

HILLTOPICS

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

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VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

HILLTOPICS

2021 - 2022 HILLTOPICS STAFF

Starting Off the School Year With a *Splash*

Ricky Conlin ('22)

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Seniors on the Hill have a number of special responsibilities and privileges that the other classes do not, from having all of St. Francis Hall to themselves to being responsible for leading their fraternities and work crews. The blue senior sweater bears responsibility. Pressure is definitely on the senior class, so to ease the new seniors into their final year on the Hill, they kick off the school year with a trip to the Wisconsin Dells. This year, the senior class of 2022 went to Noah's Ark the first Saturday after orientation. The previous senior class was unable to have such an outing due to COVID-19, but this year's class was able to reestablish the Hilltoppers' presence in the Dells.

With the sun out, the seniors jumped down a tsunami of waterfalls, relaxed down the lazy river, and slurped down some overpriced slushies: the full waterpark experience. It was a time of bonding and memory forging for the senior class. "It was a fun experience," stated Richard Perez, "especially with how we got to go together as a class. It was a great day to forget about school for a day and be with friends."

Senior year at SLS is a year of hard work and responsibility but also fun and memories. The senior class of 2022 started the latter of which with their trip to Noah's Ark, and they are now ready to lead the student body through a successful and memorable school year.



ADVICE CORNER

Kiet Do ('22)

What is homesickness? When you're in a new place, it can take some time getting used to. How will you fall asleep in Cube 13 in Sophomore dorm without your night-light and the sound of your mom watching TV in the next room? Won't it be strange at a class retreat without your dad to give you a kiss goodnight? Realizing homesickness is one of the most common issues that students face at SLS, we have chosen this topic to be discussed in the advice corner.

When you're homesick, you're not sick in the usual way, like when you have a cold. Homesick means you're upset, sad, and maybe scared. You might cry when you're homesick. You also might have a headache or stomachache because being upset can sometimes make your body feel bad, too.

If you feel homesick, this advice is for you! Here are the two most effective ways to overcome homesickness:

- **Bring a little bit of home with you.**

If you're going away from home, bring your pillow, blanket, or your favorite pajamas. You may want to bring pictures of your family and friends to look at any time you want. Fun fact: Ricky Conlin ('22) has a blanket made of pictures of him since he was a baby!

- **Keep busy.**

The more fun stuff you do, the less time you will have to feel homesick. Try to join in activities wherever you are!

Moving to a new place and starting at a new school is never easy. So, talk about it with others around you and give it some time. You'll be surprised how quickly homesickness can be overcome.

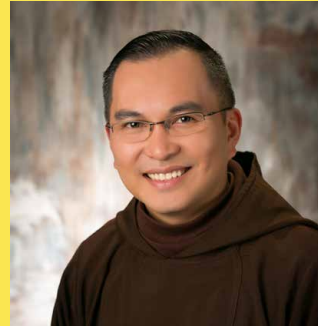
Rector's

Corner

Welcome to the first edition of this year's Hilltopics! As I write this entry for the Rector's Corner, I muse about the wonderful events that took place recently on the Hill. On September 18, after a year hiatus, the Hilltopper Cross Country Invitational came back with a bang. This year's much-anticipated event attracted cross country runners from fourteen high schools as well as running enthusiasts of different ages from all over Wisconsin and outside the state. We were blessed that day with ideal weather. Runners appeared eager and ready to traverse the daunting course and conquer Big Bertha. And conquer they did! I was stationed at the finish line handing out cups of water to the runners and helping our school nurse attend to runners who needed assistance or treatment. The look of relief and satisfaction of having finished the course on the faces of the runners was, to me, priceless.

Not long after the conclusion of the cross country event, a student vs. alumni soccer game was held on the Alumni Soccer Field. Our varsity team played in the first half and our JV team in the second. It was a fun and exciting game that was won in the end by the alumni. Following the soccer game, the Sons of Calvary gathered in the chapel for the Alumni Mass. It was good to see Sons of Calvary past and present join together in celebrating the Eucharist and being nourished by God's Word and Christ's presence in the sacrament. At the Mass, we honored three alumni for their contributions to the Church and society. Perhaps the most poignant part of the celebration for me was the singing of the Hymn to the Alma Mater before the final blessing. It was a fitting conclusion to the day's events. I will cherish those memories for years to come.

As you glance through the pages of this publication, you may see photos taken at those events. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for their work in front and behind the scenes to make the Hilltopper and Alumni Mass possible, safe, and successful. I also would like to thank our students for their work in this edition of the Hilltopics. We look forward to sharing with you photos and accounts of events throughout this school year on this Hill of Happiness. Stay tuned.



WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Rem Quintin V. David ('22)

Freshman Sebastian Montemayor heard about SLS from his two cousins who've attended this school. One of whom was Jovan Hernandez who graduated last year. Sebastian lives by the motto: "If you want to do something, just send it!" Sebastian wants to have fun while getting good grades. Having wrestled since fifth grade, he's already anticipating the wrestling season. "It's been good and busy since getting here; there's lots of homework. So far, algebra can be a challenge at times," he revealed.

During the summer, Sebastian went out often with his family and friends; they even visited some relatives in Texas. He also likes to spend his free time sleeping or fishing. Along with his family and friends from home, he misses his pets too. He has a dog named Lola, a cat named Mello, a guinea pig named Edgar, and a duck named Gonzo. It will take a while for him to see them, but breaks are coming soon.



Sebastian Montemayor ('25)



Andrew Nguyen ('24)

Sleeping for 10-12 hours at home, sophomore Andrew Nguyen intends to be more active in school. "I want one more hour of sleep, but I also want to focus because I didn't really do that when I was home," Andrew admitted. He's a part of the cross country team and plays percussion in band. Also, he wants to take woodshop classes in the future. Andrew is excited for all the possible extracurricular activities that he can join.

Sleeping wasn't the only thing that Andrew did back home, he liked going out for "night joyrides" with his sisters. Andrew has 15 cats that just sit around in his house. In his free time, he likes to play Roblox and use his pogo stick. Although he misses his family, Andrew says that he's been doing well. He learned about SLS through his mom's friend, and he didn't go on a weekend visit. Not knowing what to expect, Andrew simply goes with the flow.

A third culture kid, junior Clive Moras is used to having multiple homes. He lived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabi until 7th grade when his family moved to Karnataka, India. Now, he's here at SLS. "Earl D'Souza introduced me to this school, and the idea of coming to the United States persuaded me to push through," Clive explained. Back at home, he loved to play soccer and Call of Duty, listen to music, and go out with his friends. They went to cafes and went bowling. Although he misses India, he plans to do his best here.

"I want to make a lot of money in the future and go work out more," Clive mentioned. He had to stop working out because he developed rhabdomyolysis: excessive muscle breakdown that can damage the organs. But he's better now. Other than that, Clive wants to stay on top of school. His most difficult class right now is Mr. Dennis Holm's Biology 2 class. Regardless, he thinks he'll manage.



Clive Moras ('23)

What Did You Do This

SUMMER?

Noel Choi ('23)

The new school year started and the obvious question when everyone came together on the Hill was: “What did you do over the summer?” Many students took a break to restore their energy from their journey at SLS. Many students had an exciting summer from traveling around the world to working for hours and hours.

For instance, junior Sungho Bak traveled all the way to Korea this summer to see his family and his friends. One of the most unforgettable places that Sungho traveled to was Jeju Island. He said, “I will never forget going to Jeju Island with my best friends. I had so much fun there, and I will be likely to visit Jeju again when I have time.” While on Jeju Island, he saw the distinct colors of the ocean, ate lots of Korean food and visited aesthetic cafes. His favorite Korean dish while on Jeju Island was Jjamppong, which had lots of seafood, such as oyster, crab, and mussel. Even though it cost him a lot of money, he thought it was well spent for a trip that he enjoyed.

On the other hand, senior Nathan Fernandes traveled to Abu Dhabi, UAE, to see his family over summer. Surprisingly, he went to a 70's themed party. Nathan wore a black turtleneck, with bell bottom jeans and dress shoes for the 70's theme. Nathan said, “The party was unique, especially seeing how his friends dressed up for the theme party.” He had lot of fun, leaving him with good memories.



Most of the students enjoyed their summer break, but so have the staff and faculty members. Mr. Alex Lupercio, who joined the SLS community this summer, went to many great places, his favorites being Oklahoma and Las Vegas. He and six other friends traveled across the country to Oklahoma. They traveled 12 hours to celebrate a friend's wedding. Although it was reaching 100 degrees every day, he enjoyed the delectable Mexican food and boisterous dance party. Moreover, he went to Las Vegas with five members of his family to commemorate his new job at SLS. He visited multiple places, such as a Go-Kart park, Marvel museum, crime museum and a huge sneaker store. He and his family stayed in Las Vegas for six days which made it more memorable. Astonishingly, he even met Josh Giddy who plays for the Oklahoma Thunders! He said, “My trip to both cities will be memories I will never forget.” He loved the fact that he was able to see his friends and spend time with family.

It was surprising to hear how the students and staff members spent their summer. Even though the summer break went too fast for many, students were able to spend time with their families and friends, giving them “enough” rest to prepare for the new school year.



Tradition Carried on by Mr. Bryce Gassner

Christopher Lor ('23)

St Lawrence is a lovely place full of great students and caring teachers,” stated Mr. Bryce Gassner, the newest faculty member on the Hill. Located in room 405, Mr. Gassner teaches every Latin class offered by the school. Mr. Gassner’s goal is to teach students the basics of Latin and to develop an understanding of it. Mr. Gassner developed a love for Latin by reading the diverse literature written by Latin scholars and authors. Chimnedum Osuala, a junior studying Latin, said, “I feel that [Mr. Gassner] is a pretty good teacher. He is pretty fun, and you can relate to the stuff he talks about. He wants us to have fun in class.” Alongside Latin, Mr. Gassner co-teaches Freshman Guidance, a class that teaches freshmen their social skills and the rules of SLS.

Mr. Gassner started his four-year college journey by going to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, getting a bachelor degree in Philosophy and a minor in Political Science. He followed that up by getting a master degree in Classical Philology from Texas Tech University. Mr. Gassner decided to join the SLS staff because he wanted to connect with a strong Catholic community. Not only that, but he wanted to continue the long-term tradition of Latin and faith on the Hill.

Either in Latin class or Freshman Guidance, Mr. Gassner interacts with his students. He keeps his students active and interested in whatever lesson that is planned for the day. Mr. Gassner describes his class as “in between serious and funny.” Outside the classroom, Mr. Gassner enjoys reading ancient Greek and other classics. His goal is to learn a lot about this school and to get accustomed to the school year. Unquestionably, the gentle nature of Mr. Gassner will enlighten students and their St. Lawrence experience.



RUNNING *atop* a Lofty HILLSIDE

Earl D'Souza ('22)

The Hilltopper is a beloved Saint Lawrence tradition, loved by some, dreaded by others, and held annually for the last 43 years. However, this year's iteration of the combined cross-country meet, fun run and alumni reunion was a little different: last year, the event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Holding the Hilltopper is important to many students and staff because it's such an anticipated highlight in the school year. Sixty students and 32 staff members volunteered to help with the event, which was very helpful. Athletic Director Mr. Chad Dowland, who was in charge of organizing the event said, "We didn't really have to make any changes compared to before the pandemic, but we did have a couple of teams drop out before the meet due to COVID related reasons."

Mr. Dowland said, "It was great to have the invite back. It did take a lot of work to organize and host, but what I love about the Hilltopper is that it creates an opportunity for our runners to compete at home and also for us to display our beautiful campus to visitors." The weather cooperated: temperatures at the time of the race were in the 70's, and there was no rain. Fox Valley Lutheran High School won the girls' varsity race, and Sheboygan Lutheran High School won the boys' varsity. Both the SLS varsity and JV cross country teams placed 7th at the meet, with the top finishers, juniors Joaquin Barajas-Orozco in 8th, Nicholas Dean in 30th and senior Rem David in 31st running varsity, and sophomore Jonathan Prado in 13th, junior James O'Neill in 26th, and senior Chueyee Lor in 32nd in the JV race. Senior Rem David, a member of the cross-country team, said about the race, "It was good having the Hilltopper back. It's kind of sad too, because this is the last one that I'm going to be running as a student, but I'm glad I got to have that experience."

The event also involved an alumni reunion, with many former Hilltoppers returning for the "Fun Run" which followed the meet. The alumni event also included a soccer game with SLS varsity and JV soccer players against a team of alumni in the afternoon. With a score of 9-3 the alumni took home the win. In the evening, there was a mass attended by students, alumni, and their families, after which the Brindisi Awards were presented by the Alumni Association. It was a long day of events, but the much anticipated Hilltopper offered a great opportunity for many to come to the Hill.



CALLED TO SERVE

Hung Dao ('23)

The Student Council of SLS is a team of student leaders who take the students' wants and wishes to the administrators. Leading the council this year is President Jacob Lim, Vice President Kiet Do, Secretary Washington Thor, and Treasurer Ricky Conlin. Together with the other elected student government representatives from each class, they work closely with Mr. Quan Nguyen, their advisor, to organize student activities and to advocate for the student body. President Jacob Lim said, "This year, we're trying to get the students to be more involved in school life. That's why we're doing school game nights this year." So far, the council has helped with a welcoming bingo night at the beginning of the year and Labor Day activities, all which went smoothly.

The council is not the only source of leadership within each class. Every year, each class also elects a president, vice president, spiritual life representative, and three student council representatives. The president and vice president work with class advisors to lead the class and organize class activities. The student council representatives are the students' voice; they make food recommendations or coordinate activities, such as, dress down days for student. The spiritual life representative leads class prayers and assign ministers for Mass. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors held their elections for these positions on the third Monday of the school year, and the results were announced right after the voting was finished. The seniors elected President David Meza, Vice President Rem Quintin David, Spiritual Life Representative Joseph Hall, and Student Council Representatives Nathan Fernandes, Kevin Herrera, and Gael Palacios-Prieto. Juniors voted for President Benisio Gamino, Vice President Jeoung Woo "Noel" Choi, Spiritual Life Representative Christopher Lor, and Student Council Representatives Sungho Bak, Angel Hernandez, and Donghyun "Mac" Kim. The sophomores chose President Daniel Cornejo, Vice President Cesar Gonzalez, Spiritual Life Representative Alan Pham, and Student Council Representatives Kiet Pham, Noah Reither, and Huy Tran. When the elected were asked what their goals were for the school year, most agreed that they wanted to make the school year more enjoyable and to create a strong brotherhood.

The elected officers were commissioned one week after they got elected. The entire school congregated in the chapel to witness the elects being given their Tau crosses, a symbol of their leadership. Then, they were blessed by the entire student body as they began their service as the leaders of the community. Freshmen have yet to elect their officers as they are given a few months to familiarize themselves with one another. Their class elections will be held in the second quarter. The class officers hold tremendous responsibilities and the student body entrust those elected to serve the community well as leaders.



Down and Dirty in Detroit

Joseph Hall ('22)

At Saint Lawrence Seminary, ministry is irrefutably a vital component of the community. Whether it's helping at nursing homes or giving witness talks to prospective students, there is always something that can be done to help ease the burden of others on and off campus. But the ministry opportunities don't end when the school year is finished. Each year, students are invited to give of themselves by serving on the SLS Mission Trip.

In a normal year, the mission trip would provide students with a chance to travel to the Texas Mexico border to help with housing projects for the immigrants and poor people there. But, due to increased airport complications from COVID this past year Dr. Michael Donohue, the organizer of the mission trip, had to produce a new plan. "I wanted to choose somewhere where the students could see multiple Capuchin ministries in action. I wanted them to see that the Capuchins are not only involved in education but also in food pantries, homeless shelters, and even gardens." In the end, Detroit was set as the destination for this past year's mission trip.

The incoming seniors who signed up for the trip set out from Saint Lawrence on May 30th. After a full day of traveling and a stop at a Milwaukee cathedral, the students and chaperones arrived at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Mount Vernon, MI, where they would be staying for the duration of the trip. They were given a tour of the grounds, had a meeting and prayer session, then headed to bed to rest up for the

next day's activities.

The next morning, the students rose and went to breakfast. After a brief meeting they set out for Capuchin Service Center. When they arrived, they were welcomed and given a talk about the services provided at the center and how important it was to the poor of the area. Then they were shown the clothing and grocery sections, where they would be helping. Jacob Lim, one of the students on the trip reflected, "The service center was a lot nicer than I thought it would be. It was like a regular grocery store." The students

helped to sort clothes, stock shelves, and do landscaping work around the center. It was a full day of hard work but they were still excited to take a tour of Detroit. After the tour they headed back to the retreat center.

The next day was a day to explore. The students visited the Solanus Casey Center, ate lunch at a Capuchin soup kitchen, adventured in the Henry Ford Museum, and toured downtown Detroit. It was an educational and entertaining experience that everyone enjoyed. When the day was done, they headed back to the retreat center and prepared for the next and final day of ministry. The following day the students helped at the Urban Garden and soup kitchen. There, they helped gather vegetables, pick berries, and wash the produce. Feeling fulfilled and in good spirits they slept well and headed home the following day. The trip was a success not only in helping numerous people afflicted by poverty, but also in providing the students with a new and exciting experience that was enjoyed by all.



CROSS COUNTRY

AUTUMN

Harvey Nguyen ('22)

There are two things that SLS students run for: the first is for lunch, and the second is for cross country. As students began to switch from vacation mode to study mode this fall, cross country practices also started. With Mr. Kevin Buelow and Mr. Joshua Brath as their coaches, the runners were sure to receive good training, full of guidance and discipline. Practices often started with stretching to prepare the runners for the core training, which most often was speed or stamina. Sometimes, the coaches organized runs off the campus grounds, a nice way to enjoy the countryside view while getting their daily run in. Daily practices with different exercises and under different running conditions prepared runners for every cross-country meet.

Nutrition is another important factor that helps a runner improve their performance; the coaches often advised runners to have a high carb meal the day before a meet. However, many might question, doesn't a high carb diet cause weight gain? Senior runner Chueyee Lor responded, "No, actually, running cross country burns a lot of calories, so runners burn off the carbs consumed as fuel."

Even though Cross Country takes up a good amount of a runner's free time, most are still well prepared for classes and complete their schoolwork on time. Before leaving for every meet, Rem Quintin David said, "I make sure I have the material I need to complete the assignments for the next school day and work on it when there is free time during the meet." With the new season started, runners had a chance to set new goals for themselves. Some aimed high, some a little lower, but all shared a common goal: compete fairly and improve while having fun.



SPORTS

SOCCER

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

As the students rolled back into St. Lawrence Seminary, anticipation built for another successful school year, especially for members of the soccer team. In 2020, the Hilltoppers rewrote history by making it to the State Championship Final; their second time in twenty-seven years at the state level. The title was not meant to be, however, losing 0-4 to the Prairie School Hawks. Fast-forward ten months, and the Hilltoppers are back, fully focused on avenging their defeat. This season, the WIAA introduced updated rules for players and coaches. The dreaded mask mandate was rescinded, teams no longer had to wear masks during games. With this in mind, the SLS soccer team assembled a 21-man-squad in pursuit of redemption. With spirits high in the SLS camp, team captain, David Meza (DM), and Head Coach, David Bartel (DB), was interviewed prior to the season.

What do you think SLS's chances are of making state again this season?

DM: "I feel like our chances are just as high as last year. Everyone just has to be willing to work hard and stay focused on the end goal."

What is the mentality going into this season?

DM: "My mentality as of right now is work, work, work. I want to push myself past my limits this year, not only for myself, but for the team as well."

Led by coaches Mr. David Bartel and Mr. Sebastian Vervaeck, the team kicked off the new season with a 2-0-win against Mayville High School and a 3-1 win against Kohler High School. Following the latter win, Mr. David Bartel had this to say.

If you had to pick one moment to be your favorite from when the team went to state last season, what would it be?

DB: "Well, there's two things that come to mind. One, the sectional final game, when we scored the goals and knew we were going to State. Secondly, the support that we had from the fans and the alumni and everyone coming together, especially during the pandemic."

What do you think is your biggest challenge this season?

DB: "Our biggest challenge is finding out who goes where on the team. Finding out who can play what position is always the biggest challenge."

So far, it is all positive things coming out of the SLS camp. Hopefully, the St. Lawrence Hilltoppers of '21- '22 continue in this positive direction.





SCAVENGER HUNT

The day this issue of Hilltopics was delivered to students' mailboxes, a note was hidden somewhere on campus, and this riddle will tell you where it is. Bring that note to either Kiet Do or Ricky Conlin, and you will receive a prize. Be quick, though, because only the first person to find the note gets the prize.

Good luck!

Many currencies all around the globe,

When searching one could find a
treasure trove.

Yes, money is stooped deep in history,

But there's a prize waiting in mystery.

Go searching in the well-known cliffs
and crags,

But don't think he'll give in to all your
begs.

So go, be swift, be fast.

This prize will not last.

