

St. Lawrence Seminary's

HILLTOPICS

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Visiting the Windy City

On Tuesday, November 3rd, while the other classes went about their school day as usual, the junior class journeyed to Chicago, IL. The entire class witnessed two different vocation experiences they may look to in the future if they choose to pursue being either a priest or joining the Capuchins.

The first stop for the juniors was St. Clare Friary, a residence for Capuchin students who have professed temporary vows. There the juniors met with Fr. Bill Hugo, the Capuchin Vocation Director, and other Capuchin friars, some of whom come to the Hill on weekends to supervise the student dormitories. Fr. Bill Hugo was actually ordained alongside Rector Fr. John Holly, after graduating from SLS in the same class with him. After a tour of the friary, some of the friars told their stories about how they came to be at St. Clare's. The juniors also learned that those living at St. Clare's may reside in the friary and then make the commute to their college of choice to engage in their studies. Alexander Pizaña, junior class president, said he came to a realization; "Jesus was speaking to me and guiding me to serve Him. God has a plan for everyone. Don't be afraid to answer His calling and will."

After lunch at St. Clare's, the juniors traveled to St. Joseph Seminary, located on the grounds of Loyola University on the other side of Chicago. There they were welcomed by Fr. Mike Scherschel, the Vocation Director at St. Joseph's, which serves the Archdiocese of Chicago, as well as other dioceses and religious communities. Several witness talks were given by students who reside at St. Joseph's. SLS's juniors were then divided into groups and given a tour of the Loyola campus. Humberto Huerta commented, "It was a beautiful experience in viewing more in-depth the life of the valiant men who dedicated their lives to the Capuchins at St. Clare's and the priesthood at St. Joseph Seminary. Priests are 'human' too." The whole experience helped to expose SLS students to the world of possibilities in hearing and responding to God's call and a path forward in answering that call.

Junior Richard Van gazes on the Loyola University campus.



By: Adolfo Mora
By: Isaias Godinez

Straight A's All Day

Since the beginning of the school year, many students were concerned with parent-teacher conferences as they worked hard for and hoped for good reports from their teachers. Parent-teacher conferences, which were held on Saturday, November 7th, offered teachers the opportunity to become acquainted with the parents of some of their students, and the parents, students, and teachers discussed students' progress thus far. Senior Dala Iguodala said, "This is definitely a time when I give it my all in my studies so I can make my parents happy." A student can be nervous about the report from the teachers, and a parent can be just as anxious to see their child's grades, as the parent wants his or her child to succeed. On the Hill, conferences began in the morning and, after a brief lunch break, continued through the afternoon. The long day allowed parents who had to travel from longer distances to have time to meet their sons' teachers. After conferences, parents were welcomed to take their child off the Hill and discuss the results of the day, whether it was to provide a necessary pep-talk or a celebratory pat on the back. Despite the results of individual meetings, the day of conferences is a valuable one for maintaining a strong partnership between parents and teachers.



Science teacher Dr. Gereon Welhouse meets with the family of junior Roberto Silva.



Math teacher Mrs. Jenny Tabbert meets with sophomore John Tran's family.

By: Kamsi Nwanebo

“Forensics, doesn’t that have something to do with crime work?” These were the words of senior Phong Nguyen when asked what exactly forensics was. For those as unfamiliar with the program as Phong, forensics, in regards to the program offered at St. Lawrence, is an organization dedicated to public speech and debate. What this means is that members of the forensics program attend various meets throughout the state, competing against other students through the oral interpretation of literature and the preparation and presentation of informative speeches.

The forensics program at St. Lawrence is headed by Mr. Antonio Trinidad. He said, “My goal is to not only nurture good public speaking skills, but to also encourage students to find something they are passionate about, something they feel is worth speaking about.” There are a variety of categories that students are free to choose from, which allows them to find a topic and speech style most comfortable and authentic to them. While they all require speaking, each category has its own set of rules. The most popular category is Poetry, (which, as you might have guessed, is exclusively about poetry.) But why would students want to develop their public speaking skills? “No matter where life takes you, you’re going to be confronted with the daunting task of defending and communicating your arsenal of thoughts,” Mr. Trinidad explained. Whether it be original oratory or playacting, each category presents a different way in which each participant can further the development of their oratory talents. Students select pieces, prepare their presentations, and practice their speeches with a faculty or staff member who serves as their coach. If you’re interested in joining the team, now is the time to speak to Mr. Trinidad and start selecting your pieces. Competition begins in January!



Juniors practice their group interpretation selection.

What it Feels Like: Forensics

The day starts early. Before the sun comes up, you’re already on your way to breakfast. Because you mean business, you’re in Sunday dress, even though it’s Saturday. Because you’re a teenage boy, you’re probably still asleep as you crunch on cereal. The hour-long bus ride is great for naps, but the team captains will wake you up for some pre-game exercises before you reach your destination. Once you get off the bus, you realize that this could be your day. After 3 45-minute rounds of competition, you wait anxiously to see if you make the “Power Round” lists, which indicate if you’re in the top-five among your category. If you make the list, you perform one more time against the best of the best to see who wilts and who wins. After an awards ceremony filled with anxiety, you make your way back to the bus feeling like a champion.

Based on that heading, you may be wondering, “What exactly is a venture crew?” Well, a venture crew is a type of Boy Scout program at SLS. It focuses on campouts and troop-like activities, and it serves as a way for students to stay involved in Scouting even while at school. The crew is led by Mr. William Mattes, a current religion teacher and dorm supervisor.

Each year in the fall, the crew has camped out for a night in the potato patch, and this year that first campout took place on Friday, October 2nd. It was an enjoyable time carved out of the students’ busy days that gave them a chance to relax. In the potato patch, the venture crew had a fire and slept in an assortment of tents. After the campout, freshman Matthew Tran said, “It was fun being outside and sleeping in the patch. It was also very cold.”

Another activity the group participated in was at the end of October. On Saturday, October 24th, 16 students went on a canoeing trip. Led by Mr. Matthias Hoffman, a recruiter at SLS, and Mr. Mattes, the group took a trip to the Fox River in Montello. As the year continues, more rugged and fun activities are planned. Anyone interested in joining the venture crew, whether a Boy Scout or not, should see Mr. Mattes.

Juniors Martin Vu and Richard Van recover their tipped canoe.



By: Joseph Hable

Remembering St. Thomas Hall

By: Fr. John Holly

These past few weeks have brought back lots of memories for me. Sure, the appearance of the Christmas decorations reminds me of Christmas celebrations on the Hill with the concert in the *gym* the night before we went home for Christmas break. But more of the memories have involved St. Thomas Hall, as I've watched the demolition of the "new part" of the building from my office window.

I spent most of my senior year in that "new part" of the building, specifically in the women's bathroom! Please, let me explain. I guess we were short on space in those days, too, as our current chapel had just been completed, and they were rushing to convert what had been our chapel into the auditorium that we still use today. I was one of the two editors for *Hilltopics* that year and, you guessed it, the *Hilltopics* office was located in the women's restroom of St. Thomas Hall!

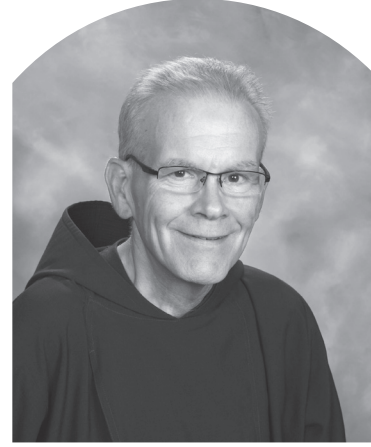
Before the main space on that floor became the art studio and, later, the Development Office after the fire, it really was our auditorium. There was a required movie every Saturday night for freshmen through juniors (the seniors watched the movie on Friday night with the college guys). In the days before Netflix and RedBox, the reels of the movie arrived in metal containers on the Greyhound bus in Fond du Lac, and one of the student drivers (yes, there were *student drivers*...) met the bus and brought the movie here.

The students put on at least two plays a year, and I was in some of them during my years here. We regularly had speakers come to the Hill and they spoke in the Auditorium of St. Thomas Hall. The Rector and, more often, the Vice Rector (the Dean of Students, Mr. Buelow's position today) met with us in St. Thomas Hall similar to our Skills Day presentations.

But back to putting together *Hilltopics*. It was pretty labor intensive: no computers, no digital cameras, we actually typed out each article! We had to type the articles in the format we wanted them to appear in; nothing was automatic. Once all the articles were typed, we glued them to a piece of thin cardboard and each page was then ready for printing by the brother who was the school printer in the print shop, classroom 029 today! I seem to remember that we got electric typewriters my senior year—still couldn't do anything a computer can do today, no such thing as word processing—yet, a HUGE improvement over the manual typewriters of the late sixties.

To look today at what was produced during my sojourn in the *Hilltopics* office is laughable. But the memories are clear: many guys were involved, we had great fun, we worked hard and SLS students were entertained and informed even without a computer or cell phone.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!



Bless Who?

When someone sneezes, what do you say: bless you, God bless you, or nothing? What do you say when you're at home? Those were the questions that hit the Hill recently, in a campus-wide survey that almost all the students answered. On the Hill it is a common courtesy to say something like "bless you," for it is a good demonstration of social skills.

But that's not the only place to hear "bless you." All over the world races and cultures have sayings after someone sneezes. In Hindu cultures, they say "live," and in China they say "*bai sui*" which translates to "may you live 100 years." But the saying "God bless you" started with Pope Gregory during the time of the Bubonic Plague. At the time some believed that the devil used the time a person sneezed to enter one's body and take over his soul, while others believed

"I say nothing. The idea of saying it originated in a time where the superstition about sneezing out some of your soul was popular. I see no point in saying it. Sneezing is that person's business and need not involve a response from others." -Timmy Nguyen

that the heart stopped and saying "bless you" was welcoming them back to life. Back on the Hill, many students said that they say "bless you" out of respect. Sophomore Pablo George said, "I say *salud*, meaning 'bless you'. I always say

this because it's what my parents taught me to say." However, junior Timothy Nguyen said, "I say nothing. The idea of saying it originated in

a time where the superstition about sneezing out some of your soul was popular. I see no point in saying it. Sneezing is that person's business and need not involve a response from others." Many student responses said that they say it out of respect because they were taught that way. Regardless of their responses, the sons of Calvary have showed us that chivalry and courtesy have not died, especially by saying "bless you."

By: Matthew Mattes

64% SAY "BLESS YOU"

24% SAY "GOD BLESS YOU"

12% SAY NOTHING

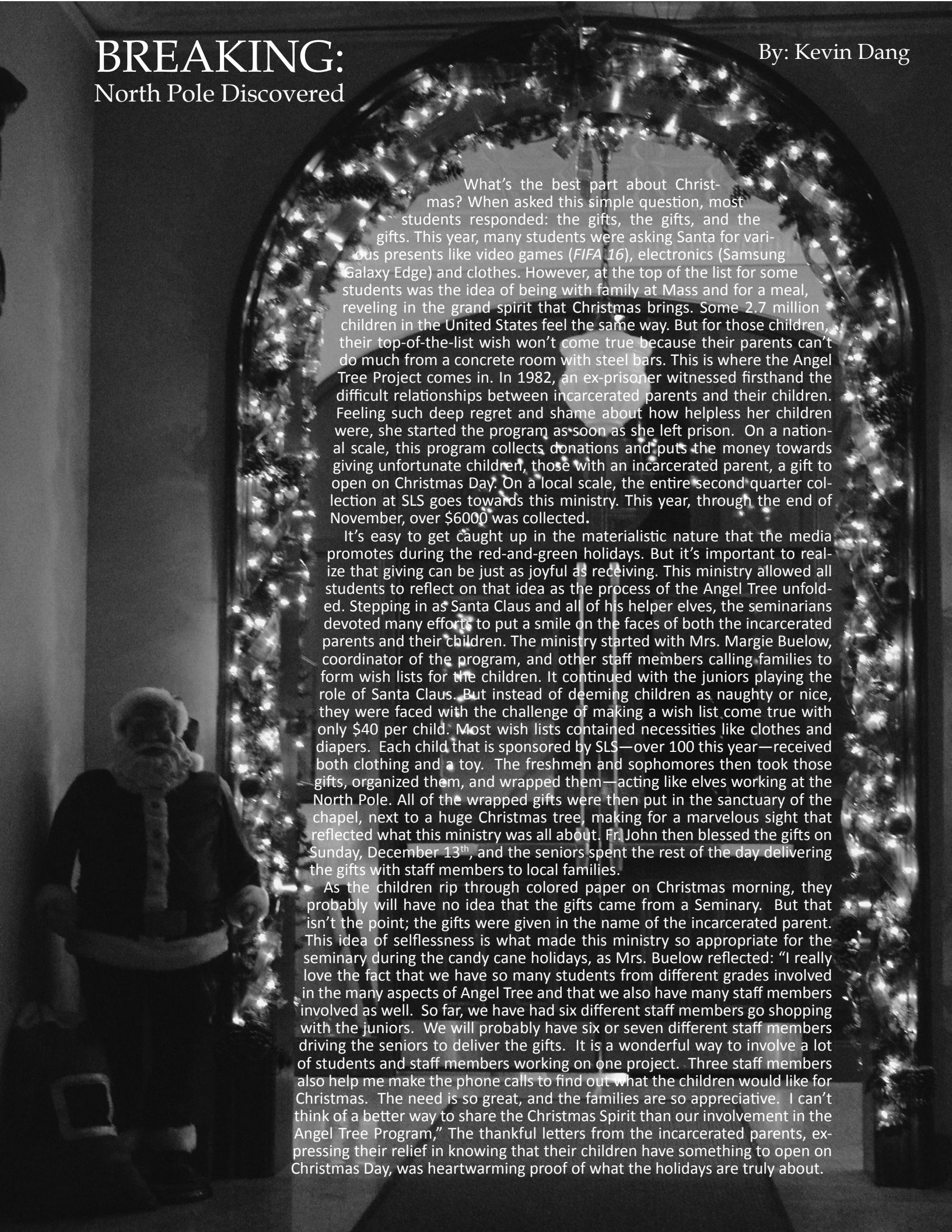
"BLESS YOU"

"GOD BLESS YOU"

BREAKING:

North Pole Discovered

By: Kevin Dang



What's the best part about Christmas? When asked this simple question, most students responded: the gifts, the gifts, and the gifts. This year, many students were asking Santa for various presents like video games (*FIFA 16*), electronics (Samsung Galaxy Edge) and clothes. However, at the top of the list for some students was the idea of being with family at Mass and for a meal, reveling in the grand spirit that Christmas brings. Some 2.7 million children in the United States feel the same way. But for those children, their top-of-the-list wish won't come true because their parents can't do much from a concrete room with steel bars. This is where the Angel Tree Project comes in. In 1982, an ex-prisoner witnessed firsthand the difficult relationships between incarcerated parents and their children. Feeling such deep regret and shame about how helpless her children were, she started the program as soon as she left prison. On a national scale, this program collects donations and puts the money towards giving unfortunate children, those with an incarcerated parent, a gift to open on Christmas Day. On a local scale, the entire second quarter collection at SLS goes towards this ministry. This year, through the end of November, over \$6000 was collected.

It's easy to get caught up in the materialistic nature that the media promotes during the red-and-green holidays. But it's important to realize that giving can be just as joyful as receiving. This ministry allowed all students to reflect on that idea as the process of the Angel Tree unfolded. Stepping in as Santa Claus and all of his helper elves, the seminarians devoted many efforts to put a smile on the faces of both the incarcerated parents and their children. The ministry started with Mrs. Margie Buelow, coordinator of the program, and other staff members calling families to form wish lists for the children. It continued with the juniors playing the role of Santa Claus. But instead of deeming children as naughty or nice, they were faced with the challenge of making a wish list come true with only \$40 per child. Most wish lists contained necessities like clothes and diapers. Each child that is sponsored by SLS—over 100 this year—received both clothing and a toy. The freshmen and sophomores then took those gifts, organized them, and wrapped them—acting like elves working at the North Pole. All of the wrapped gifts were then put in the sanctuary of the chapel, next to a huge Christmas tree, making for a marvelous sight that reflected what this ministry was all about. Fr. John then blessed the gifts on Sunday, December 13th, and the seniors spent the rest of the day delivering the gifts with staff members to local families.

As the children rip through colored paper on Christmas morning, they probably will have no idea that the gifts came from a Seminary. But that isn't the point; the gifts were given in the name of the incarcerated parent. This idea of selflessness is what made this ministry so appropriate for the seminary during the candy cane holidays, as Mrs. Buelow reflected: "I really love the fact that we have so many students from different grades involved in the many aspects of Angel Tree and that we also have many staff members involved as well. So far, we have had six different staff members go shopping with the juniors. We will probably have six or seven different staff members driving the seniors to deliver the gifts. It is a wonderful way to involve a lot of students and staff members working on one project. Three staff members also help me make the phone calls to find out what the children would like for Christmas. The need is so great, and the families are so appreciative. I can't think of a better way to share the Christmas Spirit than our involvement in the Angel Tree Program." The thankful letters from the incarcerated parents, expressing their relief in knowing that their children have something to open on Christmas Day, was heartwarming proof of what the holidays are truly about.

What to do with All this Free Time!

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Playing sports on a team is one of the best and most well remembered experiences that St. Lawrence has to offer. Some, however, can't get enough of the amazing feeling that being on a team gives. Those who live and die for competition often find themselves participating in a sport every season, not only because they can, but because they love it. However, as a student at a college prep seminary, this is not always the easiest task to accomplish. Sophomore Davee Vang said, "Time management is crucial to success. Being a three-sport athlete is very challenging and takes a lot of work to stay focused."

Due to the scheduling, there are a few weeks, roughly three, in between seasons which give athletes a chance to rest and prepare themselves for the next sport. It may not appear to be a rough transition, but those who try to go from soccer to basketball, or cross country to wrestling, find out how hard it is to transition without adequate preparation. Through a biological perspective the body naturally begins to relapse into an inactive state if the constant physical activity from the previous season is not continued into the next. Senior Joe Mortell, who is a veteran wrestler, said, "In order to get the wrestlers ready for the long season ahead, we spend the first week of tryouts doing intense physical activity, which really separates those who are ready from those who are not. This season I think I'm one who is ready." While the lapse between sports seasons may be challenging, many athletes believe that the summer months are the hardest to come back from physically after sports begin again. Even so, it is still important for three-season athletes to continue training even in the relatively short time between seasons.

Apart from the physical aspect, many athletes believe that there is a lot of mental preparation involved in getting ready. Senior Robert Gleeson is a returning varsity wrestler this year and is coming from a very successful soccer season. When asked about what he does during his free time between seasons, he replied, "I was looking forward to what I could do this year [in wrestling]. It's my last year, so I'm going to give it everything I have, which means I should [have been] working out."

Senior Jacob Prado said, "You can't just go from one sport to another like it's no big deal. It takes a lot of hard work and especially focus to conquer the challenge ahead of you."

When asked about what he does to get mentally prepared, he said, "I start thinking about wrestling as soon as November comes around. Once cross country ends, I start thinking about all the ways I can get ready." Hopefully all the three-season athletes took this approach and did their best to avoid the lag that can come between seasons.

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By: Zeb Boos

Mark Your Calendar!

Varsity Basketball

Although the Hilltoppers lost their first two games, the scoreboard doesn't reflect how well the team is actually playing. With more practice, and the raucous crowd at home, the future is looking bright for brown and gold basketball.

Varsity Wrestling

The Hilltoppers hit the mat for the first time at Laconia where they were defeated. But as the largely new varsity team gains more experience, the pins and points will start rolling.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						Johnson Creek
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Christian Home	@ Stock-bridge			SJMA
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
@ New Holstein					@ SJMA	

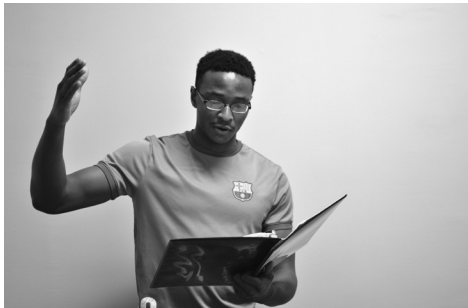
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				@ Omro		@ Fox Valley
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				WLA		@ Oakfield
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Horicon			Mayville		

What Will They be up to Over Christmas Break?

By: Austin Stevens

Christmas break brings St. Lawrence students much relief from the struggles of homework, tests, and other deadlines (of course, the teachers don't mind a vacation either). So *Hilltopics* asked students and teachers how they'd be spending those three precious weeks in December and January.



Senior Franklawrence Amaihe: Practicing forensics and working on hand gestures.

Freshman Jack Gabbert: Spending time at his family's log cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Senior Zeb Boos: Snowballing neighbors' cars, and sleeping in front of my fireplace all night to keep warm.
Sophomore Bryant Nguyen: Taking a vacation to quite an exotic destination: the couch.



Senior Robert Gleeson: Sleeping and packing drugs. (Yes, legally, he works in a pharmaceutical warehouse.)

Freshman Matthew Reyna: Eating tacos at Nuevo Leon restaurant in Chicago.

Freshman Nicholas Courteau: Chopping down the Christmas tree with his family.

Mr. Tim Schultz: Wearing pajamas all day, getting my Star Wars addiction cured, spending time with family and hopefully having a snowball fight with my sons.



Sophomore Jae-Suk Lee: Going back home to Korea for Christmas and taking boxing lessons.

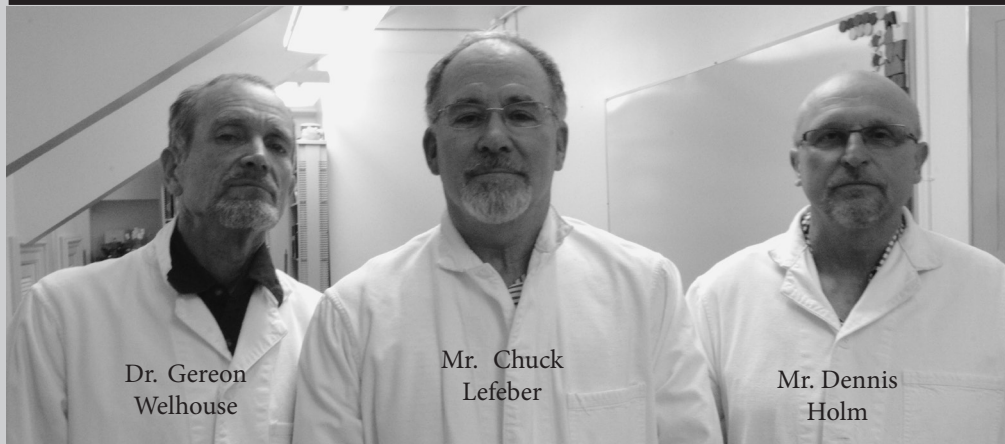
Junior Nick Le: Going to his aunt's house in Minnesota, playing, starting some homework, getting done, and playing League of Legends.

Dr. Rick Voell: Going home and taking three deep breaths of "Ruah Baby!"

Sophomore Anthony Nguyen: Going to volunteer at his old middle school, spending time with his dogs, and playing League of Legends.

Did You Know Your Science Department?

The previous issue of *Hilltopics* challenged readers to see if they could recognize each member of the Science Department through a microscopic view. Did you follow the scientific method?



Dr. Gereon Welhouse

Mr. Chuck Lefeber

Mr. Dennis Holm



Editors' note: Have you noticed the tiny elf that randomly appears throughout the issue? Believe us; we did too. It seems as though the little guy got carried away with the Christmas spirit, which we think is cool, but not cool enough to hijack *Hilltopics*. (We have proof above.) According to North Poleian law, he can only be punished according to how many times he committed the offense. Do you think you can count how many times he shows up throughout the issue? We counted eight. See if you can too.

Taking a Step Back

By: Austin Stevens

The school year goes very fast, and sometimes students forget to acknowledge that God is in their lives. To that end during the second week in November, SLS students took a break and went on their annual retreat. The sophomores and freshmen stayed on the Hill for their retreats. They were hosted by Spiritus, a retreat team based out of Menasha that helped guide the underclassmen in finding God in their daily lives. Both classes were also engaged in various group activities to promote class unity. Sophomore John Tran said, "The retreat made me take a step back from my daily life and reflect on how strong my faith was." Freshman John Vu commented, "The retreat was a fun experience in which I developed my personal relationship with God." While the freshmen and sophomores were with Spiritus, the juniors and seniors ventured off the Hill. The juniors traveled to the Mt. Morris retreat center in Wautoma, WI, located in central Wisconsin. There, they



Juniors Andrew Nguyen and Gary Kim participate in a skit at their Mt. Morris retreat.



Fr. Steve Kropp presents to the senior class at the Schoenstatt Center.

were isolated from distractions and asked to focus on their personal relationship with God in the scenic setting. Junior Andrew Mai said, "This year when I went to Mt. Morris, I was able to find God, within Mother Nature." The seniors left for the Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI. At Schoenstatt, the seniors sought spiritual enrichment through the Virgin Mary and reflected on their personal faith. Senior Michael Nguyen commented on the experience, "At the Schoenstatt retreat center, I was able to discern God's call and find the Virgin Mary in my life." Hopefully, each retreat helped students find their faith and deepen their relationship with God, as well as take a step back from their busy lives to acknowledge God's presence in a more significant way.

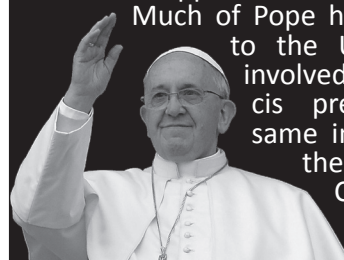
The Modern St. Francis

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected to the papacy on March 13, 2013, and was the first pope to choose the name of St. Francis. Pope Francis, though the first Jesuit pope, emulates many of the charisms, or characteristics, of St. Francis.

<i>St. Francis</i>	<i>Pope Francis</i>
<i>Love</i> He gave his armor to a man in need, facing the wrath and rejection of his father as a result.	<i>He strives for a greater care for creation (As exemplified by Laudato Si). He emphasizes an all-loving God (not One Who only cares for Catholics).</i>
<i>Poverty</i> He gave away all of the wealth that his father gave him.	<i>He frequently eats with the homeless and visits the poor.</i>
<i>Humility</i> He was not afraid to embrace the "lowest" people, even lepers.	<i>He lives in a guesthouse of the Vatican instead of the Papal apartments.</i>

Laudato Si

Laudato Si, one of Pope Francis' most widely known writings, is an encyclical centered on improving care for God's creation. In this document he also stresses the necessity of greater care for all humans, especially those who are oppressed or impoverished.



Much of Pope his recent visit to the United States involved Pope Francis presenting this same information to the United States Congress. Along with care for the environment, Pope Francis also spoke a great deal about the importance of the family in Philadelphia.

Serving the Church

By: Joseph Min

The name “St. Lawrence Seminary” is, in many cases, misleading. Whenever a student mentions this name to an outsider, the first question that he is often asked involves the last word. Of course, St. Lawrence was a school for prospective priests at the time it was founded in 1856. However, in the more than 150 intervening years, it has since developed



Br. Rob Roemer

Mr. Joe Zenk

into a college preparatory high school, where students from around the world—regardless of their desires to join the priesthood—receive an excellent education set in a strong Catholic environment. Though not many are ready to lead a full-time religious life, St. Lawrence strongly encourages—even expects—that its students listen and respond to the call of God in their lives.

On Wednesday, November 4th, during National Vocation Awareness Week, St. Lawrence Seminary held its very first Vocation Day. In accordance with the week-long celebration to promote vocations to religious life, SLS invited six different men, all of whom responded to God’s invitation to serve



Fr. Robert Krueger

Mr. Peter Kolar

the Church with their talents, to serve as presenters. The students set aside their academic studies for a day so that they, too, could understand how critical the process of discernment is and how much patience it requires.

Presenters included Br. Rob Roemer, an alumnus of SLS, who came to talk about what it is like to be a Capuchin brother; Mr. Joe Zenk, who spoke about his experiences of lay ministry as a parish director; Deacon Tony Abts, who serves as the director of the diaconate program of the Green Bay Diocese, and spoke about the diaconate; Fr. Robert Krueger, an Archdiocesan priest from Chicago, who spoke about the diocesan priesthood; Fr. Bill Hugo, an SLS alumnus, who talked about the Capuchin priesthood; and

Mr. Peter Kolar, also an SLS alumnus, who explained about his lay ministry to the Church through his musical talent. St. Lawrence was also fortunate enough to have Mr. Kolar be the accompanist during the Mass that evening, which Mr. John Ahlstrom, the music director at St. Lawrence, thought “was excellent.” He also humorously added, “It was fun for me to sit in the pew and enjoy it without worrying about what song was up next.”

In fact, Mr. Kolar has become a very prominent musician in the Church as a publisher, composer, and pianist. One of his greatest accomplishments was the publication of the bilingual Mass setting titled, *Misa Luna*. This particular work is not only recognized in many dioceses as their official Mass setting, but it was also used recently at the papal mass in Philadelphia, which was held on September 25th. As a nationally recognized composer and church musician, Mr. Kolar explained that he wishes to “give back to the community” through music.



Vocation Day was indeed a day for students to explore the myriad of ways they could respond to the call of God. It was evident that this experience cleared up a common misconception that one must be a sworn religious in order to serve the Church. In reality, students realized that every single one of them was called to minister in the Church through whatever they had to offer—whether it be through lay ministry or a religious vocation such as the priesthood. Senior Andrew Wolfe, who is planning to pursue a life as a priest, said, “The day affirmed my certainty that I am called to the priesthood.” John Zampino, a junior also considering the priesthood, was glad that the day “solidified [his] decision to become a priest.” However, students who were less interested in a religious life also found the day to be a fruitful experience; freshman Jefferson Nguyen was “surprised that there were so many ways of serving the Church even without becoming a priest, especially in music.”



Fr. Bill Hugo

Deacon Tony Abts

The previous issue of *Hilltopics* featured the Math Club, which is where all the math wizards hang out. However, there is also a large group of students, and teachers who feel like high school math is an omen for the apocalypse. And since Santa is double checking his naughty or nice list this time of year, *Hilltopics* wanted to shed light on two of the sources who confuse students the most: Mrs. Jenny Tabbert and Ms. Jamie Stephanie.



Ms. Stephanie

What made you want to become a math teacher?

T: I enjoyed working with numbers and helping others better understand them.

S: I wanted to teach, and I think math is a pretty crucial skill.



Mrs. Tabbert

What's your biggest pet-peeve?

T: Slow walkers.

S: I have too many too mention. (Here's a classroom one—putting feet on the desk in front of you.)

You guys weren't in the same class, but did you hang out at New Holstein High School?

T: Yes, we were in band together.

S: Yes, I had a car so I drove her and her sister to school. I made them late a few times.

If you had the chance to teach another class, what would it be?

T: Science, especially earth science.

S: English—though, I just want to read books and correct stories and poems, not actually teach English.

What would you say to students who claim that the various mathematic concepts taught in class are mostly useless in the real world?

T: Math is all around you from the moment you check the time to mixing the perfect batch of cookies.

S: They must think they'll never have to deal with money and take out a student loan or buy a car or mortgage a house. That's all math.

Looking back on this year, where does she fall on the naughty or nice list?

T: It really depends on the day.
S: I'm not at liberty to say.

Does she have a hidden talent we don't know about?

T: She won the elementary school spelling bee.

S: She can play a mean tuba, as well as wrangle bees for their honey.

What was the best gift Santa ever gave you?

T: My favorite toys were the Polly Pocket dolls.

S: Not Santa, but my uncle made an awesome Barbie doll house that was as big as me.



By: Gary Kim and Kevin Dang

Check for Checks

By: John O’Neill

The majority of the word “paycheck” is made up of the word “check.” So, what is a check? Well, it’s not referring to the “checks and balances” included in the U.S. Constitution, the wonderful red mark that is written on a completed homework assignment, or the verb meaning “to examine something.” From a financial perspective, a check is a device used to represent value from a checking account, and, when used properly, is an easier, safer, and more efficient way of using cash.

Checks are very complicated when researching beyond the surface, but the main idea is that it is an easier and more secure way to carry large amounts of money. Imagine dragging around \$1,000 in your pocket all day. Not only would that be inconvenient, it would also be nerve-racking: what if you were robbed or lost your cash? A check makes that task secure. There are many lines on a paper check. The “Pay to the Order of...” line is where the name of the person to whom the check is written out goes; “Memo” offers an idea or the reason for the payment and is optional; “routing number” is used to ensure that the proper bank is contacted for payment, “account number” is how the branch banks know which account to take the money from; and “Amount” or “Total” is the amount of money the check is worth. All of this information gets filled in on the face of the check.



Senior John O’Neill demonstrates how to fill in a check.



Checks are just worthless pieces of paper without some value, or standard, backing them. This value is placed by means of a checking account. Checking accounts are specialized versions of savings accounts: they generally offer no interest from the bank; a minimum dollar amount must be present in the account at all times; but it is an easier way to withdraw money. When withdrawing money from a savings account, it usually must be done at the bank itself, or at one the branches (a smaller, less specialized bank than the main office). However, with a checking account, it can be done almost anywhere! Gas stations, stores, restaurants, the Post Office, online . . . the list goes on! Deposits are also generally done at the bank itself; however, some employers use a system called “direct deposit” to deposit one’s paycheck right into a checking account, without going through the mail, workers’ hands, or a few days of travel. All of this is accomplished using the checking system.

Without checks, it would be difficult to make large purchases. While a credit card can seem as if it has unlimited money, all that value must be paid back with interest. Using checks, though, actually makes use of real money that is present and ready to be spent, right in one’s account! With all its advantages, ease of use, and logical purpose, check for checks: they really work.

So now that you know how checks work, how do you keep track of it all?

Luckily someone thought of this problem before, and so a marvelous tool called a checkbook register was created. With a checkbook register, you can keep track of how and when you use your money, when you add money to your checking account, and how much you have left. Here’s what it looks like.

Transaction	Date	Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
—	—	—	—	—	\$5,015.25
ATM	12/11/2015	Canteen	\$20.00		\$4,995.25
ATM	12/12/2015	Mom’s Cash		\$100.12	\$5,095.37
CC	12/12/2015	Gas Station	\$5.43		\$5,089.94
CC	12/12/2015	Snacks	\$7.03		\$5,082.91
AD	12/13/2015	Christmas Gifts	\$534.98		\$4,547.93
TRANS	12/13/2015	Savings		\$1,000.00	\$5,547.93

ATM= Automated Teller Machine
 CC= Credit Card
 AD= Automatic Deposit
 TRANS= Transfer

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Have you seen the changes around the Hill lately? Many alumni have commented that they can't recognize the places they used to know. So to help out, Henry has decided to give everyone—alumni, students, benefactors—a short tour of campus. (With some helpful hints)



If eating is what sets you free, have a seat in the _____.



Behind me with only one wall, is the destruction of _____ Hall.



If you've ever touched one of these flags and lost a leg, you must remember this classroom and Mr. _____.



I know looking for me in the snow is hard, but I promise this is the chapel _____.



If your musical talents include more than a hum, why not join the band in the _____?



If you're wondering why senior year is such a ball, spend some time in _____ Hall.