

HILLTOPICS

VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

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VOLUME LVII - KINGS OF THE HILL

HILLTOPICS

2021 - 2022 HILLTOPICS STAFF

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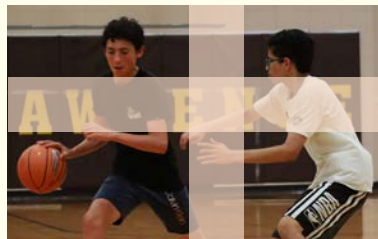
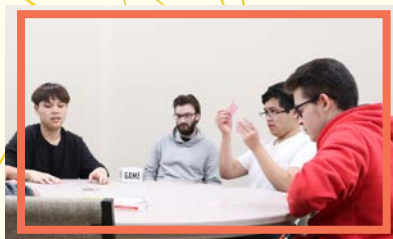
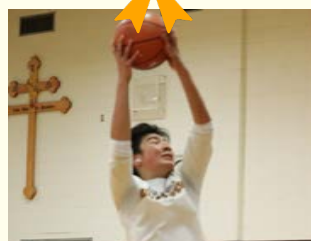
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ADVICE CORNER

Kiet Do ('22)

Student involvement is instrumental in character building during a student's high school career and is essential when it comes time to apply for college. Although sports are a common go-to activity for most students, you do not have to be an athlete to get involved during your high school years. Other suggestions of involvement are clubs, forensics, math team or ministry opportunities, just to name a few. In this issue the Advice Corner has come up with some easy ways for you to explore school and get involved.

- ***If no club interests you, think about starting your own club!***

Typically, students need to write a proposal about what type of club it is and its purpose. They also need to find someone (usually a teacher) who is willing to serve as the advisor. Not only do both of these things foster excellent leadership skills in a student, but also starting a club looks great on a college application.

- ***Volunteering***

Volunteering will bring you a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment by working with an organization that helps others or makes a difference in the community. It will also help you develop perspective.

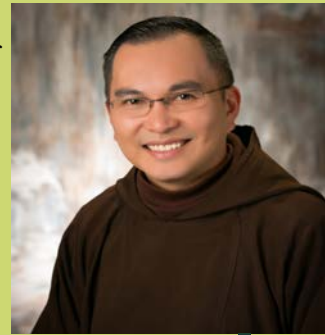
Whether you are a freshman just entering high school or a senior already at the end of your journey, trying out for a sport, signing up for a club, or volunteering for ministry activities are great ways to get involved. It is wise to "try, try again" to find your niche and get involved!



Rector's Corner

In the winter of 2015, I went to see a special exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum entitled, "Heaven on Earth."

It featured a collection of paintings made by some of the great Renaissance artists of Europe. One of the highlights of that exhibit was a painting of the Annunciation by the Italian painter Sandro Botticelli. In it, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Angel Gabriel are seen standing on opposite sides facing each other. The Angel Gabriel appears to be rushing towards Mary holding a lily, while Mary is shown bowing before the Angel. And from above, a thin golden beam from heaven is shining towards Mary.



As I looked closer at the image, I noticed that the golden beam is directed not towards Mary's womb, where Jesus was conceived, but towards her ear. I wondered about that for a moment. It seemed odd to me at first. I asked myself, "Doesn't conception take place in the womb?" "Then why didn't the beam point toward it?" But the more I thought about it, the more it made sense to me. As much as the Annunciation is about the Incarnation of Jesus, it is also about the obedience of Mary—the free and full submission of Mary to the will of God. I should point out that the word "obedience" comes from the Latin *ab audire*, which means "to listen."

The image was inspired by the story in the Gospel of Luke, in which the Angel Gabriel delivers God's message to Mary that she is to conceive and bear a son, who is to be called, "the Son of the Most High God." At first, Mary was troubled, since she had no relations with a man. Yet, she listened to the Word of God, trusted in God's providence, and assented to God's will. In accepting God's invitation, Mary believed that what God had promised to her will be fulfilled. And so it did.

As we draw closer to the feast of the Nativity of our Lord, which the Universal Church will celebrate on December 25, I am reminded of the beautiful Botticelli painting that I saw. As we prepare for the Lord's coming, may we, like Mary, learn to listen to God's Word, trust in God's divine providence, and assent to God's holy will to us. In so doing, God will work wonders in us, and Christ, our Lord, will be made manifest through us.

A blessed Advent to you all!



Where Are They From?

Hung Dao ('23)

After his mother signed him up for SLS, freshman Salvador-Diego "Sal" Gonzalez came here from Chicago totally in the dark as to what to expect. However, he has had no problems fitting in. He enjoys the challenging curriculum at SLS as it pushes his academic potential further. His favorite class is World History because he enjoys the interactions with the teacher, Mr. Jeff Krieg. But it is also the toughest class for him as expectations are high. Describing himself as playful and competitive, it is no surprise that he is excited for the basketball season. He hopes to join the team and excel at the game. "I want to go in there and improve my game and to help the team get better too," he said. After school, he has consistently practiced for the season, until he hurt his ankle/foot and was put in a boot. He expects this season specifically and his school year in general will be a personal success.



Sal Gonzalez ('25)



Joseph Abraham ('24)

Hailing from India, sophomore Joseph Abraham has found his place at SLS. He first heard of the school through Fr. Alphonse Pushparaj, the senior dorm supervisor. He was hesitant at first but eventually came around to the idea of coming to America, and he does not regret it. He acquainted himself with his classmates by playing soccer with them. Now, he is learning how to play basketball, a sport new to him. When he first came, it took him a while to get use to the different academics here compared to India. "A lot more walking," he claimed, "we used to just sit in the same classroom and the teachers would come to us." He is hardworking and tries to prepare for his classes well. Of all his classes, he enjoys Communications because it is interesting and teaches him how to express himself better.



Keith Fronteras ('23)

The most common first question that junior Keith Brylle Fronteras gets asked is "What do you want me to call you?" He says that he is fine with "Keith Brylle," "Keith," or "Brylle." He heard of SLS through an alumnus who talked to his parents in Saudi Arabia. At the beginning of the school year, he started working out and, so far, he has enjoyed it. He also loves to play sports and spends a lot of his free time in the gym. The toughest part of daily life for him has been keeping up with homework and studying, but he has managed. His favorite class is woodshop because it teaches him technical skills and allows him to be creative. A person with a positive outlook in life, his motto is "We're chilling." "It means that no matter how bad the situation may be, there's always a way out," he explained. His positivity has been appreciated amidst the pandemic.

En Honor de *Madre Maria*



Rem Quintin David ('22)

On Saturday, December 4th, Hispanic parents came to the Hill to join the students in commemorating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Not only is this an important day in Mexico, but many Mexican Americans celebrate it as a part of their cultural heritage. On this evening, students, staff, and parents gathered in the chapel for prayer. They sang *La Guadalupana* and prayed the rosary in Spanish. Afterwards, they walked to the refectory to feast. This year's menu was tacos, beans, rice, and Mexican candy. Students loved the food. "Fantastic. Delectable," is how William McTigue described the meal.

Mr. Francisco Saucedo helped to organize this event,

communicating with parents, in particular, Norma Meza, Yair Rivera's mother, who led the parents and conveyed their plans to Mr. Saucedo. Every parent had their own designated roles, for example, preparing the roses for the portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "They were happy to host the feast again with the help of their sons," Mr. Saucedo explained, "Half of the parents didn't know about the event because of last year's pandemic. The only parents who knew were the junior and senior parents." Either way, it was a success: the Hill honored Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mexican parents and students cooked and served tasty food to the rest of the school. Some students are already looking forward to this feast next year.



Giving Thanks *for a Break*

Nathan Fernandes ('22)



T'is' the season to be jolly! As retail stores introduced their annual winter sales and radio stations played Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You," the nation officially entered into the festive season. At St. Lawrence, the excitement was no different, as one holiday stood between the students and the highly-coveted Christmas break: Thanksgiving.

Every year, students and faculty get the chance to refresh with family and friends during the Thanksgiving break. This year, as students headed off on Tuesday, November 23rd, many hoped for a restful vacation. Returning to school, students often asked their friends the question: "How was your break?" While some enjoyed more than others, the responses contained several positive remarks. For instance, junior Frank Guo traveled to Milwaukee, WI. When asked about his experience, he replied, "I went with Joaquin Barajas to Noah's Ark where we enjoyed the water park. I also enjoyed Famous Dave's BBQ ribs, but it did not compare to his mother's tacos!" On the other hand, Mac Kim, another junior, visited New York during the holiday break. Taking many pictures to highlight his trip, he said, "I went to the Museum of Modern Art. I saw a lot of artwork and thankfully, I could take pictures there. My favorite painting was Van Gogh's *Starry Night*." With just a couple school days to go, anticipation is already high for the next break.

MAKING every SHOT COUNT

Nathan Fernandes ('22)

Michael Jordan once said: "You miss a hundred percent of the shots you don't take." Going into the 2021-2022 basketball season, the Hilltoppers hope to make every shot count. Coached by Mr. David Bartel and Mr. Quan Nguyen, SLS assembled a 14-man squad in hopes of reaching their goals. Expectations throughout the SLS camp are high this year. Speaking to senior Caulodrino Williams said, "My main goal is to win as many games as we can. I want to push the team to win at least 75 percent of our games this year." However, the

season has just started, and though it holds a lot of promise, there are still improvements being foreseen by both players and coaches. Coming off a successful season in his first year back as head coach, Coach Bartel seems optimistic about his team this year. Mr. Bartel said, "I believe we've got a pretty strong squad this year. Going forward, we just need to build on chemistry and improving over the course of the season." Now, with tryouts out of the way, the Hilltoppers are set to put in the work to make this year successful.



ESPORTS at SLS

A New Frontier

Earl D'Souza ('22)

The SLS esports team was established in the spring of 2020, and competes in the Wisconsin High School Esports Association, a state-based organization founded in 2017 by a number of schools in Wisconsin. This year's varsity team competes in Division IV, and the JV team competes in Division III. SLS competes by playing the Nintendo *Super Smash Bros. Ultimate* game. Five varsity and five JV matches are held every week of the regular season. Individual matches are played in a best-of-three format. As a team, the winning format is best of five. Each game won counts towards a team's overall record for the season and factors into qualifying for the state tournament. Coach Logan Burge stated, "I wanted to start esports because I saw that the students shared the same passion about it as I do. They are motivated to improve and that makes the program so much more fun."

Team tryouts were held in early October. A double-



elimination format tournament was held where all the hopefuls competed. The five highest finishers were chosen to play varsity and played in an exhibition match the following Tuesday. The rest of the eligible players make up the JV roster, to be rotated as Coach Burge sees fit.

Alex Krause, a member of the varsity roster, said, "I'm really glad to be on the team and represent Saint Lawrence while playing the game I love." To date, Alex is undefeated. With the best record in the division, the varsity team, as a whole, has a near-perfect record, having won all four of their games with a 19-1 individual game ratio.

Coach Burge and his team hope to win their conference and make the state tournament, to be held at Madison College in early 2022. But whatever happens, they have represented SLS well and have shown that the school can compete at the state level in the rising field of esports.

Meditation & Mindfulness

Rem Quintin David ('22)

Many students do not realize the power of mindfulness—it can help maintain mental and emotional stability. With all that goes on here on the Hill, students are often stressed out. When Mr. Joshua Brath, our guidance counselor, first joined the staff in 2018, he started the Mindfulness Club to teach and help students deal with stress. Mr. Brath stated, “What sparked my interest in starting the club was that I took a class on meditation in grad school. It really helped me during those stressful times, so I thought it would help here too.”

In the club, Hilltoppers are taught how to meditate and be mindful; he educated members on proper breathing techniques, checked up on students' well-beings, and handed out fidget toys. “I want students to focus on the present moment, instead of worrying about what happened in the past or what will happen in the future,” Mr. Brath explained. To lead meditation sessions, he uses an app called Headspace. It's available on all devices, and it even has its own Netflix series. Mr. Brath definitely encourages people to check it out and try out the club sometime too. It might just help as it has helped the current members.



Wrestle out of COVID

Harvey Nguyen ('22)

The SLS wrestling season is promising to be an intense one. Practices and matches have returned to normal with the mask mandate lifted. Wrestling coach, Mr. Phil McCabe said, “I'm expecting about 28 wrestlers to participate in the sport this year, and about 10 of those are returning members. This season we will be competing in the Division three.”

The wrestling program requires wrestlers to lift weights three time per week in order to achieve good technique and build up their strength. As a result, wrestlers, often feel happy with the fact that they have become stronger and healthier. What Mr. McCabe finds most enjoyable about coaching wrestling is that he sees the wrestlers' improvement from year to year. Senior Joseph Hall has been wrestling since middle school and confirmed, “I feel myself getting better after each season.” And as one of the most experienced players of the team, Hall is ready to be a team leader this season.

There is no question wrestling is a tough sport and demands a lot of determination. Every year a few students drop out, but those who stay not only achieve good technique, but also confidence and the will to accept a challenge. Mr. McCabe concluded, “Seeing the improvement in these students is why I love coaching the sport.”



Reinvigorating Faith

Noel Choi ('23)

After a few grueling months of school work, students officially had the opportunity to build an unbreakable bond that will last forever. The annual retreats were scheduled to assist students in deepening their bonds with their classmates through activities unrelated to their regular coursework.

The freshmen retreat was held on campus. Their retreat was organized and led by school staff members such as Fr. Zoy Garibay and Mr. Lou Wappel. The freshman class drew art about Psalm 23, they did some meditative exercises and talked about scriptures in the Gospel. According to Aiden Ta, "I thought the retreat was entertaining, and it helped bring me closer to God."

The sophomores also stayed on campus for their retreat, which was planned and led by the Spiritus team from Menasha, WI. There were seven Spiritus members who helped the sophomore class bond as one. The Spiritus team divided the class into smaller groups and played bonding games like stacking cups. They also did a "forgiveness" exercise where the sophomores expressed their thoughts to each other. Micah Wood expressed, "It was a fun experience that helped our class create a special bond."

Juniors went all the way to Mt. Morris in Wautoma, WI, for their three-day retreat. Their retreat was planned by Dr. Mike Donohue and Mr. Josh Brath. The juniors had sessions with their mentors and their cabin groups to encourage them to actively participate in skits about the creation of the world and puzzle designing. They also watched movie clips that granted them life lessons. Samson Matthew said, "It was one of the best retreats that I ever went on. Even though it rained the entire day, that never stopped us from having fun."

Seniors, whose bond is more intense than any other class, went to Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake, WI, for their last retreat. The main theme was discernment. Capuchin Fr. Mark Joseph Costello, who led the retreat, had a lesson on decision making and God's choices. However, the seniors had a lot of free time which gave them time to explore nature, play soccer and basketball, and participate in many other games. Ricky Conlin explained, "The retreat was overall relaxing, but it's a shame that it's our last one."

Even though each class had different types of retreats, they were pleased with the bonding events. Some underclassmen are excited for next year's retreat, whereas some seniors were feeling sad about their last retreat.





OFF ON A FIELD TRIP

Christopher Lor ('23)

Two years after the originally scheduled field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the trip finally happened. On November 13th, SLS students and staff traveled to Skokie, Illinois, to be educated on the Holocaust. “The decision to go to the Illinois Holocaust Museum was born out of a recognition that as an institution, SLS plays a vital role in the education and formation of our students to become lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ and future religious or lay leaders, who will effect a positive change in our world,” Fr. Zoy stated. “An all-school trip to the museum leads to the fulfillment of that outcome, and provided our students with an invaluable learning opportunity regarding the Holocaust and other forms of genocide in contemporary world history.”

At the museum, the SLS student body was split into groups, each

led by a docent. The docent spoke about the causes and effects of the Holocaust. Some groups had the opportunity to explore the Shanghai District exhibit, a much lesser-known moment in history where many Jews were welcomed by the Chinese and inhabited the Shanghai ghetto. Everyone had the chance to experience the Zev & Shifra Karkomi Holocaust Exhibition. This exhibit explored life before WWII in Europe, the rise of Nazism, the Holocaust, Aryan eugenics, post-war experiences, and stressed the words, “Never again.” This exhibit was home to a German railcar, many artifacts, documents, and photographs of Holocaust-related items. Finally, the student body had the opportunity to listen to the words of a Holocaust survivor, Ms. Rodi Glass. A Dutch native, she enlightened the SLS body about her experience in the Holocaust, being

sent to several concentration camps, losing numerous family members, and finally resettling in the U.S. after the war. It was a poignant experience, capped off with a photograph of the SLS group and Ms. Glass.

Many students and staff learned more about the Holocaust on this trip. It was a great moment to experience, firsthand, the happenings of the Holocaust. Rem Quintin David, a senior, commented, “It was eye-opening, especially the part with the railcar. You actually felt the heaviness and how serious the whole situation was. Learning it in class is different than the museum. It was more serious.” The trip instilled a sense of social justice among the student body. Fr. Zoy concluded, “Everyone must play a part in preventing atrocities such as the Holocaust from happening again.”

Sayin to the "SUP" SUPERVISORS

Joseph Hall ('22)

In an environment like Saint Lawrence, it is necessary to have round the clock help and supervision for the students. This constant safety net is provided to each class by the dorm supervisors. These men are responsible for making sure the students in their respective dorms are kept safe and are following the rules to make SLS enjoyable for all. This school year SLS had the chance to introduce four new supervisors to the community, Mr. Alejandro Lupercio, Mr. Matthew Tran, Br. Truong Tien Dinh and Mr. Matthew Mattes.

Being a new junior dorm supervisor is not the first experience Mr. Lupercio has had with Saint Lawrence. In previous years he has been to the Hill with the ministry group Spiritus to lead retreats for the sophomore classes. While this is just his first year, he is already an important part of the community having helped lead the soccer team to sectionals this year as varsity assistant coach. Like many members of the staff, Mr. Lupercio's favorite part of the school is the close-knit community. One of his favorite things on the job is "destroying the students at FIFA." So, whether he is supervising dorm, coaching students in real-life soccer, or beating students at the video game version, Mr. Lupercio is a great addition to the SLS staff.

The sophomore supervisors this year are both new to the staff. Mr. Tran is a 2019 graduate of SLS and is currently attending Marian University as well as supervising. As many past students turned supervisors will agree, Mr. Tran said, "I loved being here as a student and I wanted to give back to the school." He is certainly living up to this. The second sophomore supervisor is Br. Truong Tien Dinh, a Capuchin brother. Before coming to SLS he was pursuing his master's degree in Theology. His assignment at SLS is his first ministry with the Capuchins and he is excited to fill the role. "I am an extrovert so the role of working with the kids and making them feel at home fits me perfectly." Both Mr. Tran and Br. Truong are doing the Seminary a great service through supervising the sophomores.

The final new supervisor is also a recent alumnus of Saint Lawrence. Mr. Matthew Mattes, a 2017 graduate, has returned to the Hill as a senior dorm supervisor. Up to this year, Mr. Mattes has been working with GLIFWC, a Great Lakes commission, to help minimize the impact of invasive species. He is glad to be back on the Hill and has so far done a great job keeping the seniors in line and safe. All four of these new supervisors are already adding so much to the community of SLS and will hopefully continue to do the same in the time to come. Thank you and welcome to the new supervisors!



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COMMUNICATION is KEY

Ricky Conlin ('22)



Ask a coach what keeps a team together and he or she will say “communication.” Communication is key, in both extracurriculars and academics. Because of this, SLS hosted its parent-teacher conferences Saturday, November 6th.

At parent-teacher conferences, parents were able to get a firm understanding as to how their son was performing in his classes on the Hill, and with virtual conferences also offered, parents were able to talk with teachers when they otherwise might not have been able to. Parents were able to learn what exactly their son was being taught in every class. In turn, the teachers were able to learn more about the backgrounds of their students and talk with the parents about how to help struggling students. This is especially important on the Hill with its many challenging courses.

With conferences held both in-person and virtually, teachers were able to meet with parents they would otherwise not see and a better sense of communication was established. Because in the end, communication really is key.

Editors' Semester Synopsis

Ricky Conlin ('22)

Kiet Do ('22)

And so, the first semester comes to a close. When I was a freshman (which felt like yesterday), my classmates and I would talk about senior year like it was incredibly far away, yet here we are with an extra verse in the Alma Mater to sing. Time really does fly, whether you want it to or not. I want to thank everybody that takes the time to read our volume of *Hilltopics*. I hope you have enjoyed my illustrated covers and my other illustrations that have been sprinkled throughout these first three issues. It has been very fun to get a chance to draw digitally.

In addition, we are considering making some considerable changes for the remaining three issues so, look forward to a revamped volume LVII in the second semester. Until then, enjoy your Christmas! I know I will; I plan to get some much-needed shut-eye.

As the journey is coming to an end, looking back on my time spent on the Hill, I realized how SLS has prepared me for pursuing college. Having one last high school semester, I'm excited. Excited for new changes. Excited for new beginnings. Excited for new adventures. Excited for the unknown. I'm scared. Scared to leave this alma mater. Scared of the inexorable march to the end. Scared of the unknown.

Whether or not it is too early to think about graduation, it is always the right time for me to give thanks to SLS. Although senior year has been stressful amid applying to colleges, I'm glad I have made it this far; I could not have done it without my brothers. I hope everyone enjoys this issue of *Hilltopics* and “Thank you” for all the memories over this first semester. Let's finish strong!





SCAVENGER HUNT

Hai Hoang ('22) found Issue II's prize in the entry "bee" in Compton's Encyclopedia!

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!

We've done it twice, now let's make it thrice

It won't be outside with all the ice

It'll be indoors, but you may have to bend

All you must do is hang out with a friend

Sit down and enjoy some delicious food

But, if you buy something, do not be rude

You may want to look at things upside down

Because if standing up, it won't be found

Don't worry, it will be close to the door

I don't want this to become one big bore!