

# HILLTOPICS

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

H

I  
S  
S  
U  
E

II



II  
e  
n  
s  
s  
I

H

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

# HILLTOPICS

# 2021 - 2022 HILLTOPICS STAFF

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:

Ricky Conlin

Kiet Do

## ADVISOR

Mrs. Deann Sippel

## WRITERS

Ricky Conlin

Earl D'Souza

Kiet Do

Harvey Nguyen

Nathan Fernandes

Noel Choi

Joseph Hall

Christopher Lor

Rem Quintin David

Hung Dao

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rem Quintin David

Mac Kim

Ian Le

Diego Orozco

Emiliano Ochoa

Tyler Le

Gael Palacios-Prieto

Xavier Saucedo

## MISCELLANEOUS WORKERS

Sungho Bak

Ciproquio Williams

Emiliano Ochoa

Diego Orozco

Jacob Lim

# TABLE of CONTENTS

Advice Corner - p. 3

Rector's Corner - p. 3

The Latest and Greatest - p. 4

Chef Chiefs - p. 5

Family Comes First - p. 5

A Look Inside the Juern-al - p.6

It is in Giving that We Receive - p. 7

Scoreboard - p.8

The Greatest Comeback - p.8

Spirit Week - p.9

What Did You Do During Home Weekend? - p. 10

Saturday Night Live - p. 11

Scavenger Hunt - p. 12





# ADVICE CORNER

Kiet Do ('22)

As Home Weekend marks the end of the first quarter, students are required to meet with Fr. Zoy to reflect on their academics. While some students leave his office with a big smile, others might find some difficulties bringing their grades up. If you're trying to raise your current grades or are just looking toward future success, Issue II's Advice Corner is for you! Here are the two good tips to getting a good grade:

- **Do your homework.**

It sounds obvious, doesn't it? Yet, the main cause for students landing on the D and F list is leaving their assignments unfinished or waiting until right before the test to do them. If you aren't doing the homework, you won't understand class material, which means you won't be able to ask the right questions or get the appropriate help.

- **Participate in class.**

Whether it's answering a question, asking a question, participating actively in group work, or otherwise being involved in the classroom, participation in class is a great way to master the material and show your teacher that you're trying hard.

Don't stress out! A good grade is not your learning destiny. What really matters are your development, your mindset, your personality, your ability, your attitude, and skills. Pay attention to these by-products and then, simultaneously, a better grade is on the way, waving to you. Good luck in the second quarter!



## RECTOR'S CORNER

I remember seeing a television commercial for one of the largest insurance companies in the United States. In that commercial, an African-American stage and film actor with his deep, cool, and soothing voice tells of the uncertainties in life and the need for security. He ends his pitch with a phrase that has become the slogan for this company: *"Are you in good hands?"* The company's logo then appears: two open hands—one on top of the other—in the same manner we hold out our hands to receive Holy Communion.

*"In good hands."* We may hear these words spoken to us sometimes when we entrust someone or something to the care of another.

*"In good hands."* When we hear these words, we can be rest assured that whoever or whatever it is that we entrust will be safe and okay. *"In good hands."* When these words are spoken to us, we are given a sense of assurance and security.

In the month of November, we commemorate the souls of all the faithful departed. The readings proper to that day remind us that *"the souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them."* *"Only goodness and mercy shall follow (them) . . . and they shall dwell in the house of the LORD for all eternity."* *"In good hands"* is where they are. And that is where we shall also be one day.

The liturgy for commemoration of the faithful departed point to Jesus Christ as the hope of both the living and the dead. It sees new life in Christ as God's promise that enables us to face death with faith and hope. Death is not the end. It does not have the last word. For Christ has conquered death and his victory is also ours. Resurrection is the promise that awaits all who live and die in Christ.

As we commemorate all our deceased family members, friends, colleagues or acquaintances, let us keep in mind that even though they are no longer with us in body, they are with us in spirit. They now intercede for us to God along with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the angels and the saints in heaven. They are *"In good hands."*

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



# THE LATEST AND GREATEST

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

**F**rom one brother to the next, Daniel Pizaña heard about SLS from his two brothers, Alexander ('17) and Emmanuel Pizaña ('21). First acquainted with the school when he was a grade-schooler, he quickly came to love the community here. Now eight years later, and finally here, Daniel says he feels comfortable at SLS. "I am planning to run for student council representative this year. I aim to set higher standards for myself to continuously improve because that is my main driving force." Daniel also anticipates the fast-approaching wrestling season. "Right now, I just want to see where I'm at and see what I can do better." However, he has time to prepare for the season which maybe a promising one for the young Pizaña.



**F**ollowing a long family history of alumni, Noah is the fifth of his family to step through the doors at St. Lawrence, preceded by his uncle Robert Arias ('08), brother Nicholas Rodriguez ('20), and cousins Emilio Silva ('20) and Vincent Ledesma ('21). Over the summer, Noah and his family had a busy time moving houses in Indiana. At school, Noah plans to join the band soon saying, "I played the trumpet for three years, but I need to refresh my memory and keep practicing so I can join soon." Moreover, he adds, "I'm planning to run for President of the freshman class. I want to work together to improve things around campus." In conclusion, Noah confidently stated, "I am going to make the JV soccer team next year!" Knowing his goals, Noah seems committed to improving.

**H**e discovered SLS through his uncle, Jose Alonso ('01). Prior to his arrival in the fall, Jerry had a lively summer, traveling to Miami and Mexico. He spent four days in Miami with his family and another two weeks in Mexico. Jerry says his frat has helped him adjust to life on the Hill, "Ciproquio, my senior, has helped give me tips and advice on what to do." He also believes his frat has what it takes to win everything this year. On a personal level, Jerry says he hopes to make his family proud by being on the Dean's List. He also plans to try out for the baseball team, having previously played left and center field for five years in Chicago. Confident in his abilities, Jerry plans to start off his high school career on a strong note.







# Chef Chiefs



Earl D'Souza ('22)

Providing future graduates with the skills they need to cook meals for themselves is the goal of the Cooking Club at SLS. The club was founded in 2013 to help seniors learn some basic cooking skills and to bond while cooking together. This group is made up of about 10 seniors who are randomly selected from a sign-up. Mrs. Katie Daane has been the club's facilitator ever since it began. She said, "I'm not a chef, so I tell the students it is really about getting to spend some time together in the kitchen, maybe learn a new skill, or teach me a new skill, and share a meal together. It's really about community as much as it is about the food."

This year, the club's first meeting was a campfire cookout, during which the members prepared grilled cheese

sandwiches, hot dogs and s'mores, among other things. Mrs. Daane added, "How we decide what to make at each meal is a little different every time. I usually choose something simple for the first meeting. Then I survey the members at that first meeting about what they'd like to make throughout the year."

The cooking club helped grill the burgers and prepare the meal for the Soles Walk in October and decided on the contents of the meal themselves. Senior Joseph Hall said, "I really enjoyed grilling the burgers for the Soles Walk, and I'm looking forward to learning more about cooking as part of the club." The club meets once a month, so there is plenty of time to learn the skills of the trade.

## FAMILY COMES FIRST Christopher Lor ('22)

After a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19, SLS brought back Parent Weekend, a long-lasting tradition on the Hill. Parent Weekend is an opportunity for parents and families to join their sons on the Hill of Happiness. Taking place on October 2nd, parents registered upon their arrival in the refectory lobby. Once registered, parents ate lunch with their sons in the refectory. After lunch, the annual mother-son kickball game began on the upper ball diamond, a close and entertaining game that resulted in the mothers winning. After the kickball game, parents were able to attend presentations with their sons.

There were four presentations offered during the afternoon. Mr. Kevin Buelow informed freshmen parents about the Social Skills program in the chapel. Dr. Mike Donahou enlightened sophomore parents about vocational discernment. Mr. Josh Brath and Mr. Lou Wappel educated the junior parents about preparing for college and the ACT and SAT tests. Lastly, Mr. Tim Schroeder spoke to senior parents about paying for college. The afternoon continued with the annual father-son softball game, which showed the passion of both fathers and sons. This game concluded with the fathers winning with a walk-off single. Families enjoyed a special dinner in the refectory, and the day ended with mass in the chapel. Family is a priority on the Hill and so students were then allowed to leave campus with their families until Sunday evening.



# A Look Inside

## the *Juern-al*

Joseph Hall ('22)

**W**hen people visit Saint Lawrence Seminary, they usually remember three things: the community, the top-notch academics, and the pristine campus. The community is thanks to the students, the academics thanks to the teachers, and we owe the beauty of the campus to the plant management and environmental services staff. Keeping the campus in top shape requires an immense amount of planning and regular upkeep. For years the oversight of this work fell of Mrs. Mary Bink, but due to her recent and well-deserved retirement, Saint Lawrence Seminary has welcomed a new face to the community: Mr. Chris Juern.

Though new to the staff, Mr. Juern has been visiting campus for years now to see his recently-graduated son Ellison Juern ('21). Mr. Juern says that he is enjoying his time on staff so far and that everyone has been very welcoming, though it is taking some getting used to calling his son's former teachers by their first names. "St. Lawrence is a great community to be involved in. Whether you're on the staff or you're a student it's a great place to be." Coming from many years of experience working as a retail store manager, Mr. Juern is adjusting well to the community and is excited to see what the rest of the year will bring.

Mr. Juern began working at Saint Lawrence earlier this year under the title of Environmental Services Director. Among Mr. Juern's tasks is the oversight of the custodial staff and making sure that campus is kept clean and looking beautiful. Much of the work is behind the scenes: planning to make sure that each building and courtyard gets the care that is needed. The myriad events and socials that take place throughout the year would not be possible without the careful planning of Mr. Juern and the work of him and his crew.

Though he has only been here a short time, Mr. Juern has already proved to be a valuable member of the community. He is fulfilling all of his duties with gusto and is planning each event to perfection. He is truly helping each member of the student body and the faculty and staff to enjoy their time her on the Hill of Happiness to the fullest. Thank you, Mr. Juern, and we all look forward to having you on the Hill in the time to come!







It is in Giving  
that We **RECEIVE**  
Hung Dao ('23)

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis, and no one celebrates his feast more awesomely than the St. Lawrence Seminary community. Students, staffs, and friars on the Hill celebrate both the Transitus and the Feast of St. Francis. The Transitus at SLS is a special prayer service intended to highlight the stories of St. Francis. At this year's service, seniors regaled the community with stories of how St. Francis renounced his earthly possessions and how he cared for a leper. Especially memorable at the service was the passing of the bread, which is a reminder of Jesus's last supper.

The next day, everyone gathered in the Chapel for the Mass commemorating the Feast of St. Francis. After Mass, a banquet was held in the refectory to celebrate the life and ministry of St. Francis. That evening,

students gathered in the auditorium to watch a movie about a Franciscan priest who had assisted in hiding Jews in Italy during World War II.

Transitus and the Feast of St. Francis occupy a special place at St. Lawrence Seminary. "Transitus is a very emotional experience for me, maybe even more than the feast. This year, I enjoyed the students joining in the chanting of the psalm," commented Br. Mitchell Frantz, a Capuchin on campus. The Feast of St. Francis truly is a beloved and cherished day for both the students and Capuchins at St. Lawrence.



Future **HILLTOPPERS**

Harvey Nguyen ('22)



"Beautiful campus" is the comment that most of the weekend visitors have given when asked about their first impression of Saint Lawrence Seminary. Nevertheless, "beautiful campus" alone cannot sum up the interesting events which take place throughout the year at SLS, including Weekend Visits. With one purpose in mind, the Weekend Visits allow students and families the opportunity to explore what SLS has to offer. The admissions office staff work together looking for students who might be interested in exploring an all-boys Catholic boarding school.

Mrs. Kristy Mathes oversees the planning of the two-day experience, including scheduling classes and activities during the visitors' stay. She and the admissions team take on the work with dedication, making sure that the visitors have the best experience to participate in student life here on campus. The weekend visit includes three

classes, a campus tour, and a witness talk where weekend visitors listen to current SLS students talk about life on the Hill. Mrs. Mathes stated, "Seeing how people react after experiencing SLS, I feel the joy and satisfaction in my heart."

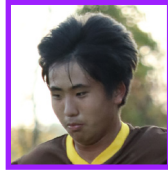
The last weekend visit had eight student visitors; most attending after hearing about SLS from alumni, current students or an admissions coordinator. Most visitors enter this experience with lots of concerns about whether they should attend SLS or not. But, these questions often get answered through the inviting environment and experiences that our staff and students have created during their stay. After the visit, with plenty of observations, many leave with the anticipation of coming back as students.



# VARSITY SOCCER

16-2-0

- SLS - Mayville 2-0
- SLS - Kohler 3-1
- SLS - Lomira 4-0
- SLS - Mayville 2-0
- SLS - Preble JV 3-1
- SLS - Amherst 5-0
- SLS - Omro 4-1
- SLS - Wayland 7-0
- SLS - WLA 3-0
- SLS - Campbellsport 3-0
- SLS - NFDL 7-1
- SLS - CWI Christian 3-0
- SLS - Dodge/land/Hustisford 5-1
- SLS - Oshkosh Lourdes 3-0
- SLS - Kiel 1-2
- SLS - Gibraltar/Sevastopol 4-4 (3-2)
- SLS - St. Mary Catholic 2-1
- SLS - Sheboygan Lutheran 0-2



# JV SOCCER

4-6-0

- SLS - Kohler 0 - 8
- SLS - Stockbridge 2 - 5
- SLS - WLA 2 - 6
- SLS - Kiel 1 - 3
- SLS - Campbellsport 8 - 0
- SLS - Kohler - 5 - 4
- SLS - CWI Christian 4 - 5
- SLS - CWI Christian 3 - 1
- SLS - Stockbridge 3 - 1
- SLS - Kiel 1 - 4

# SCOREBOARD

For many students at SLS, soccer is their second nature, as it has always been a part of their life on the Hill during the autumn season. Inheriting the passion from last year's senior soccer players, the 2020-2021 varsity soccer team made it a goal to make to State again.

Ranked as the third seed, St. Lawrence began the tournament by facing Gibraltar/Sevastopol. After an intense score chase, the two teams stepped in the penalty shootout round, in which freshman Leo Gamino made astounding goal saves, making St Lawrence a regional finalist.

St. Lawrence played St. Mary Catholic for their regional final. Having played them before, the team stepped in the game with a clear mind and a common goal: to win St. Mary Catholic one more time.

St. Lawrence ended their season at Sectional semifinal after their defeat against Sheboygan Christian. Although it might be a disappointing result for some people, players have given their best effort to fight until the last minute.

The fall sports season at SLS has come to a resounding end. The soccer team went undefeated in the conference, and only lost one non-conference game. Coach Dave Bartel said, "The season went very well, though there were things we could improve on." For cross country, junior Joaquin Barajas-Orozco placed first in multiple meets, including conference. Coach Kevin Buelow commented, "I was glad to see a lot of improvement this season and to see that we have a first-place runner." Both the soccer and cross country teams were competitive and can be proud of their accomplishments.

# CROSS COUNTRY

- Kiel Invite - 14th place
- WLA Invite - 5th place
- Jakubek-Willems Invite - 6th place
- Sheboygan Lutheran Invite - 8th place
- 43rd Hilltopper Invite - 7th place
- Horicon River Run - 5th place
- Laconia Invite - 3rd place
- Campbellsport Invite - 6th place
- Flyway Conference Meet - 3rd place
- Sectionals - 10th place

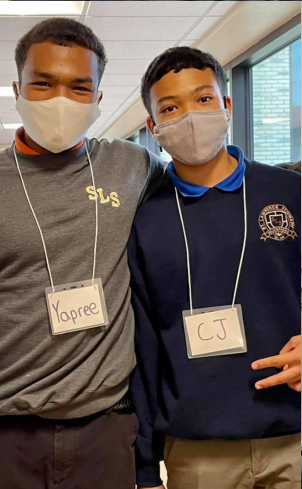


# THE GREATEST COMEBACK

Kiet Do ('22)







# FEELING THE FALL SPIRIT

Ricky Conlin ('22)

One of the landmark events of the second quarter on campus is Spirit Week. Spirit Week, along with Field Day and Winter Carnival, is one of the three big fraternity-based competitive events at SLS. It is organized by the student council, and it features days of dressing up during classes and after-school activities.

This year's Spirit Week included capture the flag, kickball, pumpkin carving, and trick or treating. For dress up days, Spirit Week had its classic Halloween Costume Day, Twin Day, Sports Day, and Blue Tuesday. On Blue Tuesday, students and staff wore blue polos as a part of a trend the senior class started of always wearing blue polos on Tuesdays. For Sports Day, students and staff showed their support for their favorite teams. For Twin Day, the students collaborated with each other to make outfits that twinned with another student. These aspects of the Spirit Week made it an enjoyable, unique time on campus.

On the fraternity side of Spirit Week, fraternities were awarded points for participating in the dress-up days and on how good their jack-o'-lantern was. This year, fraternity five pulled ahead and got the first-place prize: a fraternity party with Papa John's pizzas.

Spirit Week is an important part of both fraternity bonding and student bonding. It helps give students a time to enjoy the autumn weather and the end of the fall sports seasons.

S  
P  
R  
I  
T  
  
W  
E  
E  
K



# What Did You Do During HOMEWEEKEND?

Rem Quintin David ('22)

**B**usiness is one of the hallmarks of being a student at St. Lawrence Seminary. Students had to balance all the schoolwork and extracurricular that they had during the first quarter. But after two long months, Home Weekend came along. It was the first break from the busy school year. The students left on the afternoon of October 14th and

returned on the evening of October 17th.

A week before break, students were asked to provide their transportation plans which Mrs. Virginia Schmitz organized. To get home, some students were picked up by parents, while others used the school's provided transportation charter buses. Those charter buses dropped them in designated locations. From there they might have had

to catch a flight or their family picked them up.

The school has a strong "host-family" culture. Families can choose to host a student, typically out-of-state or international, during a break. Since Home Weekend was short, many students went to a friend's house. The parents' willingness to open their homes ensured that every student had a place to go to.



I spent my Home Weekend with Alex Krause's family. My time there was refreshing; I escaped the clutches of schoolwork and other responsibilities for four days. Alex Krause took Nathaniel Jude, Hai Hoang, Steven Nguyen, and me to his house in Mauston, Wisconsin. We tried the food from McAlister's Deli, and we went out to get ice cream. During our final night, we feasted on 30 McChickens, 40 nuggets, and three large fries. Although the food was integral to our break, Steven believed, "Just talking and hanging out with friends outside of school was the best part." We cannot thank Alex and his family enough for welcoming us all.

While down in Illinois, Alan Pham went to Daniel Cornejo's home. "We took Alan to the zoo where he belonged," Daniel joked, "and my grandmother made us go on the carousel." They went to the Brookfield Zoo in Berwyn. Alan's favorite exhibit was the dolphins, while Daniel's was the monkeys. "I didn't really mind riding the carousel," Alan said. "It was fun, but there were some slow parts at the zoo. And Daniel and I also got lost." They described that their break was mostly relaxing. Now that students are back on the hill, they are back to the business.

In another part of Wisconsin, Ashland, Hunter Mrnak brought Quang Pham and Loc Dang to his home. "We played a lot of soccer, and Hunter's parents were really nice to us," Quang commented. They also played some basketball and golf. They visited the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center; Hunter wanted to show them some of Ashland's history. Both Quang and Loc are from Vietnam, so this was an enriching experience for them.



On the Hill there is always something to do on a Saturday. Since the beginning of the school year, the student council has been organizing special events on Saturdays, such as movie nights, a bingo night and class parties. These events help students come together and develop friendships with others and build unforgettable bonds not only with other students, but also with the staff members.

The movie nights have been marvelous, showing current movies like Black Widow and Minari. Both movies were incredibly successful because they were modern and enjoyable to the students. Sophomore Elijah Frey said, "I first thought the movie was going to be boring, but surprisingly, the movie turned out better than I expected." Students also enjoyed events, such as Spirit Week. A volleyball tournament is scheduled in the near future. When asked about the senior/junior rivalry to the event, junior Nicholas Dean stated, "Our team is looking pretty good. There is no team that will stop us in this tournament."

On Saturday, October 9th, students and their mentors participated in the Soles Walk. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee adjusted the format this year, encouraging schools to coordinate their own local event that fit in the school's schedule. Students and mentors took a large lap around the campus of St. Lawrence Seminary. Students were grateful for the opportunity to support the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Catholic Schools. After the walk, Mrs. Katie Daane and her Cooking Club provided students with appetizing picnic foods. Freshman ThienHanh Mai stated, "The food made by cooking club was scrumptious and I was proud to be part of the Soles Walk."

After the Walk, just when the students thought the day's activities were over, class parties were arranged for the students. Seniors and freshmen had their class parties together to continue to strengthen their bonds. The junior and sophomore classes had their own separate parties. Juniors watched Central Intelligence in the Weisbrod Conference Room and the sophomores watched the Conjuring. The seniors and the freshmen ate pizza and played cops and robbers which lasted the whole night. The scheduled events provide good options for the students to bond and socialize and not be glued to their phones.

# SATURDAY NIGHT



Noel Choi ('23)

## SOLES WALK



## MOVIE NIGHTS





Hilltopics  
301 Church Street  
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057



## SCAVENGER HUNT

*James O'Neill found Issue 1's prize in Mr. Krieg's binder of foreign currencies!*

*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!*

A new issue is out; no time to perch  
So go out and do some thorough research  
Dig around in your most trusted archive  
Do so before it becomes one big hive  
I suggest you be busy like a bee  
Make sure to check your facts down to a "T"  
Bigger sources are where you'll find a prize  
To start with a summary might be wise  
So go, be swift, be fast  
For this prize will not last