

Go, make a difference in the world!

In the surrounding hills outside the medieval walls of Assisi, is a place called *Eremo delle Carceri* (Italian, “Hermitage of Prison Cells”), where Saint Francis would retreat into in order to pray and discern God’s will. The place is remarkable for the rock formations and caves that surround it. It is an ideal location to escape, albeit temporarily, the noise and troubles of the world, to experience silence, and to spend time in solitude with God. It was said that when Saint Francis left the hermitage, he saw the world in a new light. Saint Francis began to see the world through God’s eyes. It was also said that when Saint Francis came down the hill, he was radiating with the light of Christ, mirroring the image and likeness of the Lord.

Our students’ time here at Saint Lawrence Seminary can be likened to Saint Francis’ experience of being in the hermitage. Our students are spending time away from family and friends in order to be educated and nurtured. Through our programs, students are trained and formed so that by the time they leave the Hill and return into the world, they will see the world in a new light-through God’s eyes. They will radiate the light of Christ, and mirror the image and likeness of the Lord to all those they encounter, as they journey through life. On May 17, our senior students-members of the Class of 2020-will graduate from SLS. They will leave the Hill and return to the world. We send them back as ambassadors for Christ, ready to spread his light, able to reveal his face, and, like Saint Francis of Assisi, become channels of Christ’s peace to all.

To the SLS Class of 2020: Go and make a difference in our world! Do not be afraid. Do not worry or be anxious. You are prepared. You are ready. Remember what you have learned all these years. Abide by the things you have been taught. Continue to strive and hold your selves to the noble standards of your Alma Mater, and you will do well. Your graduation may mark an end of one journey, but it also signals the beginning of a new one—one filled with many wonderful possibilities. As you prepare to embark on a new adventure, I would like to congratulate you on your achievements, and I wish you all the best. Be assured of my prayers for you always. Vai con Dio!



RECTOR'S CORNER

Fr. Zoy Garibay, OFM Cap.

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Academics Excellence @ It's Best



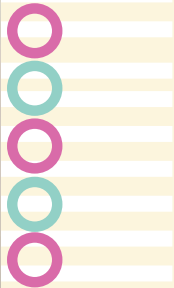
Will, Nhat, Mr. Buelow, Kha, Khang and Philip attended the Flyway Conference Academic Excellence Award Banquet to receive their awards. Job well done gentlemen.

No Sunscreen Needed, Only SCREENS

Aaron Tarpinian ('20)

Field Day, a day of sun, a day of competition, a day of frat bonding. A day that the community of St. Lawrence looks forward to ever year. A way for us all to be together one last time before the end of the school year, which takes our minds off of finals and papers for a day. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, field day will be a day of computer screens, uncombed hair and a roof over our head.

Like every year, field day took place on the Wednesday before Graduation. This year's field day included both morning and evening events. Every fraternity had to make a video of all of these frat members. Most fraternities took the route of using the *Friends* or *Full House* theme song. For individual events, members of the fraternities participated in Fortnite, Kahoot, Charades, Pictionary and online relays. Even though no one expected field day to ever be quite like this, we all had fun and bonded together in an all too familiar way for our generation, screens. Virtual Field Day winners: 1st Frat 3, 2nd Frats 10, 15, 4th Frat 14 and 5th Frat 6.



Going Above and Beyond

Mrs. Andrea School

St. Lawrence Seminary High School has officially announced that senior Robert Little has been chosen to receive the 2020 Herb Kohl Student Initiative Scholarship. This \$10,000 scholarship is given to a student who has shown a high level of achievement and strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond. Over Robert's four years at SLS he developed superb leadership skills, maintained high grades and consistently remained helpful to his peers and staff. Robert is very friendly, outgoing and a team player. He is an asset to the basketball, soccer and baseball teams and is always working to build up his teammate's spirit, while still working hard to improve his own skills. He participated in many ministry opportunities offered by SLS including last year's mission trip to Texas.



CARONA-TOPICS

Benjamin Bartlett ('21)

Before students left for winter break, everyone was ready to stay home. The stretch between January and March instilled the doldrums within each student. Assignments and rules were becoming unbearable; the constant, unvarying repetition seemed like torture. However, they may have gotten more than they wished for. Covid-19 ended what normal was. There were no more sports, no more ceremonies, and no more cram sessions for a test. Class bonding became limited to calling or texting. Everything fell apart in only a matter of weeks.

When Governor Tony Evers announced the closing of schools until April 20, students celebrated an extension of their break. The faculty, meanwhile, began constructing a system for students to learn in. "We had very little (overall) preparation and no residential preparation," said Father Zoy. Since everything was virtual, they needed to also ensure that every student had a device to learn with. On March 17, Mr. Bartel sent out a letter setting the framework for the rest of the year. Students would use their school emails to receive and submit assignments. Those without the proper technology were mailed laptops so they could learn. Not much else was fleshed out at the time.

It quickly became apparent that online school wouldn't leave. Evers eventually pushed the school year back until May 26, meaning the entire fourth quarter would be held over Outlook and Zoom. Therefore, students and staff buckled down for the long run. As many will confess, the transition was difficult. "What do I miss most about face-to-face teaching is *everything*. Facial expressions, body language, spontaneous responses, humor, verbal greetings, raised hands, speaking out loud when not called on, and listening to pre and post class time interactions between students are just some of the classroom environment I miss," said Mr. Holm. Only sending documents back-and-forth made it difficult to get insight on topics, and since students weren't there in the moment, they lose motivation to ask questions about the material.

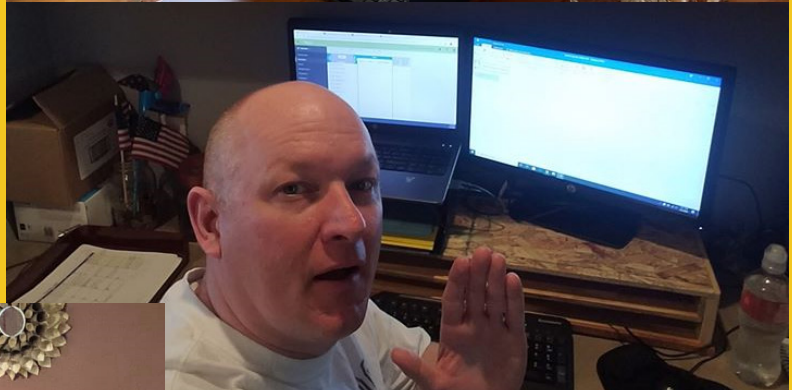




When asked what class was the most difficult to adjust to in the virtual format, senior Joshua Prado said, “Humanities, because I miss watching the videos and seeing the slideshows of Florence.” The beginnings were rocky and uncertain, as the school continuously tried to figure out more efficient ways to teach.

As time went on, however, students and teachers bore the difficulties and found a groove. Washington Thor stated, “I personally balance schoolwork while being home by just forcing myself to do it. I also have a lot more responsibilities at home as I am taking care of my siblings while my parents work.” In Ms. Stephanie’s case, it was a matter of finding the right place. “My dining room has now become my classroom. I don’t do any schoolwork outside of that room – I don’t take my laptop to the couch. I try hard to keep a separate space so that when I’m working, I’m focused.” In April faculty and students got access to Office 365, thanks to Mrs. Potratz, which helped connect teachers and students. Several teachers created Microsoft Teams groups, allowing teachers to talk with individual class periods. Mr. Van Asten stated, “The Microsoft Teams app has been a handy place to add materials and assignments where students can keep track of what’s expected.” A few fraternities are holding Zoom calls together to make sure everyone is doing okay and surviving quarantine. After about two months, St. Lawrence found its groove, with each teacher discovering their own niche. “My teaching is now done through videos, online resources, online notes, homework, and homework comments. So far I have created and uploaded 61 videos,” Mrs. Tabbert stated, when asked about her new teaching style.

Mr. Holm called the entire endeavor a “work in progress”, which is exactly correct. Online school is a learning experience for everyone involved; it’s a constant search to find a comfort zone. The end of the school year demonstrated St. Lawrence’s ability to adapt to such a novel situation. As for now, students and staff can celebrate a job well done powering through these challenging times and pray for it to never happen to this degree again.



Friends

Forever

Aaron Tarpinian ('20)

Every student looks forward to one specific moment throughout their four years of high school. Ironically, it's their last day of school, Graduation. Since the school year started, the Class of 2020 continually talked about graduation and about how close it was getting. We were excited to finish high school; to start a new phase in our lives, but we were also sad because we would be leaving countless memories and friends behind.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, graduation was cancelled and therefore, the decision was made to hold a virtually Graduation ceremony. Over the course of a few days, seniors from the surrounding area, were asked to return to SLS and were filmed in their cap and gown. The seniors were filmed walking in and out of Chapel, turning their tassels and throwing their caps in the air. For students who were farther and could not make it, caps and gowns were mailed to their homes, where they were asked to film themselves. Mr. Saucedo, Mr. Vu and Mr. Vervaeck then put all of the videos together, to create a virtual graduation.

Even though we seniors weren't together on Graduation Day, we were still able to graduate together as a class "virtually". Since the "Safer at Home" mandate went into action in mid-March, SLS students were not allowed back on campus, so we seniors organized a group chats. There we had random times that we would all be together talking about how much we missed each other and reflected on what were going to miss out on. I reflected on how right before I left for Germany, I said bye to my classmates, but in a casual manner, thinking I'd be seeing them in two weeks. Looking back, I am angry with myself because I didn't give them a real goodbye. But, how could I have known?

I would like to say thank you to my teachers and more importantly to my classmates. I will never forget you, and I love you. As said in Vitamin C's song Graduation, "As we go on, we remember, all the times we had together, and as our lives change, come whatever, we will still be, friends forever."

EDITOR'S

FAREWELL

Aaron Tarpinian ('20)

As my time as a senior and *Hilltopics* editor has finally come to a close, I look back on my past four years and reflect on all of the memories. I have made many memories and will never forget them, nor the people I made the memories with. Memories are important, but the people are more important. I came to Saint Lawrence as shy, nervous kid who was meeting his classmates for the first time. At the end of four years, I am leaving Saint Lawrence, as a respected, confident young man, who didn't graduate with my classmates and friends, but rather my "brothers". My 41 brothers mean the world to me. Through the ups and downs, we stuck together and will forever carry a bond. Along with my classmates, the faculty and staff have also played a large role in shaping me into the person I am today. I have learned many things from them, not just academically, but real-world, everyday stuff, where they have helped prepare me for my future. Thank you.

I would also like to thank my co-editor in chief, Khang Chau, for putting up with me. We had our disputes, but in the end, we worked together to produce four excellent issues, and 3 newsletters. I would also like to thank our advisor, Mrs. Deann Sippel. She stayed with us, pushed us, and encouraged us. She put her heart and time in us, and I thank you. Finally, I would, like to wish good luck to next year's editors, Andrew Tran and Ben Bartlett. My advice of wisdom to you two is, stick to the deadlines, and do not wait until last minute to complete each issue. With this, I sign off on *Hilltopics* with my last article, Thank you.





Class of 2020

John Paul Allan
Undecided

Hunter Braund
Madison Are Technical College, WI

Elijah Cardozo
Marquette University, WI

Khang Chau
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Vito Correa
Purdue University, IN

Long Do
St. Leo University, FL

Martin Duong
De Anza College, CA

Pio Fernandes
Dalhousie University, Canada

Franklin Fisher
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Loc Tuan Hoang
College of Dupage, IL

Axel Huicichea
University of Illinois – Chicago

Hyeonyu Kim
Indiana University, Bloomington

Kenny Krause
University of Mary, ND

David Le
Virginia Commonwealth University, VA

Ryan Le
University of New Orleans, LA

Jeongbin Lee
Purdue University, IN

Robert Little
Concordia University, WI

Lalo Martinez
Virginia Tech, VA

Dominic Nguyen
James Madison University, VA

Kha Nguyen
Marian University, WI

Minh Nguyen
Houston Baptist University, TX

Jesus Ortiz
UW Milwaukee, WI

Julio Perea
St. Mary's University, MN

Adrian Pereira
St. Louis University, MO

Nhat Phan
University of South Florida, FL

Josh Prado
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Nelson Regalado
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Fabian Rico-Sanchez
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

Nicholas Rodriguez
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William Shaferly
Franciscan University of Steubenville, OH

Emilio Silva
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Dominic Soto
Morton College, IL

Kevin Suzuki
Harvard University, MA

Ryan Suzuki
Undecided

Claimore Tango-An
Milwaukee School of Engineering, WI

Aaron Tarpinian
Wisconsin Lutheran College, WI

Eneo Tech
Marquette University, WI

Khoa Tran
Indiana University – Bloomington, IN

Daniel Trinh
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Kalvin Yang
University of St. Thomas, MI

John Yoo
University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Phillip Zampino
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