

# VOLUME LVI



# HILLTOPICS

NEWS IN ISOLATION

ISSUE FIVE

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## Rudolfo "Rudy" Tapia

Ethnicity: Mexican  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Favorite Class: World History  
Hobbies: Soccer  
Why did you come to St. Lawrence? My dad is an alumnus  
What is your Lenten repentance? Sacrificing desserts, sodas, and other snacks  
What is your favorite thing about SLS? My favorite thing is my classmates and the environment.



## Cesar Gonzalez

Ethnicity: Mexican  
Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Favorite Class: World History  
Hobbies: Soccer Basketball  
Why did you come to St. Lawrence? My dad came here and is an alumnus  
What is your Lenten repentance? Sacrificing soda  
What is your favorite thing about SLS? I like the academic part because it keeps me challenged and focused.



## Micah Wood

Ethnicity: Scandinavian  
Hometown: Appleton, WI  
Favorite Class: World History  
Hobbies: Basketball  
Why did you come to St. Lawrence? My brother, Benedict Wood ('21), also attends SLS  
What is your Lenten repentance? Sacrificing soda and sweets  
What is your favorite thing about SLS? I like how diverse it is and how I've grown closer to God



*Blooming Faces*

Peter Lim ('21)



# Rector's Corner

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In the 1980s, I remember a public service announcement that interrupts programs on all television stations at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The announcement goes like this: *"Each day, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the Philippines pauses for a brief moment of prayer for peace and forgiveness of sins. 3 o'clock in the afternoon is the hour of great mercy. At this time, our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and redeemed the world. Let us now get our prayer leaflets ready so we can pray altogether the 3 o'clock Prayer."*

The announcer continues: *"You died, Jesus, but the source of life poured out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O fountain of life, immeasurable divine mercy, cover the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O blood and water, which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in you! Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One, have mercy on us and the whole world. (Repeated 3 times) Jesus, king of mercy, we trust in you!"*

Then the announcer concludes with these words: *"We have just, as one nation, started the beautiful 3 o'clock Habit. We have just prayed to our Lord Jesus Christ for peace in our country and the whole world. We fervently hope that we started in you this 3 o'clock Habit for you to keep and offer a few seconds of your time each day to talk to Jesus and pray for forgiveness of sins and world peace."*

I initially felt annoyed by the interruption. However, once the announcement began, I found myself praying along. Later, it dawned on me that I am not doing it alone, but I am joined by hundreds, even thousands of people across the country in prayer. I have not been to the Philippines in quite a while, and I am not sure if that public service announcement is still being aired on television. Nevertheless, its memory—even more importantly, its message—endures in my heart.

In 2016, while attending the World Youth Day event in Kraków, Poland, I had the privilege of visiting the Chapel of the Miraculous Image of the Merciful Jesus at the Convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. There, Sr. Faustina had visions of Jesus and received a message from him. The chapel is now the center of the devotion to the Divine Mercy. The most touching moment for me was praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet (which includes the invocations in the 3 o'clock Habit) in the Chapel at 3 o'clock in the afternoon with people from many parts of the world.

The message of the prayer is simple: trust in Jesus and trust in God's mercy, for God's mercy is beyond measure. The prayer invites us to entrust ourselves fully to God through Jesus Christ. In so doing, we will find forgiveness and peace. Let us, therefore, foster this wonderful habit of prayer. 🌈

# THEIR GRAND Applause

Kiet Do ('22)

As the weather is warming up, Hilltoppers are excited for the the spring season, as well as the talent show, in which students perform the arts of singing, dancing, acting, playing an instrument, poetry, comedy, or other activities to showcase a student's talents. Unlike many other schools in the US, St. Lawrence Seminary was fortunate to have an in-person talent show this year.

The 2021 Talent Show was highly anticipated by the students since they did not have one in 2020 due to COVID-19. The Hilltoppers learned the character-building lessons that take place during try-outs, practice, and the performance. The student council was responsible for overseeing the planning of the show. After the planning was done, the show was opened for students to sign up and audition. Weeks before the show, perspective participants tried out in front of Mr. Quan Nguyen, student council advisor, to see if they made the cut. After all the preparations, everyone's attention was focused on the auditorium on Saturday, March 27th.

Russel Killian started the show with his vocal solo "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley and gained everyone's attention. It was then followed by Peter Lim's dance crew, who won over the audiences' hearts with the performance of "What Makes You Beautiful," by One Direction. Students were also amazed by the violin performance by the Williams brothers (Caulodrino and Ciproquio), of which Yair Rivera was included in the second song, creating a completely new combination that never had been heard before. Later in the show, Ian Le, William McTigue, and Diego Orozco changed the atmosphere of the auditorium. They created a metallic, bright (but also dark in the lower register) piece from their instruments - trumpets. And last but not least, and considered to be "the best show of the night," was the junior class skit, which made everyone burst into laughter. In the end, Solomon Wagner won first place with his guitar performance and second place went to JC Bayocot with an impressive dance performance. Finally, third place went to Caulodrino and Ciproquio Williams. When asked about the show Nathaniel Jude answered, "The talent show this year was actually amazing, I feel bad for those who missed it." This year's talent show was filled with surprise, applause, and impressions. After the curtain closed, students headed out of the auditorium smiling, laughing and talking about how amazing the show was. 🌸



# Getting Down To Business



Ricky Conlin ('22)

Saint Lawrence Seminary students interact with many different aspects of the school, from ministry to the classroom. However, there is one department that the students seldom directly interact with: the business office. The business office is an integral part of SLS.

Whether the students are aware of it or not, the business office works constantly to support all aspects of the school's functioning. It works year-round, during summers and breaks, to keep campus running. It does a wide variety of tasks, such as ordering school supplies, paying heat and electricity bills, providing financial aid for the students, and collecting tuition to list a few. Mrs. Karin Laska, a member of the business office, said, "If anything on campus deals with a financial matter, it will come through the business office."

The business office has four members, and each member has his or her own unique responsibilities on campus. The members of the business office include Mr. Timothy Schroeder, Mrs. Karin Laska, Mrs. Amy Pasineau, and Mrs. Kelly Potratz. Mr. Schroeder is the business manager, and he is in charge of managing both finances and human resources. He also plays a role in hiring new faculty and staff. Mrs. Laska is a business office associate; she processes staff payrolls, orders supplies for the faculty and staff, and works to maintain the student bank. Mrs. Pasineau is also a business office associate. She handles the students' tuition accounts, donations, and financial aid. Mrs. Potratz is the Information Technology Coordinator, in charge of the computer system and most other technical systems on campus. She works on network design, updating software, and keeping a myriad of technical facets of campus running optimally. It's easy to see that the business office is in charge of numerous aspects of campus, with each member holding an important role.

Despite being relatively unknown by the students, the business office is an integral part of campus. It works behind the scenes year-round, doing a wide variety of important tasks. It makes sure the students' tuition is used wisely, and it makes sure tuition is affordable for the families of the students. The students may not pay much attention to the business office, but the business office is always busy at work for the benefit of many people, both the staff and students, as well as, the families off campus. 🌻



# Honoring Those Who Honor Others

Joseph Hall ('22)

Saint Lawrence Seminary has always prided itself on the quality of men it ushers through its halls, but there are some that deserve both special recognition and special responsibility. Each year a handful of juniors and seniors, who demonstrate solid core values, are selected as candidates for induction into the National Honor Society. Each selected student must then complete an application and write a personal essay on how they demonstrate the core values of the National Honor Society in their lives. These core values are scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Once the potential members have completed the survey and essay, it is reviewed by a council of teachers and staff who make the final selection of who will take on the title and responsibilities of an NHS member. After the students have been selected, they are informed that they will be inducted.

On February 15th all the students of the school gathered in the gymnasium to listen to a guest speaker and then observe the induction ceremony of this year's members. To begin the ceremony, Osvaldo Gonzalez, a senior member of NHS, read an overview of what it takes to be accepted into the National Honor Society. Then, four other senior members each summarized one of the values of an NHS member and lit a candle to symbolize the flame of that virtue in each student. Finally, each new member was escorted by a senior member to sign their names in the book that contains the signatures of every former NHS member. "It felt so cool to put my name alongside the names of former students and to know that I was part of something bigger than myself," said newly inducted member Jacob Lim. After the ceremony was complete, the new members were congratulated for their achievement.

The NHS serves as both a guide and incentive for each member of the SLS community. Its goal is to bring out the best in each student so they can become the best version of themselves. That is what both the NHS and Saint Lawrence Seminary are all about.



## Congratulations To Our New NHS Members!

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Jacob Cao ('21)       | An Hoang ('21)           |
| Ricky Conlin ('22)    | Andrew Le ('21)          |
| Rem David ('22)       | Jacob Lim ('22)          |
| Kiet Do ('22)         | Chueyee Lor ('22)        |
| Matthew Donohue ('22) | Kiet Tran ('21)          |
| GreK Guzman ('21)     | Ciproquio Williams ('22) |
| Joseph Hall ('22)     |                          |

# 40 DAYS OF SACRIFICES

Thomas Nguyen ('21)

The season of Lent is one of the most important times of the year for Catholics. During this time, Catholics reflect and prepare for the Easter celebrations. The beginning of Lent is always marked with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. By observing Lent for forty days, Christians can replicate Jesus' forty days in the desert where He fasted and resisted temptation from the Devil. This year Lent began on February 17th. At Saint Lawrence Seminary, the entire student body decided to give something up during this Lenten season. Along with that, each of the classes also decided to do something extra for Lent. During this busy time of year, the students at the SLS community united to help one another grow closer to God to prepare for the Easter celebration.

This year, the entire student body decided to give up desserts entirely every Wednesday. The freshman class decided to participate in Eucharistic Adoration every Monday and had class prayer on Fridays. Tyler Le stated, "It has been an exciting learning experience. During Adoration, Father Chrispin helped us become closer to God." The sophomores decided on attending Eucharistic Adoration every Thursday and having a class prayer on Fridays. Sungho Bak stated, "This was a very new and intriguing experience for me. Back in Korea, we celebrated Lent, but it was not that strict." The junior class decided on praying the Rosary and attending Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday. The senior class decided to attend Mass every Monday and prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. Christian Orozco said, "During this Lenten season, it was a wonderful time for us to reflect and remember what we have done and what we can change."

The Lenten season is an extremely meaningful time for all at Saint Lawrence Seminary. During this time, students and staff helped each other stay on track to prepare for the Easter celebration. The SLS community was able to creatively stick together especially amidst these difficult times. This Lenten season ultimately united the school. The students were able to unite for a cause. Through the prayers, abstinence, fasting, and almsgiving, the community was able to bond with each other and grow closer to God. 🌸



# ONE Small Step for Man, ONE Giant Leap For Catholicism

Harvey Nguyen ('22)

Confirmation is one of the most important steps of a Catholic's life, a new chapter in one's faith. This year, Confirmation at St. Lawrence Seminary will take place on Sunday, April 25th with the presence of Archbishop Jerome ListECKI. The 11 confirmation candidates are Richard Conlin, Nathaniel Jude, Alex Krause, Ian Le, Shihoon Lee, Jacob Lim, Chueyee Lor, Steven Nguyen, Izael Ornelas, Richard Perez, and Yair Rivera. There are 11 candidates this year, all of whom are members of the junior class.

Mrs. Margie Buelow has done her best to prepare the candidates for this important spiritual event. Candidates have been preparing by gathering once a month for catechetical sessions or a guest speaker. Brother Baudry Metangmo spoke to them about his call to be a Capuchin. Mrs. Buelow spoke about her faith journey. Fr. MJ Groark will speak to them about the call to priesthood.

On Sunday, March 21st, Father Zoy conducted the Mass for Election of Confirmation Candidates with the junior classes. The 11 candidates received blessings from the Rector as well as their friends. "I feel more mature spiritually," Chueyee Lor said after Mass. That afternoon, in the lobby of junior dorm, many candidates sat down and wrote a letter to Archbishop ListECKI expressing their desire to be confirmed. "I have taken another step in my faith with God," Ian Le said. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, St. Lawrence Seminary and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, it is the hope that the candidates are more faithful to our Lord. 🌸



## TWO HEADS, ONE BODY

Earl D'Souza ('22)

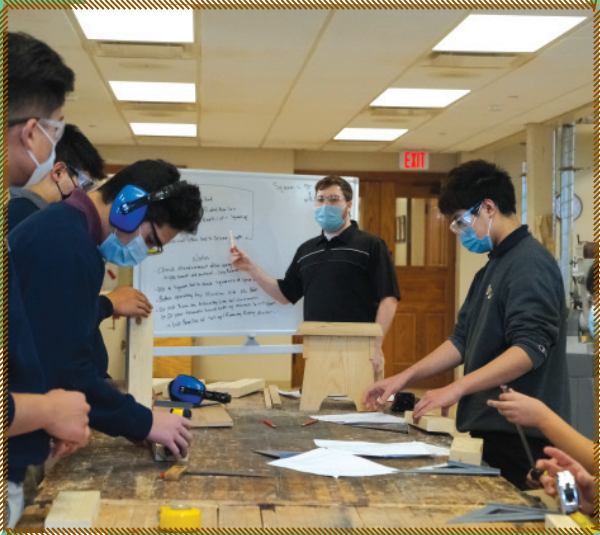
Fr. Zoy Garibay, St. Lawrence Seminary's Rector, was recently appointed as a member of the Provincial Council of the Province of St. Joseph. The Minister General of the Capuchin Order, Fr. Roberto Genuin, requested friars in the province to submit nominations for the positions of Provincial Minister and Provincial Counselors, as a result of the pandemic preventing the usual process from being followed. Fr. Zoy was on the list of names submitted, and was approved by Fr. Roberto, who appointed him a Provincial Counselor, along with two others, and a new Provincial Minister and Vicar. Fr. Zoy said, "I was very happy to be appointed Provincial Counselor." Fr. Zoy's responsibilities in the role include advising the Provincial Minister on religious affairs. The Council makes executive decisions on matters in the Province of Saint Joseph, and its previous meeting places have included Milwaukee, Detroit, and the Hill. Father Zoy is embracing his new responsibilities as a Provincial Counselor and wants to carry out his duties well. 🌸





# RAISING THE BAHR

Nathan Fernandes ('22)



Despite St. Lawrence Seminary's many assets over the years, 2020 has not been easy on the brown and gold, including specifically the death of Br. John Willger. An enormous void was left in the woodshop. Junior Kevin Herrera said, "Looking back, Br. John was special to me. He always used to crack jokes and made class interesting. He took his time teaching and that helped me." It wasn't long when questions were raised on who would take his place.

In January that very question was answered; Mr. Matthew Bahr became the newest member of the SLS community. Born in Beaver Dam, WI, he attended St. Katherine Drexel Catholic School. December of 2020 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a Bachelor's Degree in Technology Education. Having previously worked with children at the Nativity Jesuit Academy in Milwaukee, he was inspired to teach, saying, "I want to help teach others fun lessons that would help them for life." During the summer, he volunteers as a woodshop and biology teacher, while also helping as a fishing and camping guide at Camp Thunderhead in Mercer, WI.

On campus, Mr. Bahr has been enjoying life. He teaches "shop" classes which include Woodshop, Engineering and Drafting, and Graphic Design. One of the major factors that influenced Mr. Bahr's decision to teach at SLS is the diverse community. "Being from Beaver Dam, it's amazing to get to know people from different places." Coming from a Catholic school, he also liked the "faith-filled education" and praised the overall friendly nature of the school. Mr. Bahr wishes to raise the bar in the "shop," saying, "I want to see my department constantly growing with course opportunities that excite and prepare students for post-secondary education and careers."

When joining St. Lawrence, teachers commit their lives fully to the mission of SLS. One way of showing that commitment in getting involved. Recently, during Winter Carnival, Mr. Bahr participated in the student/faculty volleyball game. He also recently started coaching baseball alongside Mr. Noel Sippel. Senior David Jacobs said, "Mr. Bahr is really a wonderful addition to the school." 🌸



# LONG JUMPS,

# Short Sprints

Ellison Juern ('21)

With winter behind us, the warm air brings in a new season for track and field. The St. Lawrence Seminary track and field team is one of the largest sports teams on campus, due to the variety of events offered. Athletes can be sprinters, long-distance runners, jumpers, or throwers. All of the returning athletes have a clear idea of what events they want to compete in, but the fun lies with the new teammates, who discover what events they want to compete in.

The track season began with preseason contact days to get a head start. These contact days consisted of team exercises and training. The weeks leading up to the season are very important because they help the new athletes to learn about the events, try them out and begin the weightlifting program that goes with practice. Once the official season starts, things advance quickly with after-school practices where the athletes are broken into groups by their events. Mr. Kevin Buelow works with the sprinters, Mr. Joshua Brath works with the long-distance runners, and Mr. Phil McCabe works with the throwers and jumpers.

In this school year, the track team will participate in four meets, two of which are quad meets where the St. Lawrence team competes with three other teams in the Flyway Conference. Coaches and athletes alike are looking forward to this season. Coach Brath said, "I was very excited to start coaching track again last year, but unfortunately, the pandemic did not allow for SLS to have a season. This year, I am grateful to be coaching again. I look forward to guiding the long-distance runners in their track career along with being able to run with the students on some days. Practices are off to a great start, and I can't wait to see where this season takes us." With strong leadership and encouragement from the coaches, the athletes are ready to take on all the season has to offer.

Last year, the track team did not have a season due to everyone staying home for the fourth quarter and finishing the year with online schooling. However, that season is behind us now, and the track team will make the most out of this season. 🌟



# CORONA CHECKUP



Andrew Tran ('21)

One year ago, on March 18th, Tony Evers, the governor of Wisconsin, ordered all schools to close down in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Back then, no one knew or expected what was to come. At that time, St. Lawrence was in the middle of its winter break and students were preparing to return for the fourth quarter. A group of 14 students along with Mr. Kevin Buelow and Mr. Anthony Van Asten had just arrived at Chicago O'Hare after travel to the U.S. was to be banned. Everything seemed to slow down to a standstill as everyone waited to see what would happen next.

One year later, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are clear. Worldwide, there have been over 2.78 million deaths. The pandemic sent the unemployment rate up to 14.7%. Schools all over the world were forced to switch to online learning. Many children from impoverished areas struggled due to lack of Internet or devices. The pandemic took away family, friends, jobs, and education.

All is not lost however. On Monday, December 14, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccine was given to a nurse in New York City. Vaccination has risen all over the world. While many schools are still online, others have been able to offer hybrid or in-person learning. St. Lawrence Seminary was able to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. Businesses continue to reopen. Let's hope that this continues and life can return to normal.



## HNN 10 The Hilltopics News Network

- In an attempt to end the fighting in Yemen, Saudi Arabia –fighting on behalf of the government – offered a ceasefire against the Houthi rebels. An ease on the blockade was offered, and the rebels said that wasn't enough
- The Senate passed the \$1.9trn stimulus bill, including \$1400 checks to Americans. The OECD believes that this will help enhance the economic recovery.
- Carmakers are experiencing a chip shortage; GM and Hyundai were the most recent to express concerns about the supply. As the pandemic raged last year, chips were diverted from cars to game consoles and phones.
- The *Ever Given*, a freight ship, was lodged in the Suez Canal for four days. It blocked all sea traffic through the canal, creating a pileup of over 100 ships. It was dislodged on March 29.
- Virginia eliminated the death penalty. They are the first state in the American South to abolish it.
- 47 activists in Hong Kong were charged with violating the territory's national-security law. Their violations were centered around informal primary ballots for pro-democracy politicians, which the Chinese government viewed as an attempt to gain control and block the Legislative Council's work.



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## Editors' Quotidian Remarks

### ANDREW



The sun is shining and the grass is green. One of my favorite parts about St. Lawrence has to be the spring weather. Walking outside and being bathed in the sunlight cap-à-pie is

such a nice feeling. While I'm still here, I want to make the best of my time with my classmates. I'll probably go and play some pickup games of dodgeball.

I try not to think about it much but graduation is coming. I'm excited and anxious for that fateful day. I hope that the COVID situation improves and more people can come. Let's hope that we can all stay safe till then. Stay safe and please enjoy this latest issue of Hilltopics!

Just one to go, and it's peace out, St. Lawrence! I bet by the time the final issue is packaged and rolled out, I'll feel the full force of graduation as realization punches me in the gut. But for now, it's nice to think of the future. I'm excited for college and furthering my education. I haven't chosen a



college yet (and probably won't until the end of April), but my major will be in philosophy, with a tentative double major in mathematics. It will be exciting to see how my college prep experience transfers over to my postsecondary career. I hope that my peers are expecting a positive experience like I am, and that they are choosing the best fits for them. Here's to one more good issue, and to a strong finish!

### BENJAMIN