

# Sons of Calvary

St. Lawrence Seminary Alumni Magazine

Volume 5 Issue 1 Fall 2019



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Peruvian Exchange

ALUMNI WHO SERVE  
IN THE MILITARY

Making Maple Syrup On Campus

INKLINGS, THE STUDENT ART MAGAZINE

SWEET MEMORIES: FOUR HAPPY YEARS

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Students on an exchange trip to Peru visit Capuchin friars at Ciudad de los Niños.





## Editor's Note

The warmer half of the year is filled with cookouts, family gatherings, parades and fireworks. From Memorial Day in May through Independence Day celebrations in July and to Veterans Day in November, we spend much of our summer and fall months thinking about the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

At St. Lawrence Seminary, we stress to the students, over and over, how their lives should be lived in service of others. The Seminary's Mission and Values Statement lists "Humble Commitment" as one of our cornerstones, and defines it as, "Serving by sacrificing for others." We teach this primarily through the countless ministry opportunities students participate in throughout the year.

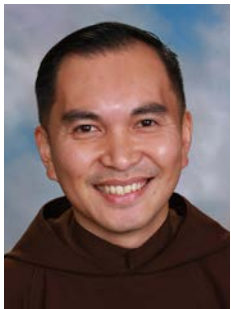
The lesson is learned. In conversations with alumni, I often hear that the most poignant part of their SLS experience was the ways in which they were challenged to serve others. And many talk about how that lesson has led them to their career or drives them toward volunteerism.

Many of our St. Lawrence Seminary alumni have answered this call through military service. Currently we have Sons of Calvary serving in every branch of the United States Armed Force, and many more who are veterans. In this issue, we share the stories of a handful of alumni who have dedicated their lives in the service of their country.

Read about how these men were shaped by their time at St. Lawrence Seminary and how their experiences on the Hill followed them into duty in every corner of the world.

-Anthony Van Asten '01





## From the Rector's Desk

In July I made a week-long silent retreat with the Trappist monks at the Abbey of Our Lady of Gethsemani in Kentucky. The retreat was a much needed respite for the soul. It allowed me to spend time with God free from the disruptions of life's chaos, in order to pray, to deepen my relationship with God, and to broaden my understanding of tasks that God has set before me. I prayed and offered Masses for all those involved in the mission of St. Lawrence Seminary—our faculty and staff, our students and their families, our benefactors, and you—our alumni.

One afternoon during the retreat, I took a walk along one of the nature trails that led “to the statues” about a quarter of a mile from the monastery. There, deep in the woods, was a life-size statue of Jesus praying in agony. About 25 feet away was another statue—that of three of Jesus' disciples (Peter, James, and John) falling asleep. On the plaque nearby was written: “May we always remember that the Church exists to lead men to Christ in many and varied ways.” Those words made me think of St. Lawrence Seminary.

The mission of St. Lawrence Seminary for the past 160 years has been, in essence, to lead men to Christ. We are all ambassadors for Christ by virtue of our Baptism. However, as Sons of Calvary you are especially so. Your time and experiences at St. Lawrence have formed, prepared, and equipped you for that role. As alumni, you are among the best ambassadors for our school. As Rector of St. Lawrence Seminary, I thank you for the many and varied ways that you support our mission. It is my hope that when young men graduate from St. Lawrence today, and embark on new journeys in life, they too will lead others to Christ.

-Fr. Zoy Garibay





# FOR GOD AND FOR COUNTRY

ST. LAWRENCE HAS A LONG HISTORY OF ALUMNI SERVING IN THE MILITARY. HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR STORIES.



Chief Petty Officer Olmstead on the flight deck of a P-3C Orion while flying counter-drug operations in El Salvador.

## Jesse Olmstead '96

Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy, Ret.

Deployed: Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Australia, Panama, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, Aruba, Curacao, Haiti, Cuba, Spain, Italy, Germany, Scotland, Djibouti, Somalia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Diego Garcia.

I enlisted in the Navy the summer before my Senior year. My step-father had served in the Navy in the 1950s, so I decided that was the path I would take. That relieved some stress my senior year. I remember everyone looking at colleges and going through the process of applying, and I already knew my destination. I didn't join for the benefits; I mainly joined out of a sense of patriotism. Not to sound like a cliché, but that was all I could see myself doing. Everything else that came with it was just a plus. I only wanted to serve four years and then come back, but I liked what I was doing, so I ended up staying in for 20 and retiring. I completed Aviation Electrician school, then Aircrew and SERE training, plus another two years learning to be a Flight Engineer. It was a tough road, yet I felt blessed. I was tested way beyond what I thought my limits were, traveled the whole world, and have a million experiences to build off of going forward. I am grateful.

I remember my third week at boot camp and waking up in the middle of the night to my bunkmate crying. He was about eight years older than me and had never been away from home. The homesickness was eating him alive. After SLS, I thought this was nothing. I don't even think I had called home yet. St. Lawrence did open my eyes to how different we all are, and yet that diversity can bring us together stronger. That lesson followed me everywhere. I knew what it meant to be a family with people completely different than you. My life has been blessed with brothers and sisters, from SLS and the military, with whom you form a bond that is unbreakable. I know I am never alone physically. I also have my faith; I know I am never alone spiritually.

I learned to pray by just saying Jesus' name. I had just returned from six months of flying missions in Afghanistan to turn around a month later and go to Iraq to fly missions in the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The first couple of times, I kept thinking, "What am I doing here?" I didn't know what to pray that first takeoff; I was afraid, so I just said His name. I learned that He already knows what we want or need. I needed clarity and safe-



Olmstead in full dress uniform at a friend's retirement ceremony.

ty, and he gave that to me, over and over again.

I have a million great memories and lessons from St. Lawrence; it is difficult to narrow it down to a few. To this day, two lessons stick with me vividly — two not so great ones. First, from Mr. Bartel: Never rest on your achievements; you have to earn every day. I was on SLS's first ever soccer team, my freshman and sophomore years. My junior year, I slacked off during tryouts and didn't try too hard. I assumed I was a given (I wasn't that good in reality). Coach Bartel cut me, and honestly, it was devastating to me. I pouted for a day or two and then asked Mr. Eric Boos if I could join cross country even though I never really ran before. Second, from Mr. Holm: Be humble; you don't know everything and can always learn more. Similar story — I was wrestling (again, I was way better in my head than real life) and chose to ignore Coach as he yelled from the side what to do because I thought I knew better. I lost, and he had some words for me after.

I work now as defense contractor just outside of Washington, D.C. It is a different world, but I like the change. I deeply miss flying, but it is nice to take a break and have a normal circadian rhythm for once. I can focus more now on my wife and kids. We do a lot of kayaking, swimming, fishing, exploring, and experiencing life. I know it is only because of God that I am still here, and I will do my best to not take that for granted. I completed my Masters in Aeronautics in 2017 and would like to apply for the Ph.D. program. I will pray about that for now, and maybe just do some more fishing. ■

**Joseph Librande '03**  
 Captain, United States Army  
 Deployed: Afghanistan

After three years of law school, I was tired of sitting behind a desk. As a farm boy from northern Wisconsin, I had always admired warriors – their courage, their tenacity, their intensity. Yet, my convictions run deep and are particularly rooted in my Catholic identity. I joined the military because I wanted to give of myself completely in service. I didn't want to read about sacrifice and honor – I wanted to live them.

The formation St. Lawrence imparted to me has been absolutely integral to my career. Like many of you, St. Lawrence gave me phenomenal basic human and spiritual formation: everything from Mr. Lou's social skills to Mr. Krieg's whip-cracking on the *Hilltopics* staff; from Br. John Scherer's compassion to Fr. Dennis' incredible organizational leadership. It is a powerful thing for a young man to get up each day with his brothers, make his bed, and search out meaning in his life with prayer and study.

Being a soldier helps me be more Christ-like, be-

cause a soldier knowingly offers his life in sacrifice for those he serves. Soldiers are not perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but they know what authentic personal sacrifice is. That kind of sacrifice is at the heart of an authentic imitation of Jesus Christ.

I am married to a beautiful wife and we just welcomed our sixth child. In my free time, I am a Captain in the United States Army, having served in the Military Police Corps, trained in the Special Forces Qualification Course, and am currently serving as an attorney in Judge Advocate General's Corps. ■

Capt. Librande returning home to his family from deployment.



**Samuel Voss '09**  
 Second Lieutenant, United States Air Force  
 Deployed: Afghanistan



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Voss and his wife Avery.

If someone had told me 10 years ago the path that I would take to where I am today, I would have called them crazy. My senior year, I was denied an AFROTC scholarship to Michigan Tech, so instead, I enlisted in the Air Force and graduated from Basic Military Training at

Lackland Air Force Base. After training to be an aerospace propulsion technician, I was stationed at Dyess Air Force Base where I serviced C-130s. Following a six-month deployment to Afghanistan, I was accepted to the Air Force Academy Preparatory School, and then as a cadet to the United States Air Force Academy. While there, I was involved in the Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps, the Cadet Space Operations program.

I graduated in May 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. For

the past year, I have been enrolled in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training at Laughlin Air Force Base.

St. Lawrence really played an enormous role in my faith development. During the summer between my junior and senior year, I began investigating the Air Force. I remember talking with Mr. Guiden, the guidance counselor, who said I should consider the Academy instead of AFROTC, though at the time I had no interest in applying. Looking back, I recognize that it was the Holy Spirit nudging me beyond what I thought myself capable of. After the military entrance process, I recall discussing with Dr. Voell the incredible sense of affirmation I received during and after the ordeal. One thing that my career has taught me is that life in the military can be unpredictable. However, if you trust that God is ultimately in control of your life and are open to the possibilities He provides, your life may turn out a lot different, and a lot more fulfilling, than you would have thought possible. ■



Voss with his T-6A Texan II training aircraft.



## Daniel Armstrong '07

Captain, United States Marine Corps

Deployed: Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Norway

Right after graduating from SLS in May 2007, I attended Barry University in Miami Shores, FL, where I received my Bachelor of Science in Sociology in May 2011. I wanted to join the armed forces due to a family tradition and the intent for meaningful and selfless civil service. I decided on the Marines because my father, a Navy Corpsman, spoke of them with the utmost respect and honor. I was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in August 2011 and I was assigned as a Tank Officer (M1A1 Abrams). In January 2016, I deployed for seven months to Eastern Europe with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marines, in support of the Black Sea Rotational Force, supporting NATO interests and local security cooperation. I am currently a Captain and also a Company Commander. I oversee the training of hundreds of recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in Parris Island, SC. I transferred to Quantico, VA, in July to continue my professional military education.

SLS laid the foundation that directly contributed to the various successes throughout my career. Selfless service, peer mediation, and seeking out the good in others were taught and demonstrated by the faculty and staff of SLS. Conducting ministry hours by working with those with cognitive needs in horse therapy, my favorite volunteer opportunity at SLS, is something I continue to this day during my off time. When I do these things, I inspire my Marines to volunteer and serve the community in various ways. Encouraging young men and women to provide a part of their lives to positively impact their communities began for me at SLS during Government Class in the basement classroom of the Main Building with Fr. Gary Wegner. Providing aid to the less fortunate, as I did on my senior experience in



Capt. Armstrong and his daughter, Aubrey.

many of the same ties felt within the brother and sisterhood of the armed forces. The small size of the Marine Corps along with the embodiment of its core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment have made it easy for this SLS alumnus to achieve success. ■



Armstrong (front row, third from left) and members of Blue Platoon.

## Brenden Flanagan '04

Staff Sergeant, United States Army  
Deployed: Afghanistan (twice), Kuwait

Once I graduated from St. Lawrence in 2004, I decided the best path for me was to help out my family with the family business, a machinery moving company that's been thriving for over 30 years now. They gave me a huge opportunity to work for the trades as a Union Ironworker, Local 136 Riggers, in Chicago. I worked in the trades for six years. The pay was great; however, it wasn't my true calling. With the recession in full swing and my deep desire to transition into a new career, I decided on my childhood aspiration to become a soldier like my father was. I explored all of my options



Staff Sergeant Flanagan and his wife Alyssa.

before deciding on the Army as it gave me the freedom to choose the job I wanted. They were able to guarantee free college for me and a career to get me essential experience. But, ultimately, it gave me the opportunity to give back to my country.

I chose to become an Intelligence Analyst. This job pushed me to think more critically, get me out of my comfort zone and progress, not just as a person, but as a leader. It has given me many unique experiences: work in collaboration with the Green Berets (Special Forces), in joint operations with the U.S. Border Patrol, as a foreign liaison officer working with the Kuwaiti Military, and in aiding humanitarian operations (such as Hurricane Harvey relief efforts). Being in the Army helped me pursue additional education avenues and a multitude of certifications such as: cyber defense, drone pilot, gunsmithing, leadership, and vehicular maintenance.

SLS prepped me for a lifestyle similar to the Army. Overall, you do have a daily schedule to adhere to, independence and learning early how to live on your own, reliance on others outside of your family, fitness, and mentorship from the friars and faculty.

I didn't realize it at the time, but community ser-

vice opportunities, like the annual fall cleanup of Mt. Calvary, really left me with the importance of helping others. This has stayed with me to this day when I provide guidance for my soldiers, counsel people who want to serve, or just any time I see someone who needs a helping hand.

But most importantly, SLS made me closer with God. This was one of the defining factors for me and the one to which I attribute my success and perseverance. The most influential portion from SLS was private evening prayer (for us it was on Fridays). I really learned more about developing my personal relationship with God through these quiet, self-directed moments. These prayerful Fridays gave me the skills to keep in contact with God, to thank Him when things were going great, and to trust Him when times were tough.

Originally I am from Chicago Heights, IL. I just hit my ten-year mark serving in the U.S. Army. I have been married for eight years. I plan on making the 20-year commitment and retiring. I have served two tours in Afghanistan, and one rotation within Kuwait. During retirement, I want to move to Texas and go back to school to learn automotive restoration to refurbish classic cars. ■



Flanagan on deployment in Afghanistan.

In *Sons of Calvary* vol. 4, issue 2, Louie Welna '62, shared a memory of Fr. Louie's Greek lessons. That inspired George Alexa '70, to write in to claim how Fr. Louie's Greek lessons once landed him a job:

*"Calvary formed me into the person I am today. I went to St. Francis Seminary for my last two years of college and then left and served in the Air Force for four years. Thanks to Fr. Louie, I ended up in Greece and was able to use my language skills on the island of Crete from 1970-74. What an assignment!*

*When at Calvary, I played trumpet in the band. As an adult, I use that trumpet to give back some more. I have played taps for many WWII Veterans at Arlington Cemetery as a member of Buglers Across America."*

## Michael Busha '94

Senior Master Sergeant, First Sergeant,  
United States Air Force

Deployed: Saudi Arabia; Turkey (twice); Bahrain;  
Qatar (twice); Baghdad, Iraq; Diego Garcia; Kabul,  
Afghanistan; Mexico City, Mexico

I graduated from St Lawrence in 1994 and immediately went to college at St Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. Upon graduating college in 1998, I was unable to find employment quickly. The U.S. Air Force was advertising heavily since they were failing to reach their recruitment goals that year. I enlisted because I figured the service would provide a solid foundation in providing experience and build up my resumé. Through the Air Force, I found values I learned and appreciated during my time at St Lawrence. The Air Force's core values include Integrity, Service Before Self and Excellence in All We Do. Service before self resonates with me and has continued throughout my 20+ years of service, just as it did in my time at St Lawrence.

I have attained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and am stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Florida. Currently, I am a First Sergeant in the Air Force. The role of the First Sergeant is the unit commander's right hand in dealing with personnel issues. The First Sergeant is often known as "the Shirt" and is distinguished by the diamond device in the chevrons on their sleeves. The Shirt often deals with problematic



First Sergeant Busha, "the Shirt."

Airmen, which involves walking them through legal and administrative processes and sometimes out of the Air Force. At best, I get to share in celebrating promotions, child births or family events and helping Airmen attain their personal goals. At worst, I am supporting Airmen during their worst days: getting arrested for crimes, losing loved ones, filing for divorce and other life challenges,

or processing them out of the service for failure to meet standards or for misbehavior.

I learned a lot about compassion at St Lawrence.



Busha, who often deals with Airmen in difficult situations, channels compassion he learned from Br. Dismas Seward. Both Br. Dismas and Br. Larry Groeschel served in the military.

There are so many friars that made such an impact, but I would probably have to say Br. Dismas Seward was the most compassionate. He was the dean of discipline and could be stern at times. However, there were moments where he really showed compassion, which set such a powerful example. He was a very down-to-earth person who grew up poor in Louisiana, if I'm not mistaken, and he also served in the military during the Korean Conflict. Br. Dismas' compassion could really catch you off guard, especially if you were in his office for doing wrong. And it is that compassion that I endeavor to show my fellow service members, especially in their darkest hours.

My faith has carried me through war and, most recently, Hurricane Michael and the post-storm challenges. It is this faith that also has carried me in helping my Airmen to get through their struggles.

I am married and my wife also served in the Air Force for 20 years before retiring in 2012. We have two children. I plan on remaining in the service for a few more years or as long as I am having fun. If and when I retire from the Air Force, I will search out other opportunities to live my faith and serve my community and nation. ■

# SWEET SCIENCE

STUDENTS AND FACULTY EMBARK ON  
A S.T.E.M. PROJECT, WITH TASTY  
RESULTS

BY: MARCOS PEDROZA '19

In the middle of March, as the deep piles of snow around campus began to melt and students eagerly awaited the first warm days of the year, English teacher Mr. Anthony Van Asten '01 and Dr. Gereon Welhouse, former science teacher, met with about a dozen students to embark on a new kind of afterschool project. This venture, named the Maple Syrup Project, attracted a variety of students who all had in common a love of pancakes and the syrup that covers them.

Mr. Van Asten welcomed the students to this extra-curricular S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) project, the first of its kind at SLS, and described the first steps of the general process to familiarize them with background information to understand the work as a whole.

Dr. Welhouse and Mr. Van Asten, who both have many years of experience in making maple syrup, showed students the fundamental steps in order to begin collecting, the

first major step of the process.

After the group identified maple trees, students divided themselves into two groups, and both teachers instructed them on how to tap the trees. First, drill into the maple trees. Next, pound in a "spile." Then, attach the spile to a milk jug with a piece of hose. This fairly simple process introduced them to maple trees and their role in producing what we eat with our pancakes.

Over the next two weeks, the sweet maple sap flowed well. Every day after school students in the project went from tree to tree, collecting sap. The tapped trees all over campus led to much curiosity among students and faculty, giving Mr. Van Asten and the students in the project many opportunities to teach others about the biology and chemistry of maple syrup production.

Students went home for a week-long winter break in the middle of the sap season, so guys in the maintenance department kindly



Kiet Tran '21 and Chris Nguyen '21 check the nearly-finished maple syrup for the proper density.

Students tap trees behind St. Fidelis Hall. Over 30 trees around campus were tapped for the project.



### WHY DID YOU JOIN THE MAPLE SYRUP PROJECT?

“So that I could be involved and get some super-duper delicious syrup.” -Jesus Ortiz ‘20

“Because maple syrup is a new thing to me. We don’t have much of it in Vietnam.” -An Hoang ‘21

Author Marcos Pedroza collects sap from maples next to St. Francis Hall. Students were surprised to learn that maple sap is clear.



collected it during that time.

All the students returned to find that the trees provided enough sap to exceed Dr. Welhouse and Mr. Van Asten’s expectations. Most students were pleased the project collected more than previously estimated at the beginning. For them, it meant more syrup for each student at the end of the project.

As the sap run came to an end, all the students were instructed on the next step: the cook-down. Early on a Saturday morning, Dr. Welhouse and the team put a 40-gallon stainless steel pan on top of a makeshift fire pit. They filled the pan with raw sap and started a fire. As the sap boiled and the excess water evaporated off, the group was able to add more raw sap. As the water evaporated, the sugars in the remaining liquid concentrated and caramelized, turning it dark and sweet to the taste.

It is not an overly laborious process, but tedious. Patience and an attentive mind are key to enduring the 12-hour periods one must use to cook down all the maple sap. It took the better part of two days to cook down the sap to near-syrup. Each student took turns watching the fire and adding the sap.

The fire burned bright and strong



David Jacobs '21 and Kiet Tran '21 add raw sap to the pan, which can hold 40 gallons at a time.

#### WHAT SURPRISED YOU MOST ABOUT THE PROCESS?

“I was surprised that you could drink the sap raw.” -Chris Nguyen '21

“That we had to cook 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup!” -David Le '20

“I was surprised by how much I could apply the science I learned in my courses to this process.” -Kiet Tran '21



The team collected close to 180 gallons of sap, which meant the cook-down lasted late into the night and even into the next day.

Peter Pham '21 filters the finished syrup into a stock pot where it will be brought back to temperature and bottled.



throughout the day, and the activity drew the attention of some curious students and faculty. Mr. Bartel and Fr. Pushparaj became so interested, they stayed most of the day. Dr. Welhouse kept the fire going late and started it up again the following day. The syrup was nearly done.

The end of the cook-down marked the final step before the finishing, filtering, and bottling process. In the Guest House kitchen, the students heated the near-syrup until it had just the right density. Then they filtered the hot, finished syrup. Finally, students filled and sealed their jars.

It was a lot of work, but in the end, it paid off. The syrup production neared five gallons, far exceeding Mr. Van Asten's predictions. This pleasant surprise allowed each student to take home several jars of maple syrup, along with the science, nature and life lessons they learned. The syrup, dubbed "Hilltop Gold," is now heavily sought-for across campus. ■

#### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE PROJECT?

"My favorite part was the initial cook-down process. All the steam looked so mystical!"  
-Nhat Phan '20

"The most fun part of the process was watching the sap boil as we sat around as a group and watched well into the night." -Peter Lim '21

#### S.T.E.A.M. PROJECTS ON THE HILL

In recent years, many schools have an added emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.), altering curriculum or adding special projects and additional learning opportunities. Some programs add Arts to the focus (S.T.E.A.M), to serve students of artistic interest. Last year, in a Curriculum Committee meeting, Dave Bartel challenged us teachers to think of ways we could add S.T.E.A.M. to St. Lawrence's curriculum.

The big issue is that we have a comparatively small school with an already tight schedule.

As my own syrup season got nearer, I wondered if maple syrup would be a fun way to add a science-based learning opportunity for our students. I ran into Doc Welhouse at the Christmas concert, explained my idea, and asked if he would partner with

me in doing the Maple Syrup Project on campus. He was all for it. Having recently retired, he was looking for a way to reconnect with the Hill, and this was the perfect way. This first year was a success.

Dave Bartel liked the idea of introducing S.T.E.A.M. projects as after-school, extra-curricular projects that are not a part of the academic calendar, but rather, could be tied to the specific scheduling needs of the project or the leaders. He also liked the idea of encouraging alumni or others attached to the greater SLS community who have expertise in these areas to get involved.

So, a call out to our alumni: if you have been looking for a way to reconnect with St. Lawrence Seminary and have an interest or idea for a science, technology, engineering, art or math project, please contact Dave Bartel at [dbartel@stlawrence.edu](mailto:dbartel@stlawrence.edu) or call (920) 753-7506. -Anthony Van Asten '01



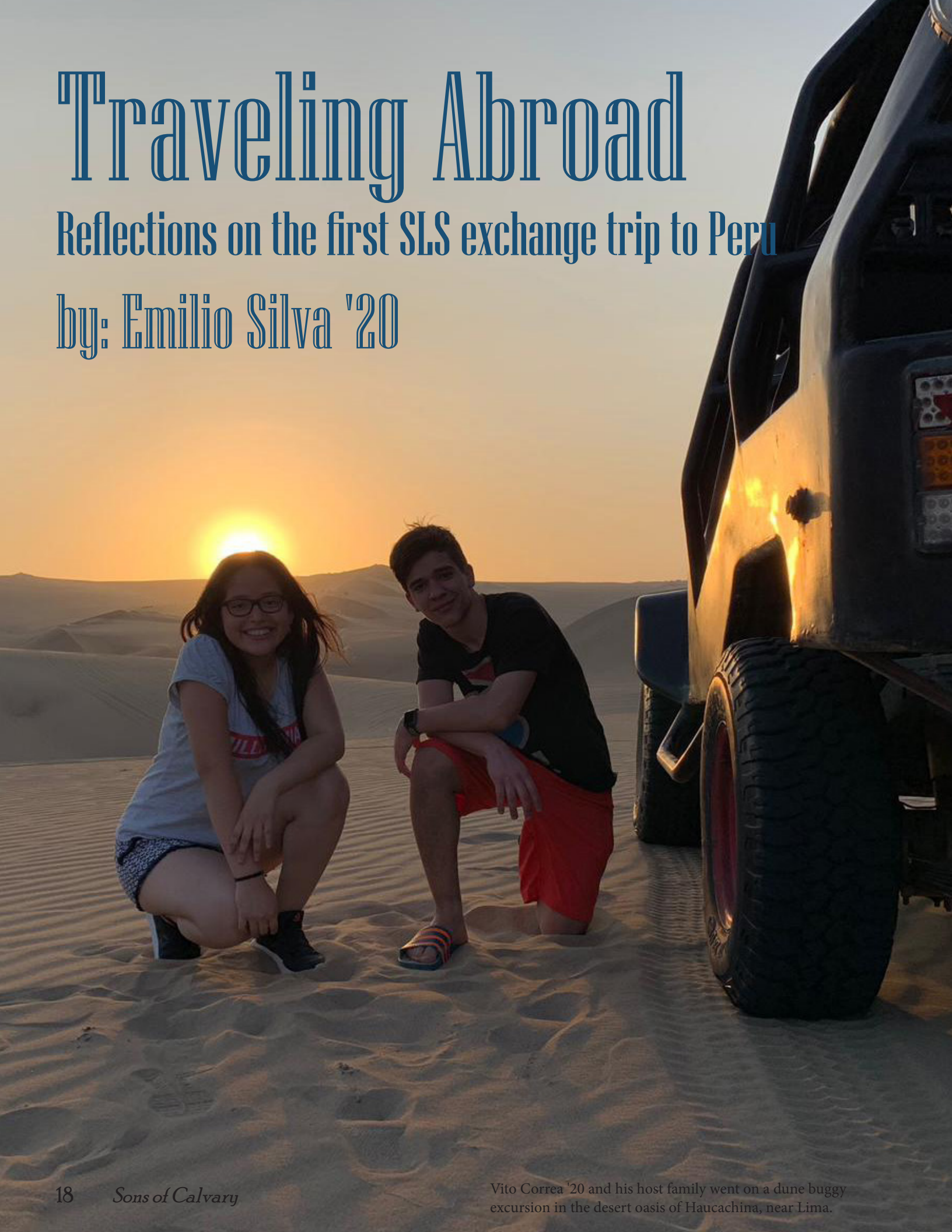
Toan Nguyen '21 proudly displays a jar of "Hilltop Gold." Toan shared his syrup with his family and former teachers in Vietnam this summer.



# Traveling Abroad

Reflections on the first SLS exchange trip to Peru

by: Emilio Silva '20



This was my first time ever being outside the country and also my first time in a place where only Spanish was spoken. I remember, when I arrived at the airport, how different it felt to only hear and read Spanish, but I gradually grew accustomed to it.

We were greeted by administrators of Santa Ana School at Lima, Peru, our partner school. They took us to the campus where I met my host family, the Gil-Espinozas. It wasn't long before they became my second family. They taught me a lot about Peru: the culture, the vocabulary, the food. They introduced me to Chifa, a style of Chinese cuisine that blends with Peruvian food. They even taught me the choreography of their folkloric dance "Festejo".

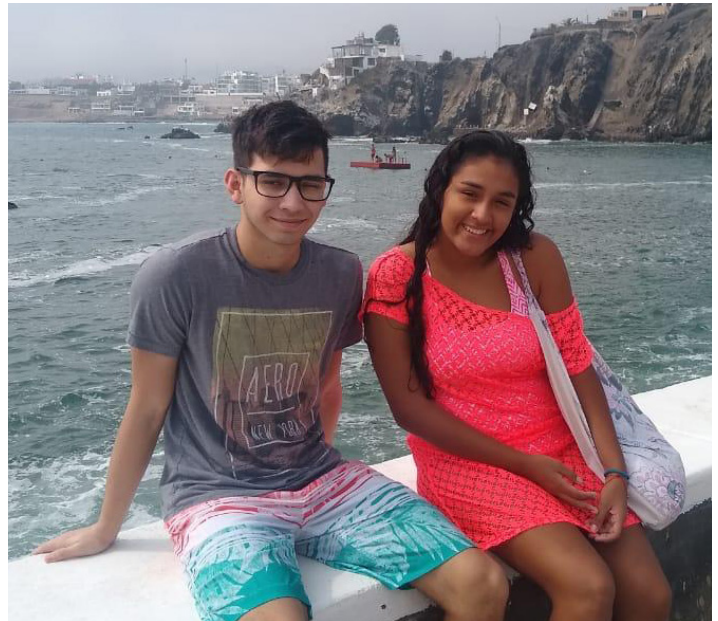
They also introduced me to Lima. I saw many neighborhoods, both rich and poor, beautiful and unkempt, but out of all of them, my favorite was Barranco. This town is alive day and night, full of tourists, musicians, vendors and artists.

We also took trips as a group. We took a walking tour of Peru's churches. We visited Ciudad de los Niños, a Capuchin-run school, and played with the children there.

Most days I went to school with my host Alexandra. Every day Santa Ana School has a different course schedule and their high school years (educación secundaria) last from the ages of 12-16. Of course, everything was in Spanish, and so I really got comfortable with using the language!

This trip was only 12 days long, but it was life-changing. I made friends, discovered a culture and improved in my Spanish skills. Currently, I am in Spanish 5 and hope to continue with it beyond high school. I am very proud to have been a part of this trip to Peru and I look forward to hosting them here this year. ■

(Top) Author Emilio Silva on a sightseeing tour of the islands of Lima with his host family. (Below) Robert Little '20 plays with children at Ciudad de los Niños, a Capuchin school in Lima.



The first SLS delegation to Peru on their 12-day trip, along with their teacher-chaperones, Miriam Liborio and Jose Liborio.



## MATH AND FORENSICS CHAMPIONS!



Congratulations to math teachers Mrs. Jenny Tabbert (left) and Ms. Jamie Stephanie (right) and their math team. They capped their successful 2018-2019 season by taking the Flyway Conference championship!



Congratulations also to forensics coach Mr. Martin Vu '15 (first row, right) and his forensics team. They won both the 2019 Flyway Conference championship and first for Division 3 in the WFCAs State Forensics Tournament held at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

# St. Lawrence Seminary

## EXPLORE THE DIFFERENCE

*Schedule your*  
**2019-2020**  
**WEEKEND VISIT**

September 5-8

October 24-27

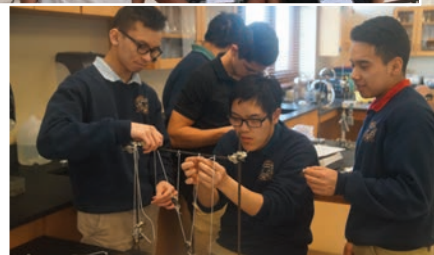
November 14-17

December 12-15

February 6-9

March 19-22

April 2-5



Visit us at [www.stlawrence.edu](http://www.stlawrence.edu) for more information!

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# CLASS NOTES

## 2019 ALL-CLASS REUNION

On Saturday, September 21, over 80 alumni from many different classes gathered on the Hill. They ran the Hilltopper, played soccer against current students, toured campus and gathered for Mass. Four alumni were honored with Brindisi Awards: Peter Kolar '87, Mark Crowley '76, Br. John Willger ofm CAP '66 and Fr. Wally Kasuboski, ofm CAP '65. Look for their biographies in the next issue of *Sons of Calvary* and plan on coming to the all-class reunion next year, September 19, 2020! ■



(Counter-clockwise from top) Robert Arias '08 and Sebastian Vervaeck '00 run the Hilltopper. Ricky Rocha '18 and Carlos Núñez '19 team up with other alumni against the current SLS soccer team. Juan Romero '95 reminisces with his family. Member of the class of '79 celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. Don Mueller '64 identifies a photo of Dan May '65 in the Heritage Room.

# STUDENT INK...

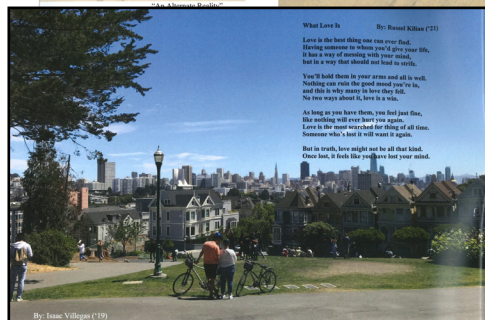
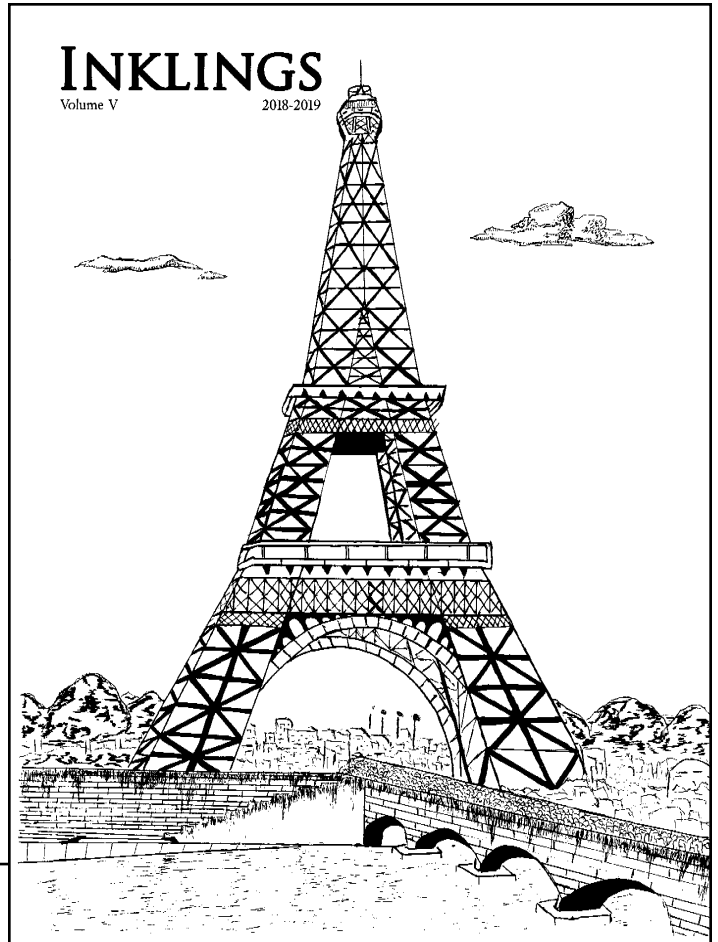
## DID YOU KNOW THE STUDENTS HAVE AN ARTS AND LITERATURE MAGAZINE ?

*Inklings* is the St. Lawrence Seminary arts and literature magazine that publishes student artwork and poetry. Any student may submit original works for consideration, and the student staff of *Inklings*, advised by Mrs. Katie Daane, choose those that should be published.

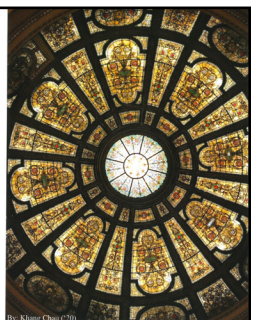
Zach Nolte '21 remarked: "*Inklings* is an opportunity to recognize those who have hidden talents. I think that it is a great magazine."

For students who submit their work, being published is important. Claiemore Tango-an '20, said, "I feel very honored. This was my first work that was published. I'm proud that my work was featured in *Inklings*."

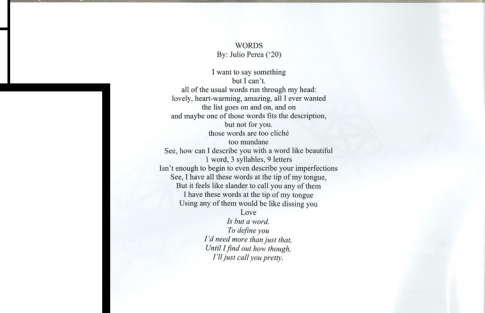
You can find digital issues under "SLS Publications" at the website: <https://www.stlawrence.edu>



**What Love Is** By: Ronald Kilian ('21)  
 Love is the best thing you can ever find.  
 Having someone to whom you'd give your life,  
 It has a way of coming with your mind,  
 but in a way that should not lead to strife.  
 You'll find them in your eyes and all its work,  
 Nothing can ruin the good mood you're in,  
 and this is why some in love may fall.  
 No two ways about it, love is a win.  
 As long as you have them, you feel just fine,  
 His smiling will ease your eyes,  
 Love is the most wonderful thing of all time.  
 Someone who, love is truly worth it quite.  
 But in truth, love might not be all that kind,  
 Once lost, it feels like you've lost your mind.



**Good Faith** By: James Chavez ('21)  
 Sadness, broken hearts, even misery,  
 You tell me that your life is made of these,  
 You showed me proof, so that I, too, might see,  
 I saw, and on my heart I felt a seque.  
 Your tale was truly very saddening,  
 Oh, how I wished that I could mend your scars!  
 I wish that I had given you something,  
 on that night when we looked up at the stars.  
 You said you're sad, even when most are not,  
 I saw you leave and worried about you,  
 I very nearly shed tears, wet and hot,  
 How I wish you saw from my point of view.  
 Whenever we chat, joy comes to my heart,  
 You make me feel loved, although we're apart.



**Peppermint Chocolates** By: Axel Huicochea ('20)  
 The things I used to care about don't matter anymore,  
 And the stuff that had no importance are now my first priority  
 Why is everything so different?  
 "Friend" used to be a simple word I told everyone  
 But now it's a matter of knowing who to trust.  
 Why is everything so different?  
 There was a time I looked everybody in the eye  
 But then I realized not everyone deserves it.  
 Why is everything so different?  
 Everyday used to be an adventure  
 But now I'm lucky if I even have a good day  
 Maybe it's me who's different  
 Why is everything so different?  
 Maybe it's my fault everything is changing  
 But the only way I could have changed it if someone  
 made me do it.  
 So maybe it's your fault everything is changing  
 You have all the lies and broken promises to prove it  
 I was so blinded by the fact that you were behind it  
 I understood that you had your problems, but I didn't mind it  
 Instead of trying to change yourself, you changed me  
 I don't know why things were different  
 But now it's plain to see.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**ALUMNI GATHERING IN MILWAUKEE NOV 23**  
**CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC 20**  
**3-ON-3 ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FEB 1**

## Four Happy Years

by: Leander Wick '55

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

I remember the first time coming to the Hill. It was quite an experience coming from a little town of Fussville (now Menomonee Falls) where I went to a two-room elementary parochial school with four grades upstairs and four grades downstairs and one nun with no assistants for each room.

St. Lawrence was huge and beautiful. I have fond memories of the Laurentianum with the chapel on the end, the long corridor leading to the study hall, and the store, rector's office, and spiritual director's office. The basement was a busy place because of the canteen (half pints of ice cream were 25 cents and candy bars were a nickel and they came in only one size). It also had our food lockers where we shared or hid our special cookies and goodies from home. The barber shop was down the basement corridor where upper-classmen gave haircuts. Many of us had flat tops.

Across from the St. Lawrence of Brindisi statue was the old monastery. At my time as a freshman, there was still no St. Mary's or dining

room. We had our meals in the large room just inside the monastery. We were assigned tables and there was always a senior at the head of the table. We were served family style. A loaf of unsliced bread was at each table. When the table ran out of bread someone would hold up a knife and a loaf would be delivered. We lived on homemade bread quite a bit. Of course, there was a head table that was occupied by the rector and a couple of professors: Gerald Walker, Gratian Zach, Crispin Weinberger, among others.

On the opposite side of the Laurentianum was St. Thomas Hall. There we would gather on Sunday nights to watch a film at 7:00 p.m. The fathers would preview the film the night before. We usually knew what was coming because when the mailman left the big film reels on the landing inside the building, somebody would check what the label said.

I was one of the last people out the night of the fire in St. Thomas Hall, when the film caught fire and the flames raced through the hall

on the nets that were on the sides to protect the walls during basketball season. We were upset by that fire, but St. Thomas Hall came back. I spent many of my off hours downstairs in the bowling alley. I was on the class team and

carried a respectable 160 average. If not bowling, I set pins.

Daily Mass was at 7:00 a.m. We always had the High Mass later on Sunday mornings. During late spring we had a chaplet outside at Mary's shrine near the handball courts.

The first two years my dorm was in St. Joseph Hall. I think all 50 of us freshmen were in the same room on the second floor. Saturdays were busy in the dorm with classmates coming and going. Showers, polishing shoes, getting your clothes case ready to send home the dirty wash in the mail. Hopefully there would be a case arriving Monday with clean clothes and a note from your mother.

My second year I was on the third floor of St. Joseph Hall in one of the alcoves. I shared the alcove with one guy who rarely took a shower and slept in his basketball shorts after a game. Another classmate sent his clothes to be washed to the nuns on the other hill. One time he got back his jock with a note, "Not all parts here."

Those were four happy years on the Hill of Happiness. We only got off the Hill for Thanksgiving Day, between Christmas and New Year, and a couple days around Easter. Otherwise it was just for the doctor or the dentist or sneaking down the hill. Ahem! ■



The cost of an ice cream in the canteen may have gone up to \$1 per cup or cone, but it's still a regular after school treat.

HAVE A STORY TO TELL OR A MEMORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?  
WRITE TO US OR SEND AN EMAIL  
AT: [sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu](mailto:sonsofcalvary@stlawrence.edu)

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