they were not as strong as the students. Eventually, however, the moms defeated the students. Following the kickball game, the parents and students separated into groups based on their grade levels. The senior and junior groups were presented with information on how to pay for college and how to prepare for it. The sophomores heard about what it means to discern a vocation. The freshmen learned more about the social skills program.

After the presentations, there was more fun in store; everyone gathered at the upper ball diamond to watch the father/son softball game. Both teams kept messing with each other and making jokes. The fathers won in a close match-up. Then everyone went to the refectory to enjoy a cook out. After dinner, everyone prepared for Mass. Mass ended and parents could receive a ticket, which allowed them to pick up their son to leave campus for the night. The students returned in time for evening prayer and said goodbye to their parents. When asked about the weekend, sophomore Daniel Pizana stated, "I had a lot of fun with my parents and I look forward to next parent weekend." Parent weekend is a great opportunity for families to gather on the Hill and enjoy each other's company.



**VS**



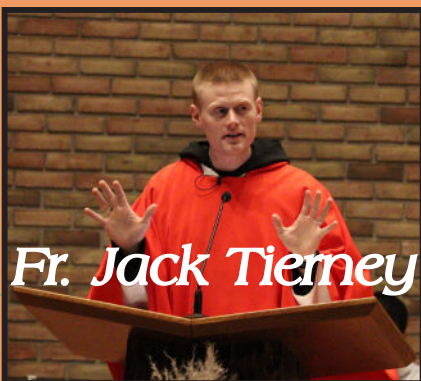
## ALUMNI of the ISSUE

Noel Choi ('23)

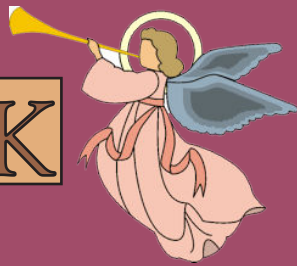
Fr. Jack Tierney, an SLS graduate of the Class of 2009, is the newest member of SLS's Ministry Council. Fr. Jack had an initial interest in becoming a priest when he first enrolled at SLS as a student. The environment and the institution around him contributed to the reason he became a priest.

Fr. Jack became a member of the Ministry Council upon the recommendation of Rector Fr. Zoy Garibay. In order to give back to the community that he loves and create an environment that is enjoyable and pleasant, to not only students but also everyone, he decided to join the Ministry Council. His job is to help improve policies, further the school's mission and values of safe community, spirituality, social skills, humble commitment, knowledge, and diversity; and to serve as an advisory body to the Rector/President.

Fr. Jack's favorite memory as a student at SLS was when there was a snowball fight by the upper ball diamond. He quoted, "Even though the seniors could pick on small targets like the freshman, they decided to join the freshman class and throw snowballs at the junior and sophomore classes." He will never forget the unwritten SLS motto that community building is crucial. His passion toward the Capuchins and his alma mater has stayed strong, even after he became an Augustinian.



# G W O R K D ' S



Clive Moras ('23)



**ACTS HOUSING**



**BROKEN BREAD**



**APPLE PIE**

Ministry, a core element in the lives of all St. Lawrence Seminary students, has had a long tradition at SLS. The task of organizing and coordinating the ministry program is a huge one, and currently Dr. Michael Donahou, a religion teacher for the upperclassmen, has taken it on.

Ministry, on and off the Hill, is typically conducted at the grade level. The seniors, as the leaders of the school, handle ministries that are sensitive and require maturity. One such ministry is Special Olympics bowling, which sheds a shining light on an often-ignored segment of our communities in the special needs athletes. Seniors do their best to encourage and cheer for the participants to make sure they are having fun. Another ministry opportunity offered to the seniors is through the ACTS Housing Program, which helps people with home rehab coaching for those who decide to take on a fixer-upper. The seniors also volunteer at Hospice Home of Hope, serving meals to terminal patients in Fond du Lac.

On Friday nights, the juniors can typically be found helping at Broken Bread, a food pantry in Fond du Lac, where they distribute food to those in need and help with the cleanup process. Because of COVID, the school ended a long relationship with the Villa Loretto, a nursing home in Mt. Calvary, where sophomores spend time with the elderly and help with Bingo games. Instead, now the sophomores go to Fond du Lac where they have a similar experience at the St. Francis Home. In all, there a wide variety of ministries offered to SLS students; others include the St. Peter Claver Fish Fry, the St. John the Baptist Church County Fair Fundraiser, the Halloween Cave Tour, and more.

A major ministry done school wide is the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree Program, which involves purchasing gifts for children of incarcerated parents. The faculty and staff volunteer to supervise the students in each part of the ministry and make calls to the guardians for the child's wish list. The seniors deliver the gifts bought by the juniors. The sophomores wrap the gifts and the freshmen write letters to the parents of the children who receive them. Another ministry opportunity new to the SLS this year is the Capuchin Toy Drive, where our school has agreed to make 500 wooden toys for families to receive at Christmas.

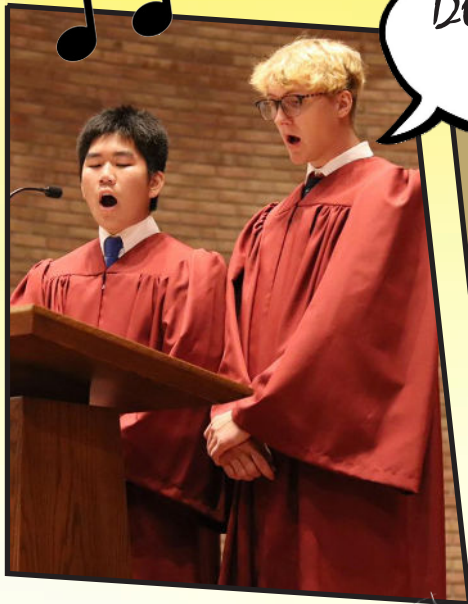
When asked why ministry? Dr. Donahou reminds us of our mission statement, 'Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.' "Hence, the gospel and the works of Jesus Christ's actions inspire all of our ministries. The Ministry program at SLS allows the students to view the world in a different perspective." Through these experiences, Dr. Donahou hopes that once students leave, they will continuously look for ways to make the world a better place by helping people through ministry.

# St. Francis: Embracing Sister Death & Walking with God

Hung Dao ('23)



DO... RE...  
MI...



Two Capuchin Franciscan friars founded St. Lawrence Seminary, and they built the school based on the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi. Being their patron saint, the Capuchins pay special attention to commemorating the great saint. The unique celebration of St. Francis's death is the Transitus service.

Held on the eve of the saint's feast day, the SLS Transitus celebration started with friars of the seminary marching into the chapel, holding candles. The seniors then read to the congregation the stories and legends of St. Francis. Towards the end of the service, loaves of bread were passed around in remembrance of Christ's last supper. Once the final story was read, teachers, friars, and alumni sang Psalm 142, with the melody written by a former friar of SLS. Commenting on his first Transitus at SLS, Fr. Peter Kafumu said, "It was eye opening for me to see how Transitus was done. Where I am from, the friars always dramatized the saint's life. But it was great to see how those stories were narrated here, and songs were sung between each one."

The following day, October 4th, SLS students and staff gathered for a noontime Mass to celebrate the feast day of St. Francis. The Mass was a poignant display of the impact of St. Francis not just on the Church, but also on communities and individual people. After the liturgy, members of the SLS community were treated to an Italian banquet prepared by Flik, SLS's new food service provider. The Feast of St. Francis is held near and dear to the Capuchins, and they impart their admiration of the saint to students of St. Lawrence. For many students, this was the first time they experienced a service like the Transitus. Through St. Francis, lay people can learn to love Brother Sun, Sister Moon, and all that is in between, just as God loves them.



# The NEW Dean in Town

Cristian Cruz ('25)

It takes a lot to be an English teacher and that means Mrs. Katie Daane is a lot more as she takes on a new position as the Dean of Studies. Mrs. Daane received a promotion, and it is all about helping the Hilltoppers! The Dean of Studies is responsible for multiple things, such as evaluating the academic program and curriculum, collecting and analyzing data and ensuring that the school remains accredited. Her new position also includes creating the students schedules. Mrs. Daane qualified for this job because she was already doing many of the things that were required as the Dean of Studies. The new position requires a principal's license, though, which means Mrs. Daane will be going back to school to attain a master's degree. She works closely with all the teachers and reports directly to Mr. Dave Bartel, the Director of Schools. Mrs. Daane's thoughts on her new position, "I love SLS so I'm happy to do anything I can to ensure the quality of our programs." Mrs. Daane's new position is already affecting many Hilltoppers.



## MANY Thanks

Nicholas Dean ('23)



As with many of the anticipated events held at Saint Lawrence Seminary, Benefactors Open House was a success. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the open house was canceled in 2020, but with restrictions being lifted, the benefactors were welcomed back to the Hill in 2021 and invited to participate in a full day of activities. This year was no different.

On Sunday, October 23rd, the Development Office organized the annual event. The day began with an all-school, all-benefactor Sunday Mass. Afterwards, when asked why they appreciate and continue to support SLS, Mr. Keith Depies said, "The values that this seminary instills in young men are very good, especially in today's world." When the much-awaited benefactor Mass concluded, all the guests were invited to attend a luncheon, hosted by the Senior Class of 2023. Once the meal was finished, the courteous senior class led the benefactors on a campus-wide tour, where they showed off the beauty of Saint Lawrence's campus and the picturesque scenery with the colorful leaves of the fall season. Mr. Depies stated his thoughts on Saint Lawrence's campus and radiant atmosphere saying, "It is more than we expected. If we could rate it on a scale of 1/10, we would give it 20/10."

Once the final tours ended and the benefactor's day came to a close, many thanks were given to the senior class and the development office. Once again, they fulfilled their duties of coordinating the event, hosting and showing off the beautiful campus to the benefactors, giving them an up-close-and-personal look at what their support does and means to the SLS community. Dedicating this day to the benefactors is a simple gesture to give thanks and show appreciation for supporting the mission of Saint Lawrence Seminary.



# Halloween Spirit

## WHITE MONDAY

Samson Mathew ('23)



School spirit is essential in having a memorable high school experience. SLS is dedicated to school spirit, especially during spirit week, which revolves around Halloween each year. During spirit week, there is a friendly competition among the frats to show who has the most school spirit to win prizes. It is also a time when students take a break from schoolwork and academics to have some fun. Everyone, often including the faculty and staff, participates in the spirit week events. During Spirit week, there are dress up days, games and activities scheduled with points assigned to each event to create the competition by frats.

This year's spirit week was no different, the student council came up with new dress up days: White Monday, Blue Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday, Sports Thursday (students wore sports team apparel to support their favorite team), and Costume Friday (students wore Halloween costumes to celebrate Halloween). On Friday after school, students went Trick or Treating and not only did the teachers participate, but the Business Office, the kitchen staff, and the Development Office fostered a family-like environment in celebrating Halloween.

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday fraternities played floor hockey in the gym and flag football on the upper ball diamond. Thursday after school was pumpkin carving; each frat carved a pumpkin to submit for judging. Friday's activities included Trick-or-Treating, immediately after school, the Halloween Drive Through and donuts. Saturday's fun began with Halloween-themed movies in the auditorium during the afternoon, the Haunted House, set up in St. Fidelis, and Halloween cartoons in the auditorium in the evening, followed by ice cream and activities, such as the push-ups competition and the water chug, organized by the juniors in the refectory. Justin Tran commented on the haunted house, "The haunted house was hosted in a good manner. It was weird seeing the seniors in costumes. I think the scariest part was the mat room scene." Students gave it their all during spirit week to win the grand prize: a Papa John's pizza party.

The haunted house is one of the most anticipated events at SLS. The seniors planned a scripted haunted house and set it up throughout St. Fidelis. The theme was an insane asylum Halloween. This year's seniors had been planning for this since last year to make it a memorable experience for the whole student body. Mr. Nguyen stated, "It started out rough, but that's not unusual. The seniors did a good job of bringing it all together and creating something enjoyable. I think there was a good time had by many." Spirit week is one of the most fun and busiest times on the Hill.

## BLUE TUESDAY





# WHACKY WEDNESDAY



## Sports Thursday



## Costume Friday



Charlie Brown  
X  
Snoopy



From October 13th through the 16th, Saint Lawrence Seminary students received their first taste of home after being at school for eight weeks. The students and faculty look forward to home weekend each year, which in this case followed a long and successful first quarter. The students entered the buses eagerly right after lunch with the anticipation of whatever the weekend had to offer. Most students went home; however, international students and students from other states went home with their classmates. For instance, sophomore international student Justin Tran went to Chicago with his classmate Cristian Cruz. Justin stated, "I had an amazing weekend, experiencing a new culture, the different type of music and food. It was great. Cristian, Thien Hanh Mai and I went to the popular tourist spot in Chicago, 'The Bean.' There were so many people. It was nice to experience a new city. I had an overall amazing break."

Senior, Noel Choi and John Bui recently experienced their last home weekend. His classmates, Gunnar Stier took them home located in Kiel. When asked about the home weekend, Noel said, "I enjoyed my stay, knowing I'm one step closer to graduation, I really did enjoy the time with Gunnar's family. I was able to go to the famous restaurant, Roepke's." Not only did the senior class enjoy their break, the sophomores enjoyed the break as well. Lawrence Gonzalez took his classmate Jason Hong home. Larry stated, "Being back home was great! I got to eat all the foods I missed, and Jason and I were able to play soccer with my family. Overall, it was a good break. Jason and I also had the chance to go to Madison, the state capital, for the day and had some goof time." After a long quarter, the students deserved to relax and have fun back home.

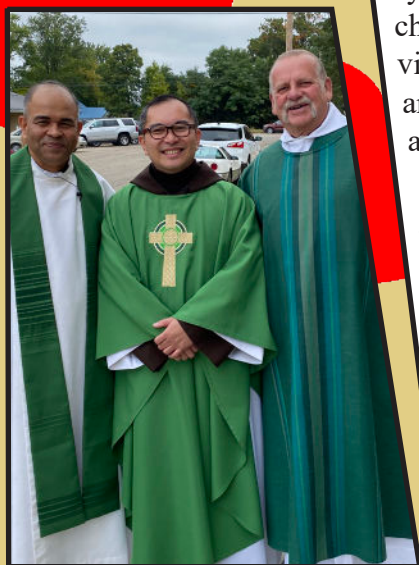


Diego Soto ('25)



# ON A MISSION OF LOVE

ThienHanh Mai('25)



Saint Lawrence Seminary is always happy to accept new students, but first, people have to learn and know about SLS. One of the ways to promote the school is by doing trips to various parishes. Recently, Rector Fr. Zoy Garibay and Mr. Michael Angelo Quiroz, an Admissions Coordinator, visited St. Mary Parish in Lyndon Station, WI, the oldest parish in the La Crosse Diocese. The pastor of the church, Deacon Tom Hale, an SLS alumnus of the Class of 1972, sponsored the visit along with Fr. Cryton Outschoorn. Fr. Zoy talked to the youth about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, followed by a social. The youth asked questions about Fr. Zoy's vocation and SLS. Mass was then celebrated in the evening.

Fr. Zoy and Mr. Quiroz continued their visit the next day. Mr. Quiroz also gave a talk about a day in the life of an SLS student and answered many questions. Mr. Quiroz described the experience as "Hopeful because there were many interested families; it had a sense of brotherhood because there were alumni that joined the Mass; and welcoming because Deacon Tom invited them to stay." Both Fr. Zoy and Mr. Quiroz wholeheartedly believed that the trip was successful as they gave a lot of information and met many interested parents and children. SLS is always looking for interested families and will welcome them with open arms. According to Mr. Quiroz, "The trip to St. Mary Parish was definitely an effective one."



# Spreading The Gospels, Spreading The Candy

Gunnar Stier ('23)



In the spooky season of Halloween, children run from door-to-door yelling “Trick or Treat!” With that said, the tradition of Halloween is, and always will be, a special one, but the pandemic changed many things, including Halloween. With the number of businesses, schools and organizations temporarily shutting down, Saint Lawrence students lost many ministries and with the lack of ministry opportunities, SLS students could not make as big of an impact on the surrounding communities as they had done in the past. Realizing this misfortune, Dr. Michael Donahou began organizing a new ministry that would be contactless, but still touch the hearts of the students and communities in the area. He invented the Saint Lawrence Seminary Halloween Drive Through.



Dr. Donahou refused to allow the virus to cut back on students bringing joy to those around them. He said, “We were in the midst of a pandemic, yet I felt we needed the opportunity to stay in touch with our community.” Dr. Donahou wanted to celebrate the tradition of Halloween, while incorporating the values of SLS. The Halloween Drive Through works like this: Students are given a Bible verse that they must make a skit for; the students then are given bags of candy that have been prepackaged. The students stand in various locations around campus so people from off campus can drive through, watch the skit, and then receive the bags of candy. The students perform the skit for every car of people that come up to the Hill. The SLS students are then given ministry hours, while those who come up to watch leave with candy. Taking advantage of the tradition of Halloween created a new ministry for SLS, so it is a win for both the children and SLS.



HA HA HA!

DRIVE  
THRU

24



Hilltopics  
301 Church Street  
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057



## HILLTOPICS MORSE CODE

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## JOURNEY TO PORTUGAL

Day 2

**St. Stephens Church**  
We are going to serve mass here!

**Hamlet of Aljustrel**  
This is where Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco was born.

**Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary**  
This is the monument that commemorates the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**Valinhos**  
This is our last place!

**Woof**

To Be Continued...