

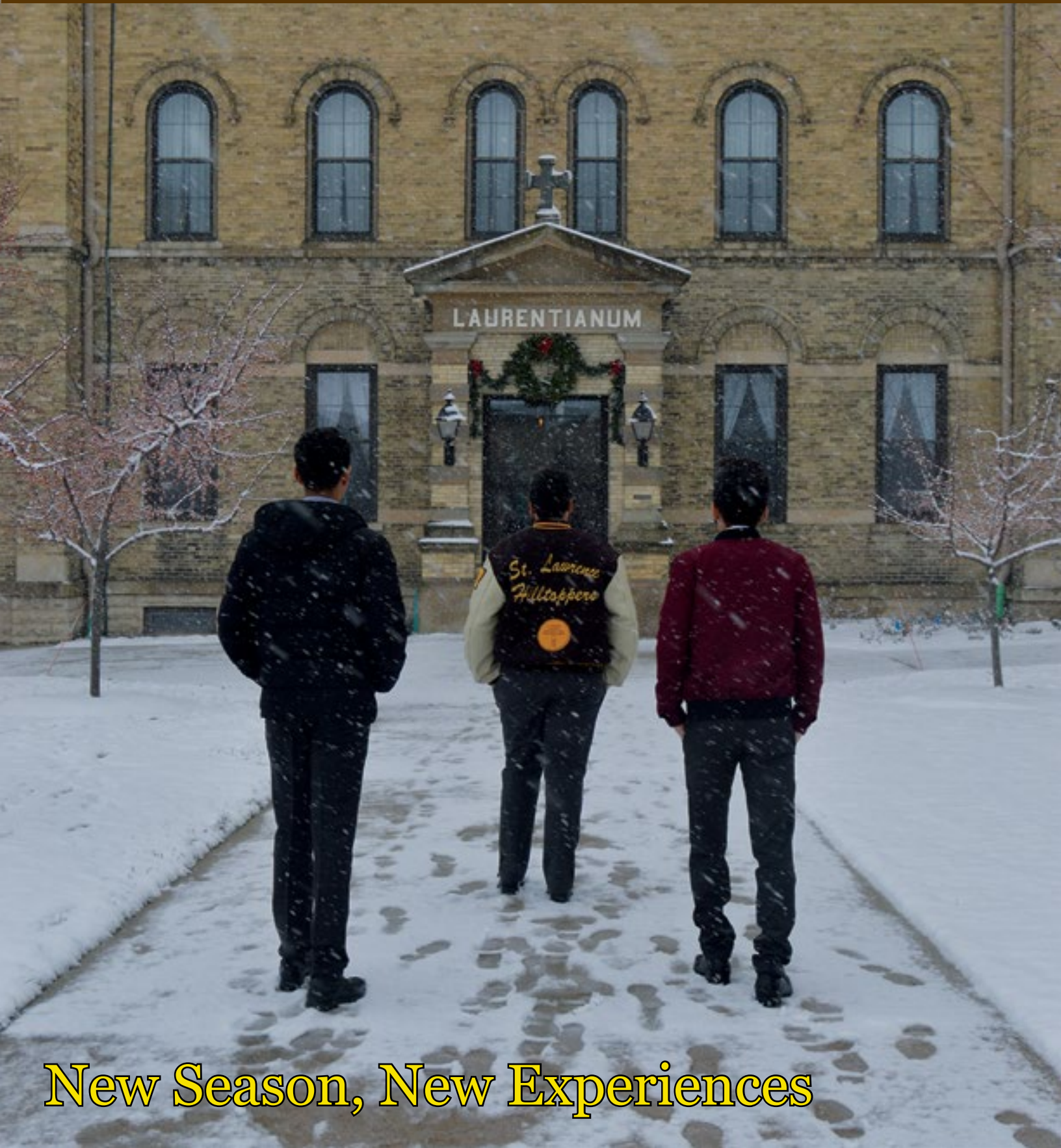
HILLTOPICS

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New Season, New Experiences

U.S. Elects New President

By: Mike Perez

For the last eighteen months, the United States presidential election has consumed the conversations and thoughts of many people, not just those in the U.S. Throughout the season countless commercials and advertisements on TV and billboards announced to the world that the man/woman pictured was the best candidate to lead the country for the next four years. Although there were many people who attempted to win the race and impact the election, many started dropping out one-by-one as more states declared who they would stand with throughout the primary season.

By mid-July, the sides had been whittled down as the two major parties elected their presidential nominees at their national conventions. Those candidates were Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. They each secured the nomination of their respective parties and campaigned for months to sway the people of the United States to vote for them in the national election. This money-draining endeavor paid off for Donald Trump, as he won the national election and will be inducted into the Oval Office in January of 2017.



The final Electoral College total.

This journey to the presidency was not without many mishaps, however. There were boatloads of accusations coming from both sides. Donald Trump was viewed as racist for his comments targeting Mexican Americans as well as Muslims. Hillary Clinton was labeled as unfit for office due to an email scandal, while serving as Secretary of State, that just would not go away. And that was just the tip of the iceberg. As the two candidates were constantly attacked, it came to the point where both became unpopular with many people.

Both candidates had their fair share of anxious moments even during election night. While most national polls throughout the end of the campaign season had put Clinton ahead of Trump, those numbers did not hold up as the states began reporting their results. Though many were shocked at the result of the election, Trump vowed the next day to work to be the leader of all the people of the nation. Despite this, there were many demonstrations throughout major cities across the United States in the days following the elections. While it is clear that not everyone can win an election, it is important to remember the power of the individual in executing their vote.



President Barack Obama meets with President-Elect Donald Trump.

Battle for the Kings

By: Isaac Villegas

Among other hobbies, freshman Sean D'Souza enjoys playing chess. He started playing chess about five years ago and over time has become very good at it. Most students who have played against him during their free time would agree that he is a very talented chess player. Very recently in November, he was able to test those skills against several challenging opponents when he competed in the 2016-2017 WI Junior Chess Open tournament held at UW-Oshkosh on Saturday, November 6th.

Sean a resident of Racine had known about the tournament for a few years and had competed in it annually. He explained, "This was my fourth time competing in this tournament." He decided to go back again this year to enjoy the competition and improve his skill. When he arrived at UW-Oshkosh, he had to register and wait to be placed into the bracket. The participants were able to practice playing before actually starting the tournament. He stated, "Matches usually take anywhere from twenty minutes to four hours, and mine really ran that range." He competed with some of the best young players in the state of Wisconsin, as the chess tournament was an open invite. He stayed at the college campus the entire day until the tournament was over. Although he was unsure about his final placement after the tournament, he had a lot of fun competing in it, and he looks forward to participating again next year.



Sean debates his next chess move.

Open Communication

By: Carlos Núñez

On Saturday, November 5th, the teachers and parents of St. Lawrence Seminary students met for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Most students enjoyed their parents' presence on the Hill, but some dealt with the nervousness of what the teacher would say about their grades and behavior. However, some students weren't able to share this experience due to the issue of distance to their homes. Instead, these parents often emailed or contacted the teachers in other ways to see how their son was doing.

There were two sessions of conferences; the first session ran from 9-11:30 a.m. and the second from 12:30-3:00 p.m. There was a lunch served in the refectory for families and students. When parents arrived, students were paged to the main building to meet with them, and the students were expected to attend the conferences in their respective classrooms.

There, the teacher was able to explain the class material and what the students were learning in each specific course. The teacher also typically shared the first quarter grades and students' current second quarter grades. Parents were encouraged to ask questions and discuss their sons' behavior. Most students that attended were intrigued by what the teacher said. "It was weird but at the same time funny to hear what the teacher had to say about me, even though I'm doing okay in the class," said Gerardo Aguirre, a sophomore.

Once students had seen all of their teachers, they were welcome to leave the Hill with their parents. Fr. John Holly, SLS's Rector, explained to students and parents that he hoped this time was a chance for parents to discuss their sons' efforts in school and to share some much needed praise or encouragement regarding their sons' classwork. As students live on the Hill, many times these types of discussions have to be done on the phone, and many parents appreciated the opportunity to discuss things with their students face-to-face. No matter the content of the conference, it was a great time for the connections between school and home to be strengthened and for students to reconnect with their parents.



Mrs. Jenny Tabbert explains Ethan Nguyen's Advanced Algebra grade to his mother.



Alex Thao discusses his Chemistry grade with Dr. Gereon Welhouse and his parents.

Sweet Sound of Symphony

By: Matthew Mattes

The Fond du Lac Symphonic Band Concert has been a great opportunity for St. Lawrence Seminary students to get off the Hill and to attend a wonderful fall concert. The concert takes place in St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, the place the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band has called home for many years. Mr. John Ahlstrom, the music director at St. Lawrence, arranged the concert field trip held on Sunday, November 13th. Mr. Ahlstrom is a current member of the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, and, in the past, students from SLS have participated in the band as well.



The Fond du Lac Symphonic Band.

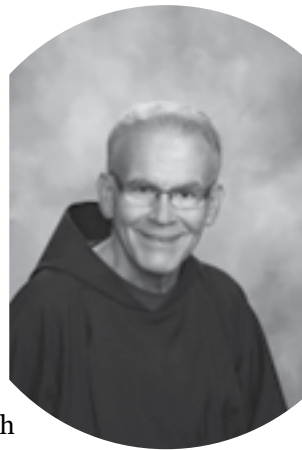
David Draftz, a current sophomore at SLS, attended the concert and said, "I really enjoyed the concert; the thing that amazed me the most [about the Cathedral] was the pipe organ chamber that you could walk into. The concert in the Cathedral was beautiful." This year, the band played many songs including: "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," "Cause for Celebration," "Pat-a-Pan" (an Irish song), "In the Bleak Mid-Winter," and "In Dulci Jubilio" in which the band members sang four-part harmony. The Symphonic Band is planning to host a Pops Concert in the spring, which Mr. Ahlstrom hopes will be as delightful or even surpass the concert this fall. To find out more about the Symphonic Band go to www.fonddulacsymphonicband.com.



Students attending the concert pose for a picture.

Winter on the Hill

By: Fr. John Holly



As Deacon Jim Patterson was speaking at Mass the other night, he was describing the first time he and I came to the Hill for the Action Retreat, 50-odd years ago!

My thoughts began to wander to two winter trips up to the Hill. Fr. Nick, our recruiter, invited about 10 or 15 guys to come up here for a few days over part of the Christmas break when we were in the seventh and eighth grades. Wow, what a trip! We had come in the summer on the train to Fond du Lac for the Action Retreat but the winter was totally different. While the Action Retreat had a pretty tight schedule and involved more kids, the winter trip had mostly free time and there was snow, white snow!

As city boys, we were used to snow that, by the second day, was dirty. Here, we traveled for miles past snow covered fields and little towns as we got further away from Chicago and the volume of snow increased. I had seldom left Chicago at any time and never in the winter. I think I sat on the train with my head firmly glued to the window; it was so beautiful, peaceful and still.

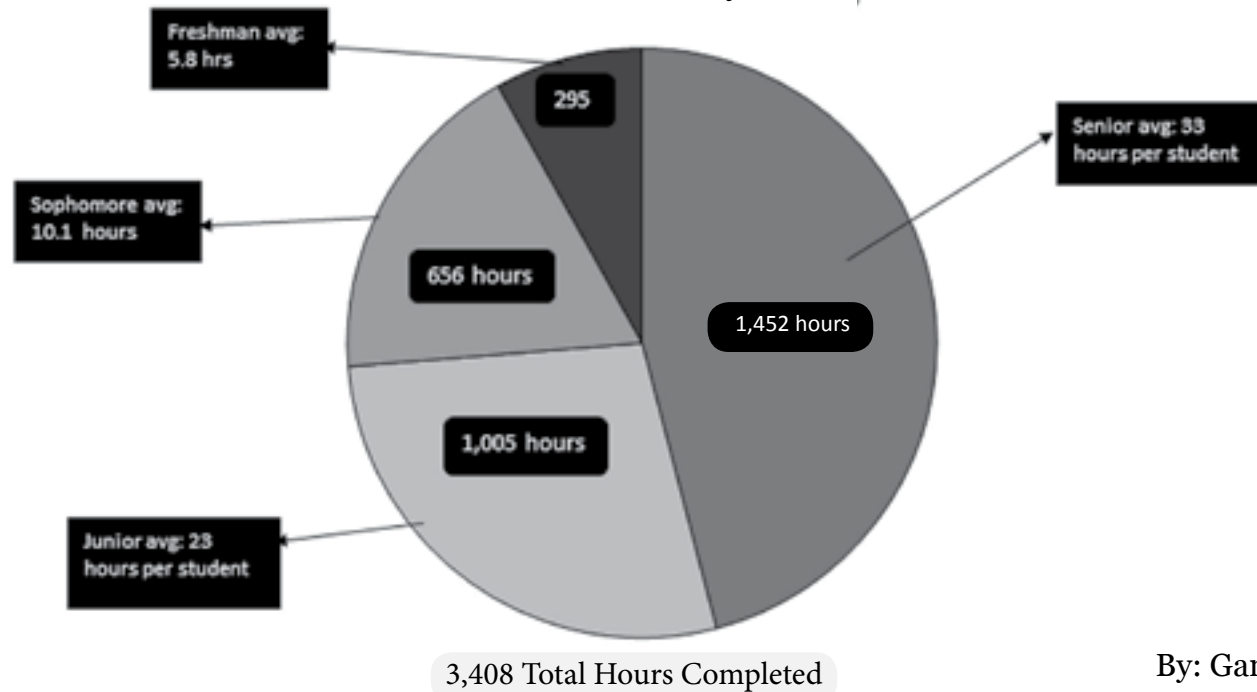
And so was the Hill. The current auditorium was the chapel then and I remember the crib scene. As I look back now, it was so simple. The refectory was in the same place as now, but the tables were long and narrow, and there were no backs on the stools. I seem to remember almost a "Charlie Brown" type of tree way in the corner. But most of all, I remember the hill and the snow! We went up and down the hill on a toboggan for hours on end—it was so cool! Even with our shouts and squeals of delight, it was so quiet. And dark, no street lights, no porch lights. The place was truly magical. For me, it still is. And I hope that for you, too, it holds some of that same magic. Merry Christmas!

Spreading the Kingdom of God

One of the components of the Mission and Values Statement of St. Lawrence Seminary is ministry. It reads in part: "St. Lawrence Seminary nurtures mature, well-rounded men of faith, who prepare for a life of ministry." Jesus Christ taught His followers to spread the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and one way to do this is by completing ministry, as Jesus went around and performed miracles.

Ministry is rooted deeply in the SLS system. Dr. Rick Voell is the ministry coordinator on the Hill. He oversees and plans many new ministry experiences and organizes the annual mission trip. He also records the ministry hours of each student. SLS students are expected to fulfill a certain number of hours based on their grade level. Freshmen are expected to perform five, sophomores ten, juniors twenty, and seniors thirty hours of ministry. Due to this, the accumulative hours of ministry completed by the students is impressive. Dr. Voell explained, "Students are changed because of their ministry—their hearts are broken open to embrace the poor, the aging, [and] the special needs person. Because their hearts have expanded, they find that their worldview is often enlarged as well. They move from a perspective of 'I gotta get these hours done' to 'It is good to be here and serve others.'" He later added, "We often witness students choosing to enter into ministry experiences to serve others. In the end, they come to an awareness that they are the ones who have been touched by the Spirit of Christ." Students learn through many ministries that their work reveals the profound love of God as they leave the Hill of Happiness.

2015-2016 Ministry Hours



By: Gary Kim

Coming Together

By: Yann Memiaghe

Every year at SLS, students take part in a retreat with their class. The retreat generally lasts only for a couple of days, but it is a time when students can bond with members of their class and work on improving themselves by strengthening their spiritual lives. Retreat simply means to withdraw, or drawback, and that's exactly what students did during their retreats this year. The reason why SLS has retreats in the first place is to withdraw from the sometimes mundane daily schedule and to allow students to reflect on things in their life through prayer and other various activities. Removing students from the rigors of their daily academic schedule can help move them to a place of reflection and a mentality that makes them more open to hearing God.

The sophomores stayed on the Hill as well but were led by a group from Spiritus, an organization that focuses on engendering spirit in Catholic youth. During the retreat, sophomores often broke into groups and participated in team-building activities. They also listened to different members of the Spiritus team talk about their own faith experiences. They celebrated Mass together and took time to pray with different Spiritus members individually, giving them a chance to talk about things in their life that they are struggling with and want to focus on in their prayer. Francis Tran, a sophomore, described the retreat as "a fun and emotional experience." He added, "It really helped me with my faith because I was encouraged to reflect on myself a lot."



Fr. Tom Nguyen shares his experience with the seniors.

Finally, the seniors went to Schoenstatt Retreat Center in Waukesha, WI. They stayed there for two days and the focus of their retreat was discerning where they are in their faith and what they want their lives to look like after graduation. They also worked with each other in different activities to reinforce their class connection. The seniors were led on their retreat by Capuchins Fr. Tom Nguyen and Fr. Tien Dinh. Both are alumni and were ordained at St. Lawrence Seminary last spring, so it was an extra special connection for the seniors who had all witnessed that ceremony. Senior John Lopez explained that the most powerful part of the retreat for him was when a candle was passed around and each member of the class said something they liked or what they would miss about the class. This made the whole experience more emotional for everyone. Richard Van, a senior, said, "The retreat helped me to learn a lot of things about my classmates that I didn't know before. It actually helped me grow closer to them as well."

All the retreats were unique and great for establishing a stronger class bond. Each class seemed to build a deeper friendship with each other and an even more tight-knit relationship with God. And all students benefited from the time to step back and listen to the Lord.



Juniors make use of their break time.

Although all students went on a retreat, each class had somewhat of a different experience because of location, activities and the people who led each class. Freshmen remained on the Hill and participated in multiple activities that centered on the theme of prayer. These activities included hiking with Mr. Anthony Van Asten, praying traditional prayers with Father Ron, and praying through the use of the mandala (a prayer drawing) led by Mrs. Jenny Tabbert and Mrs. Katie Daane. Freshman Nelson Regalado said, "I thought the retreat strengthened my relationship with God through the different types of prayer."



A Spiritus member leads part of the sophomore retreat.

The juniors actually left the Hill and went to Mount Morris, a camp specifically designed for retreat groups, in Wautoma, WI. Led by Dr. Voell, they stayed there for two nights, taking part in different prayers, self-reflection activities, skits, and lots of free time meant for class bonding. They concluded with a Mass and then an open discussion about the impact of the retreat. Current junior Jeffrey Diaz Leal said, "The retreat allowed our class to effectively and quickly bond in a matter of only a couple days. It was the best thing our class could do to become even closer."



Seniors express what makes them different.



Freshmen draw their prayers using a mandala.



Juniors enjoy the campfire at the end of a retreat day.

Spreading the Love on Christmas Day!

St. Lawrence Seminary's Angel Tree project has one goal, to spread love!!! SLS participates in a unique program that uses donated money to buy presents for children who are growing up with an incarcerated parent or relative. SLS is only a small part of a much bigger national program called the Angel Tree program. This organization allows prison inmates to send gifts to their children all across the nation.



Juniors debate what the children want for Christmas.

increased, and due to the size of our staff and student body, we have the capacity to help more. The Sunday Mass collection for the second quarter, as well as donations from staff members, is used to buy the presents.

The juniors take the next step in the process, as they are driven off Hill by staff members to buy the presents. They have the fun (and sometimes challenging) task of choosing the right toys and right size clothes for the children. Junior Marcos Huerta explains that he got a bunch of stuffed animals at Target.



Mr. Antonio Trinidad shows Andrew Mai how to wrap.

The Angel Tree project was founded by a woman who was herself incarcerated many years ago. She found that being away from her children on Christmas Day had more of a negative impact on the children than on her. Once she got out of prison, she started the Angel Tree project and it has grown into something much bigger. Fr. Gary Wegner (former Dean of Students) and Mrs. Margie Buelow (SLS's liturgical minister) had the original idea of taking part in the Angel Tree Program 18 years ago, and the school's participation has only grown since that time.

Many SLS students and staff members have very big roles in making these children's Christmases a blast. The incarcerated parents must ask their chaplain to be a part of the Angel Tree. If inmates are given permission, their forms are then sent to Angel Tree. These forms list the name and age of their child and any contact information of the child's guardian. Angel Tree then sends those forms to area parishes. Individual parishes then take on the job of contacting the guardian to ask what the child needs for Christmas. At SLS, Mrs. Buelow and several other staff members call the individual guardians to collect their wish lists.

Almost all of the time, churches are then put in charge of purchasing the gifts and delivering them to the children. Typically, participating parishes are given about 20 children's names every year. SLS is an exception.

"When we first started, we only had about 20 kids that we had to buy presents for. Nowadays, we get more than 100 kids that we send presents out to," said Mrs. Buelow. She went on to explain that the need for gifts has



Shane Gomes carefully wraps a present.

The next step is wrapping the presents! Mainly sophomores have this job, but it is open to anyone who wants to wrap gifts. Mrs. Buelow teaches students how to wrap presents the right way if they have no experience. "It sounds simple, but in reality, it is pretty difficult," said sophomore Andrew Mai. The goal of this task is simple, make it look pretty!

Freshmen have a unique job and it requires a bit of brain power: writing letters to the incarcerated parents. The freshmen hand-write letters that mention the presents that were given to the children. Once the wrapping is done and the letters are written, there is one last step.

Before the presents are distributed to the children, the presents are put on display in the chapel. The students say a prayer for the parentless children as well as the incarcerated men and women. The seniors then have the special task of playing Santa for a day and delivering the presents to the children. The seniors went around with the presents and personally delivered them on Sunday, December 11th. This year, the presents were delivered throughout Wisconsin, to places like Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Milwaukee and Manitowoc. "We started this program at St. Lawrence because it is very worthwhile," said Mrs. Buelow. The Angel Tree project is a way of spreading love throughout the nation and gives the children of those who are incarcerated hope and a reminder that they are loved by the missing parent. SLS is blessed to be able to participate in such a significant way in spreading the love each year!



By: Tom Vu

Our Lady of Guadalupe

By: Peter Hall

On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico. Juan Diego was a poor and humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. The Blessed Mother requested that Juan Diego have a church built at that spot so that she would have a place to hear the petitions of the Mexican people. But when Juan Diego consulted the Bishop about it, the Bishop wanted proof that Mary had actually appeared to him. Juan Diego went back and Mary granted the Bishop's request—she ordered Juan Diego to go up a hill and find dozens of beautiful flowers miraculously growing in the dead of winter. He gathered them and brought them to Mary who placed them in his tilma (or cloak) and instructed him to go show them to the Bishop.



Students share in the special feast at SLS.

When Juan Diego opened up his tilma for the Bishop, the roses spilled onto the ground and a beautiful image of the Blessed Virgin remained in their place. The Bishop immediately had a church built at her request and Juan Diego began the life of a prayerful hermit. Millions of natives of Mexico converted at word of what had happened to Juan Diego. Millions more would



Students discuss how delicious the food was.

make pilgrimages to see the miraculous tilma, which is still intact today and the image has not faded after 485 years. The feast day was set in 1754 by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, and Catholics throughout the world still commemorate this event.

St. Lawrence Seminary celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe yearly in a unique way. In early December, many parents of Hispanic students make the journey to the Hill to celebrate with their sons and the community. The festivities begin with a special evening prayer in chapel that includes a bilingual recitation of the rosary. After the prayer service, families and students alike make their way to the refectory to find a delicious feast of *tamales* (meat wrapped in cornmeal), *arroz con frijoles* (rice with beans), and *churros* (fried pastry) prepared by the Hispanic families. "The celebration was a fun and delicious experience," said sophomore Andrick Hernandez of this year's feast. The celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is always an event for students at SLS to eagerly anticipate.

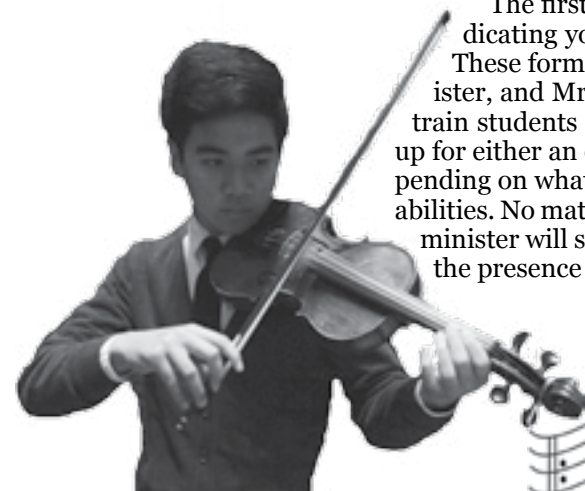
The Magic Behind the Music

By: Eric Howard

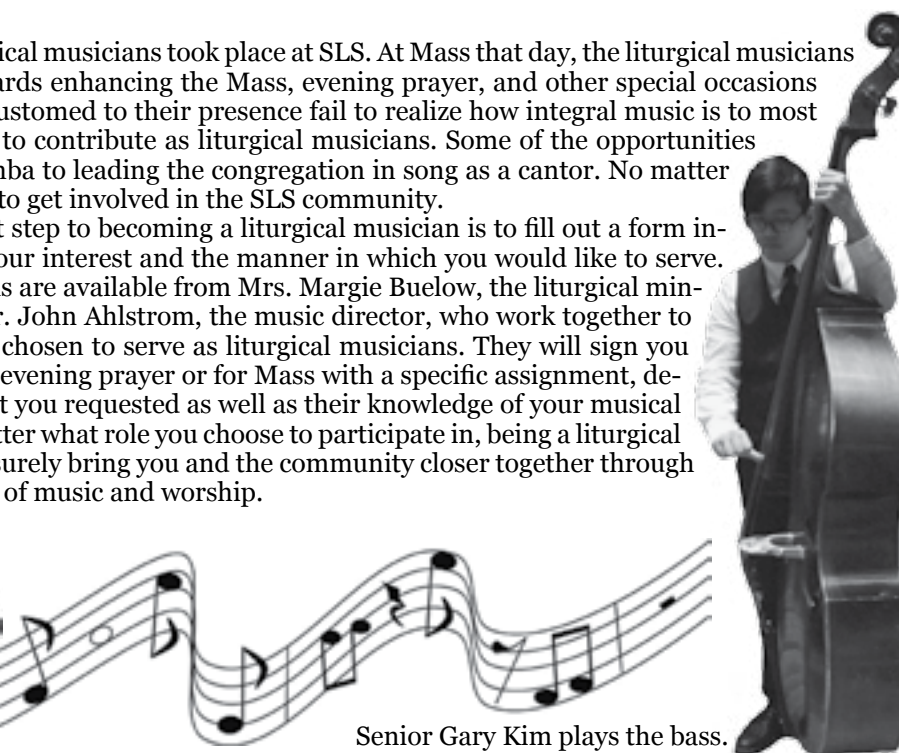
On Sunday, November 13th, the blessing of liturgical musicians took place at SLS. At Mass that day, the liturgical musicians were acknowledged for their work and effort towards enhancing the Mass, evening prayer, and other special occasions for all participants. Most people have become accustomed to their presence fail to realize how integral music is to most religious services. There are many different ways to contribute as liturgical musicians. Some of the opportunities range from being a guitarist to working the marimba to leading the congregation in song as a cantor. No matter the role, being a liturgical musician is a great way to get involved in the SLS community.

The first step to becoming a liturgical musician is to fill out a form indicating your interest and the manner in which you would like to serve.

These forms are available from Mrs. Margie Buelow, the liturgical minister, and Mr. John Ahlstrom, the music director, who work together to train students chosen to serve as liturgical musicians. They will sign you up for either an evening prayer or for Mass with a specific assignment, depending on what you requested as well as their knowledge of your musical abilities. No matter what role you choose to participate in, being a liturgical minister will surely bring you and the community closer together through the presence of music and worship.



Junior Bryant Nguyen shares his violin.



Senior Gary Kim plays the bass.

The SLS Athletics Press Conference

By: Nene Lor

The winter season has just arrived and that means students have to be prepared for the chilly weather coming, but that doesn't mean that they have to hibernate in dorm or be lazy all day. Nope, SLS offers both competitive and intramural winter sports for SLS students who want to be involved. Students wish to play competitively can choose from basketball and wrestling. Students who choose to participate in these sports have to be ready and in tip-top shape to be able to shine throughout the winter sport season. Freshman Dominic Nguyen was selected as a player for the JV basketball team this year. *Hilltopics* asked him of his goals for the basketball season, and he responded, "I want to end the season with a winning record for the team and to be able to maintain a solid number of points." A senior on the varsity basketball team, Suemeng Lor explained a difficulty the varsity team could face this year, "The juniors need to be able to keep up with the pace of the game and improve their defense this year." Suemeng's goal for this year, though, was pretty simple. He said, "It's to be able to win our next game, and the game after that, and win our next game after that."



But let's not forget about wrestling, as it is a competitive sport that involves using every part of one's body to come out with the victory. Sophomore Alex Barrera, as a new wrestler this year, was asked if he had any goals for the season. Alex replied, "I want to be able to win half of all my matches this season and get stronger as time progresses." He also explained his feeling that as the wrestling season continues, the competition will get tougher with each and every meet. Gerard Fernandes, a junior who is new to the team, explained that he wants to be able to win at least half of his matches this season and gain more muscle as the season continues; he also explained he wants to be physically prepared for the next soccer season. Gerard and Alex, as well as numerous other wrestlers, feel as if the wrestling season is an experience that is like no other as it is intense during every practice and meet, but both feel it is worth it to be out there every day. The winter sport season has just begun and there is a great deal of potential and possibility for each athlete to continue to encourage himself to do the best in whatever he does.



Hilltopper Scoreboard

Varsity Basketball

Tuesday, November 29
St. Lawrence 46
Abundant Life Christian 51

Saturday, December 3 **Tuesday, December 6**
St. Lawrence 56 St. Lawrence 48
St. John's Northwestern Maniwoc Lutheran 51
Military Academy 78

Junior Varsity Basketball

Tuesday, November 29 **Saturday, December 3**
St. Lawrence 47 St. Lawrence 35
Abundant Life Christian 35 St. John's Northwestern
Military Academy 40

Tuesday, December 6
St. Lawrence 17
Maniwoc Lutheran 56

Varsity Wrestling

Saturday, December 3
East Troy Invite
Varsity team went 1-4, beating Cudahy
Junior Kelly Paulsen went 4-1, winning 2nd place
Senior Jonathan Hinesh went 4-1, winning 2nd place

Tuesday, December 6
Horicon High School Dual
St. Lawrence 10-70 Horicon
Junior Gerard Fernandes won by a major decision

Junior Varsity Wrestling

Saturday, December 3
Plymouth Invite
Freshman Nicholas Rodriguez went 2-1, winning 2nd place

Tuesday, December 6
Horicon High School Dual
Freshman Nicholas Rodriguez went 2-0

Bucks vs. Kings

By: Alejandro Reyes

On Saturday, November 5th, a group of SLS students traveled off campus to see a Milwaukee Bucks basketball game against the Sacramento Kings. The large group of about thirty enjoyed the sights and sounds of a professional NBA game at the BMO Harris Bradley Center. This was an opportunity not to be passed up, as it's not every weekend that a group goes off the Hill, especially to Milwaukee. For the price of their tickets (only \$35), students were able to watch both teams' pre-game practices, meet the cheerleaders, and enjoy lower level seating for the game. The game was an exciting one for fans of the team, as the Bucks

came out on top of the Kings by a score of 117-91.

"It was exciting to watch the Bucks win against Sacramento, even though I'm a Bulls' fan. We all enjoyed ourselves and had a good time. Some of us even got to take photos with the cheerleaders," said freshman Eduardo Martinez, one of many to go on the trip. Students usually look forward to outings, whether it be canoeing or even shopping at the mall, as they are excellent ways to experience life in the "real world" after weeks on the Hill, and this was certainly an entertaining trip to experience.



Students pose during the Bucks' warmup.

Fitness Center Frenzy

By: Peter Hall

With the weather turning colder, no longer were there pick-up games happening on the soccer field or students running perimeters interminably. Instead, the students on the Hill found themselves turning to the fitness center to fulfill their energy output needs. *Hilltopics* interviewed various students, who are in the fitness center on a regular basis, about their routines.

JOSE MERCADO-SENIOR

Q: How much time do you typically spend during each workout session, and how often do you work out?

A: I work out for about two hours every day except for Sunday.

Q: What goals do you have for working out?

A: My main goal is to get in better shape.

Q: What do you like to focus on when you are in the weight room?

A: I like to focus on cardio for a lot of my time.

Inspirational quote: "My name is Jose Mercado; my favorite machine in the gym is the vending machine."



JOE RAMIREZ-JUNIOR

Q: How much time do you typically spend during each workout session, and how often do you work out?

A: I spend one-and-one-half to two hours in the weight room when I work out. I work out six days a week.



Joe Ramirez puts in that work.

Q: What goals do you have for working out?

A: My dream is to someday become a bodybuilder.

Q: What do you like to focus on when you are in the weight room?

A: My focus is to gain strength and mass.

Inspirational quote: "You can have results or excuses, not both." -Arnold Schwarzenegger

HUNTER BRAUND-FRESHMAN

Q: How much time do you typically spend during each workout session, and how often do you work

out, and how often do you work out?

A: Usually forty-five minutes to one-and-one-half hours. I work out every two or three days.

Q: What goals do you have for working out?

A: My main goal is to get stronger.
Inspirational quote: "I can accept failure, but I can't accept not trying."
-Michael Jordan

SHANE GOMES-SOPHOMORE

Q: How much time do you typically spend during each workout session, and how often do you work out?

A: I'm usually in the weight room for about one hour every other day.

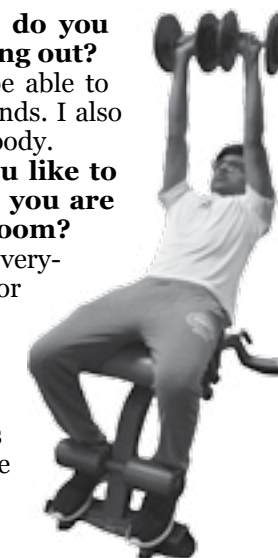
Q: What goals do you have for working out?

A: I want to be able to bench 145 pounds. I also want a bigger body.

Q: What do you like to focus on when you are in the weight room?

A: I focus on everything, except for lower body.

Inspirational quote: "Goals are not meant to be just set; goals are meant to be achieved."



The Mighty Math Marvels are on the Move

By: Wilson Burge

Sports and Forensics are the only ways to earn trophies, medals, and letters at St. Lawrence, right? Wrong. Students can also earn these awards by joining the St. Lawrence math team and competing against other schools in our Flyway Conference. Monday, November 14th, was the perfect opportunity for St. Lawrence students to do just that, as SLS hosted its own math meet.

How does a math meet work? An adult supervisor in each room gives each student four individual tests created by the host school, one for each round. Each student must complete the five-question test in a given time limit. At the end of each round, volunteer students, called “runners,” go from classroom to classroom to collect the completed tests and bring them to the test correctors in a separate classroom. Once the individual tests are completed, there is also one team test. Awards are given out for the highest individual and team scores. St. Lawrence took first place this year at the Kettle Moraine Lutheran math meet, which was held on Monday, October 10th. Senior Gary Kim took 1st place overall and junior Seung Joo Lee placed 3rd overall.



Math Team 1 prepare their team test.



Students work on individual based test.

When asked what needs to be done to prepare the classrooms used for the meet, math teacher Mrs. Jenny Tabbert responded, “Each classroom has to have the correct number of desks arranged in a way that each team has its own area because some rooms are shared between different schools. Also, we have to coordinate which teams are assigned to each room in an organized way to avoid mix-ups.” A map of the school was also made to show the visiting schools where they needed to be. St. Lawrence hosted 8 schools and 210 students at their home meet. “Home math meets are a lot of work,” said math teacher Ms. Jamie Stephanie. “It is very time consuming as we must prepare everything from organizing traffic for the many buses that show up on campus to designing the plaques and medals.” The St. Lawrence math team is known for their success as they’ve taken 1st at every regular season meet they’ve attended since December of 2012. They managed this again at their own math meet. Individuals earning recognition included senior

Paul Jeon, who took 1st place overall (and among seniors) with the highest score at the math meet. Other grade-level honors included senior Gary Kim who took 2nd, freshman Sean D’Souza who won 1st place, and junior Seung Joo Lee who took 1st place. May they continue this trend as they continue the 2016-2017 season!

Surpassing Expectations

By: Joseph Hable

Last year, SLS’s forensics team took first place not only in every meet they attended, but also at state. Coached by alumnus, freshman dorm supervisor and admissions coordinator Mr. Antonio Trinidad, the team found success throughout the season. Senior John Zampino said, “Last year’s forensics team was the best one we have had in my years here.” It will be hard to follow the success of last year, but this year’s team looks very promising as students get organized for the upcoming forensics season.

So, what is forensics? Forensics is a public speaking competition that varies for participants depending on what category they choose to enter. Many students participate in what are considered the more traditional categories—like prose (reading short stories or passages of longer works) or group interpretation (a small group performing an oral reading of a work). Mr. Trinidad has been the head coach for the last three years, and the team has become incredibly strong under his leadership and is expected to only get better. Although many talented speakers graduated last year, there are plenty more willing to work hard to replace them.

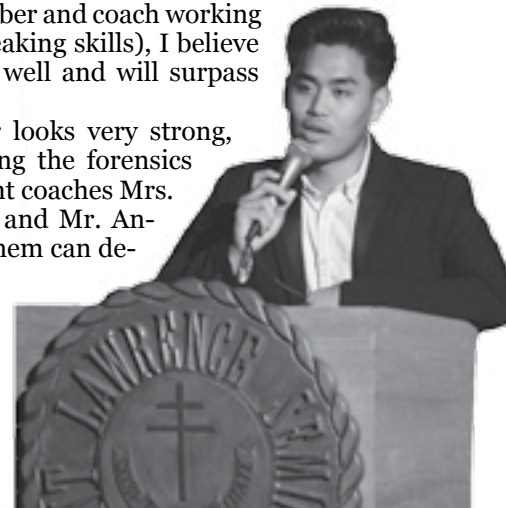
Mr. Trinidad has a very positive outlook for this year’s forensics team. He said, “With the help of Mrs. Heather



Students recite their forensics piece for the Performing Arts Festival in the fall.

Winter (a new staff member and coach working with students in public speaking skills), I believe that we will do extremely well and will surpass last year’s success.”

The roster for this year looks very strong, with over 40 people joining the forensics program. And with assistant coaches Mrs. Winter, Mrs. Katie Daane and Mr. Anthony Van Asten, each of them can devote their time to the categories they love, which will only improve the team’s potential for the future and perhaps the success will continue well after this team’s time on the Hill of Happiness.



Dear Santa...

Even high schoolers believe in the magic of Christmas. Here’s what some of SLS’s students are wishing for from the big guy in red.

Kevin Min: I want a new house.

Pio Fernandes: I wish to get an iPod.

Brian Tang: I want another GoPro camera.

Alex Barrera: I am looking to get a bike to keep active.

Carlos Nunez: I want some Yeezy Boost 350 sneakers.

Dominic Nguyen: I need a water boiler to cook noodles.

Mr. Hubert Bradley: I desire some peace and quiet on the Hill.

Billy Donohue: I want a PS4 to play games online with friends.

Martin Vu: (jokingly) I want a dog so I can finally have a friend.

Mico Macaraeg: I want to spend Christmas with my entire family.

John Tran: I hope my family will have a large Christmas gathering.

Jean-Paul Ajide: I want an iPhone 6s and Nike USA basketball socks.

Pedro Fernandez: Santa better bring me some Jordon 1 Chicago sneakers.

Axel Huicochea: I would like some new dress clothes to look better in front of girls.

Andrew Mai: I hope to get a Penny skateboard, so I can travel more quickly on my own.

Bryant Nguyen: I have a longing for a new camera to be able to capture precious memories.

Nene Lor: I have been yearning for an actual phone to stay connected with family and friends.

Gerard Fernandes: I want a hamster.

John Vu: All I want for Christmas is you...

By: Adolfo Mora

Black Friday: The Biggest Sale of the Year?

By: Paul Jeon

Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1621 by the Pilgrims. However, the holiday today looks very little like the one celebrated three-and-a-half centuries ago. The day after (and recently even the holiday) has become one of the single-biggest shopping days of the year. Popular belief holds that it was dubbed “Black Friday” back in the 1960s, when account books were still kept using pen and the day’s sales helped move stores out of the “red” (losses) and into the “black” (profits). Since then, people have shopped on this day for the “biggest deals of the year.” Here are some little-known facts about Black Friday:

Black Friday has **gone global**—countries besides the U.S. have Black Friday sales; these include Canada and the United Kingdom.

The **top five toys** sold this year were Lego Creator sets, electric scooters, Nerf guns, Phantom drones and Barbie dolls.

Black Friday is not the best day for the biggest shopping deals. The **average discount** for Black Friday is about **5 percent**, far less than the days just **before Christmas** when it is about **17 to 18 percent**.

The **top five electronics** sales were iPads, Samsung 4k TVs, MacBook Air computers, LG TVs and Xbox consoles.

Sales in 2016 were dominated by online sales, which topped **\$5 billion** for Thanksgiving Day and Black Friday alone.

About **\$60 billion** was spent in the 2015 Thanksgiving weekend and Cyber Monday sales.

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Numbers to Keep in Mind

