

SAINT LAWRENCE SEMINARY'S



# HILLTOPICS

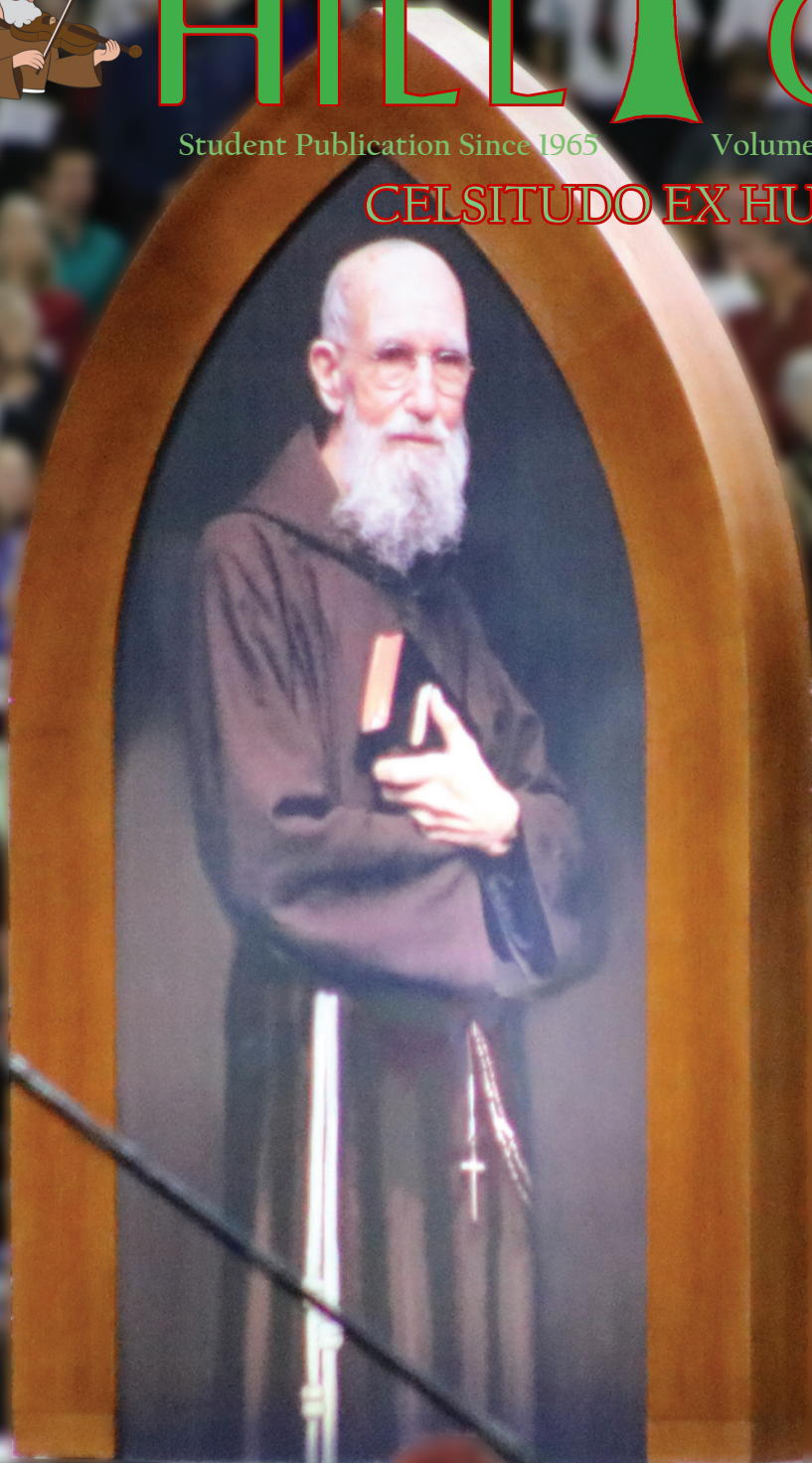


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CELSITUDO EX HUMILITATE



ROAD TO SAINTHOOD:  
"Detroit's Miracle Worker"  
*Blessed Solanus Casey*

Preview:

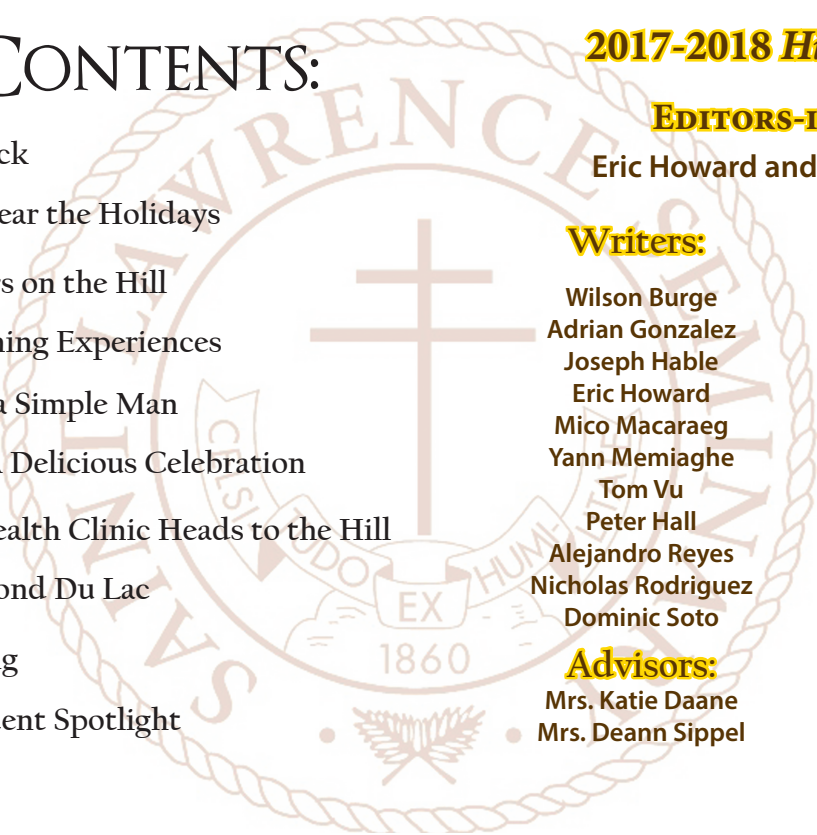
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## RECTOR'S CORNER:

*"It's the most wonderful time of the year.  
 With the kids jingle belling  
 and everyone telling you "Be of good cheer,"  
 it's the most wonderful time of the year.  
 It's the happiest season of all.  
 With those holiday greetings and happy  
 meetings  
 when friends come to call,  
 it's the happiest season of all..."*

*It's the most wonderful time of  
 the year.  
 There'll be much mistletoeing  
 and hearts will be glowing  
 when love ones are near.  
 It's the most wonderful time,  
 It's the most wonderful time,  
 It's the most wonderful time of  
 the year."*

You may have heard of this song before. It is among the most widely known Christmas melodies in the repertoire. Made famous by the late American singer and television variety show host, Andy Williams, "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" never really disappeared from the charts. Instead, it has remained a staple of Christmas music for over fifty years since its release in 1963—and justifiably so. It conjures images of loved ones and friends, cheerful get-togethers, merry activities, and other fun associated with Christmas. The song evokes feelings of joy and anticipation that the season calls for.

But we are not yet in the Christmas Season. The Christmas Season begins on December 25<sup>th</sup>—when the universal Church celebrates the great Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord—and this year, it ends on January 8<sup>th</sup>—on the feast of the Lord's Baptism. Instead, we are in the Season of Advent. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This four-week season has a two-fold character: on the one hand, it prepares the faithful

By: Fr. Zoy Garibay



for the festive celebration of the Incarnation. On the other, it invites them to look forward to Christ's coming again in glory at the last day.

Like Christmas, Advent is a season of joy and anticipation. Some countries and cultures have particular ways of observing this season. In the Philippines, for example, Advent is marked by the celebration of the Simbang Gabi—the early morning Novena Masses, which commence on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December and culminate on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In Mexico and in many Hispanic parishes here in the US, Advent is observed with the celebrations of the Fiesta Guadalupana and the Posadas. All of these celebrations bring people together and unite them in prayer and in joyful hope as they anticipate the coming of the Lord.

As we enter more deeply into Advent, I invite us to take a moment to reflect on its meaning and examine how we are preparing ourselves for the Lord's coming. The Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist call us to "prepare the way of the Lord." We can certainly do that by opening our hearts; by ridding it of all malice and vices; by being kind, loving, and generous; by being people of hope and "good cheer." If we learn to do that, then we will surely make this the happiest season and the most wonderful time of the year. **T**

# We Took a Step Back

By: Wilson Burge

Do you ever just want to get away from your day-to-day life and be able to go to a calm and reclusive place and connect with your inner self while tending to your personal needs? Whether these needs be physical, spiritual, or emotional, all Saint Lawrence students are able to tend to them during the annual class retreats. On Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the seniors and juniors left campus to go to the Saint Anthony Retreat Center in Marathon, WI, and Mount Morris Retreat Center in Wautoma, WI, respectively. For the next few days, they were able to reflect on their spiritual lives as well as grow closer as a class. When asked about the effect of the retreat on his personal life, senior Eric Howard said, "This retreat brought my class together on a deep level, and we were able to discover what it has meant to us to be strangers turned brothers." The juniors and seniors also had more leniency during their retreats and were granted periods of free time for hanging out with classmates, partaking in group activities or going off on their own for personal prayer and reflection.

The freshmen and sophomores also participated in their own retreats. However, they stayed on campus; a local retreat team known as Spiritus led the sophomores, and various faculty and staff members led the freshmen. The Spiritus group is known for their energetic and enthusiastic way of helping the youth encounter Jesus. The two classes were separated during the retreat, but followed similar schedules. Throughout the sophomore retreat, the students were broken into teams that participated in games and activities that made learning about their faith fun and enjoyable. More importantly, the groups participated in prayer circles and reflections where they could voice their minds. The freshman retreat focused on prayer and the many different forms that prayer can take in a student's life. "My favorite part about the retreats was the activities which we did as groups," said freshman Thomas Nguyen. For all the classes there were also opportunities for individual prayer and reflection time, as well as reconciliation and Mass. No matter where the students were for their retreats, it is safe to say that many were moved and are re-charged in their faith journeys as young men of Saint Lawrence Seminary. **T**

.....  
**Many were moved and re-charged  
 in their faith journeys as young men of  
 Saint Lawrence Seminary.**  
 .....



Mr. Lou leads the freshmen.



Sophomores gather to brainstorm ideas.



Dr. Voell converses with the juniors.



Seniors gather for a night of sharing.

# Acts of Kindness Near the Holidays

By: Alejandro Reyes

Ministry at St. Lawrence Seminary High School is done through acts of kindness and by making a choice to help, rather than considering it an obligation or a burdensome service. It is this attitude that has allowed the ministry programs at SLS to thrive over the years. Ministry opportunities give students the chance to learn about the needs of others and discover a desire to help that resides within them. At SLS there is an abundance of ministry opportunities available to the students, most of which have a lasting impact on those who serve as well as those being served.

Gearing up for the holiday season, SLS took on its annual school-wide ministry known as the Angel Tree Project. Now going on twenty years, the Angel Tree Project has been one of the longest running services carried out by SLS students and staff. The project provides Christmas presents to the children of prison inmates.



Junior Nathan De Leon shops for Angel Tree.

As stated earlier, Angel Tree is a school wide-effort carried out by staff members and students in all grade levels, each taking on the different roles to make the ministry a success. Money is raised through collections, staff make calls to families, and the juniors go shopping for the gifts. The seniors deliver the gifts, which the sophomores took charge of wrapping, and the freshmen create Christmas cards that are sent to the parents in prison. Each role or responsibility puts all at SLS one-step closer to ensuring that these children are not forgotten at Christmas. This year the seniors, accompanied by SLS staff, delivered the gifts to the children on the last Sunday before Christmas break, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The deliveries were met with smiling faces and warm hearts, especially of those children who may or may not have been expecting something for Christmas. The Angel Tree Project is expected to continue for years to come, offering SLS students of the present and future the opportunity to share the same joy of kindness as experienced by those who came before them.

“I see it as an excellent way to help families and others, especially those who we don’t often think of,” said Mrs. Margie Buelow, coordinator of the Angel Tree Project “It’s also such a generous act in the season of giving.” Indeed, the Angel Tree Project is an act of generosity and is only one example of such acts carried out by students at SLS. “It was fun buying the children’s gifts at the store,” said junior Ethan Nguyen. “It was also very humbling to know who they were for. I know the gifts went to someone who will really be thankful.”



Sophomore Aaron Tarpinian wraps gifts for Angel Tree.



Senior Daniel Conlin gives out gifts



Gifts to be delivered to Angel Tree kids.

# Crunching Numbers on the Hill

By: Adrian Gonzalez

One of the attributes that characterizes St. Lawrence Seminary High School is its academics, specifically math. Every year SLS students compete in math meets that often have as many as eight schools competing. The SLS math teams have been notable in earning the highest number of points individually and winning as a team at many meets over the years.

The first meet of this academic year was held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School. The SLS math team, the Mighty Math Marvels, were quite successful overall with Zach Nolte placing 1<sup>st</sup> as a freshman, Sean D’Souza placing 2<sup>nd</sup> as a sophomore, John Yoo placing 1<sup>st</sup> as a sophomore, Joseph Hable tying for 3<sup>rd</sup> as a senior, Sueng Joo Lee placing 1<sup>st</sup> as a senior and scoring the highest at the meet with 51 points. The SLS team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall.

On Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, SLS hosted a meet with 20 teams from 5 schools attending. The Mighty Math Marvels Team 1 placed 1<sup>st</sup> overall. Individual awards by class went to sophomores John Yoo, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and Sean D’Souza, for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, as well as senior Seung Joo Lee for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. It may seem like an easy task to host a math meet, but Mrs. Jenny Tabbert and Ms. Jamie Stephanie, coaches of the Mighty Math Marvels, think otherwise. Two things

come to both their minds as the most difficult to achieve: first, creating the individual and group tests with new and perplexing questions for a variety of math levels; second, the challenge of organizing 150 students into 14 classrooms as well as getting volunteers to help run the meet. One thing that both coaches do love, though, is adding new members to the team, which is easier to do when hosting the meet at home. While it may seem overwhelming to join the math team, the coaches explain, one thing to remember is that it is still a team. Whether you are a beginner or an expert in math, there is always a place on the team for new members.



Mighty Math Marvels once again brings victory to SLS.

# Ministry: Eye-Opening Experiences

By: Yann Memiaghe

Ministry, “the work or vocation of a minister of religion,” is not some mere task students at SLS must complete as a requirement. It is an opportunity for SLS students to form relationships, to learn new skills, to share gifts and to serve others. It is the responsibility of Catholics to serve God and help others in ministry. Ricky Rocha, a senior, described the opportunities and experiences as “great for building character. Through the eye-opening ministry experiences throughout my years at SLS, I was able to realize that there are people in need everywhere and not just Chicago, where I live.” SLS students seem to come to an understanding that ministry is a duty that must be accomplished both here and throughout the world.

SLS provides numerous ministry opportunities throughout the school year for all grade levels. Broken Bread is an opportunity in nearby Fond du Lac, where students get to distribute food to the less fortunate, and Special Olympics is where students are able to encourage and motivate special needs athletes in bowling. The Villa Loretto, located right in Mt. Calvary, is where students bond with the elderly through games such as bingo. Ss. Peter and Paul’s annual apple pie fundraiser takes place in Kiel, where students help to create over 2,500 pies to fill orders; other impactful ministry opportunities include housing rehab in Milwaukee, the SLS Weekend Visit experience and many more. Through so many diverse opportunities, God calls SLS students to the work of serving others and building relationships.



Apple Pie Making



Special Olympics Bowling



Housing Rehab

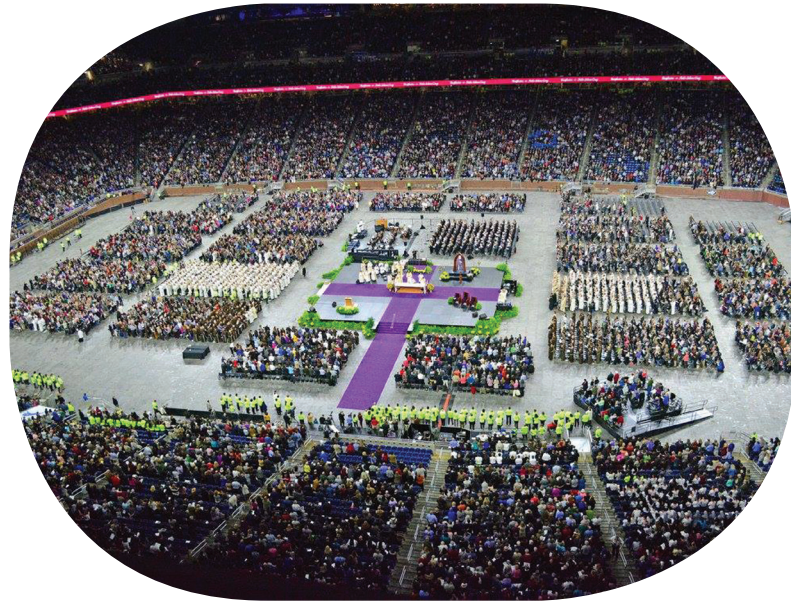
# A Special Time for a Simple Man

By: Joseph Hable



**F**ather Solanus Casey was a prominent figure for the people of Detroit. He was never one who was a great student in school, and at one point he was kicked out of the seminary for being too dumb. However, he found his place with Capuchins in Detroit and entered their school. He struggled with his classes, but after many years of hard work, he eventually became a brother and then a priest with them. His role in their house was a simple one: he was the person who answered the door and greeted people as they entered. Yet, he fulfilled what many would think of as a boring job in a way that touched the hearts of all those who spoke with him. He would offer prayers for peoples' families; he would let people come in no matter how poor they were to get some food; he helped all sorts of people no matter how they needed it. During his life, he used his simple job to show the love of God to everyone he met.

Now, Fr. Solanus has been honored in the Catholic Church for the holy example of his life. He was recently beatified, one step away from sainthood. A beatification Mass was held on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at Ford Field in Detroit, MI, where Casey spent most of his life. As the Capuchins run SLS, it was an event that the school administrators wanted to take part in. All of the students and many staff members from SLS attended, as well as friars and other Catholics from all over the United States and world.



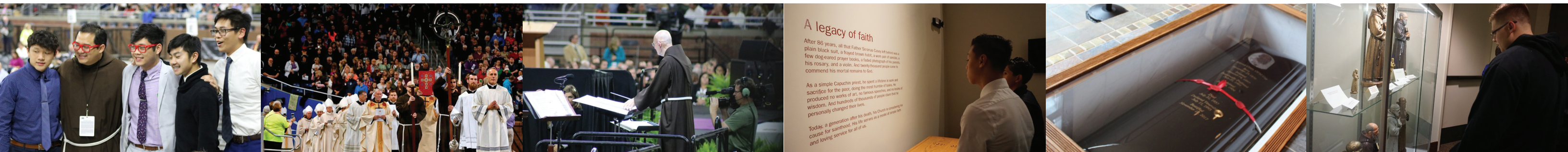
.....  
**He fulfilled what many would think of as a boring job in a way that touched the hearts of all those who spoke with him.**  
.....



.....  
**"He was a very simple man, one who never sought attention... He really was a simple man of God." - Fr. Marty Pable**  
.....

There were over 60,000 people at the Mass, and it was also broadcast internationally on the television network EWTN. Students were taken aback by the beauty of the Mass. Senior Mico Macaraeg was honored with a role in the Mass, reading one of the intercessions. He commented after, "Reading a petition, I was very nervous at first because of all the people. But after it started, I was glad I could be part of this special event."

During the service, some shared their stories and how Solanus touched them personally, their friends, or their families. Fr. Marty Pable, a Capuchin who now lives and ministers in Milwaukee, talked about how Father Solanus touched him, remarking, "He was a very simple man, one who never sought attention. Us young friars thought he was just another old, retired friar. But after a while, we realized he was something really special. He would get hundreds of letters each week, and most of the phone calls to the friary were for him, even though he never did anything special. He really was a simple man of God." Father Solanus Casey really was a special person, and at the Mass with all of the students and so many others from around the world, it was easy to see how special he was and how much he affected the lives of everyone he met. **T**



# Gaining Insight

By: Tom Vu



Mr. Lou confers with Marc Vargas and family.

In early November, it was that time of year again, a time that is very crucial for not only the student, but also his parents as well: parent/teacher conferences. This is an event that is held annually at SLS, and this year it fell on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. It was a chance for parents and their sons to sit down one-on-one with each teacher and ask questions. Those questions varied from “How are my son’s grades?” to “Has my son been a good student in class?” Teachers most often had something nice to say to the parents, but there were times that they touched on things that caused concern and needed attention. Parents look forward to meeting with teachers every year to see if their son is doing well in school, and this year was no different.

Parent/teacher conferences usually do more good than harm. It gives the students an opportunity to talk about the areas of concern and to find out ways to deal with them. Conferences also help students prepare for the future so they can identify their weaknesses and discover ways to overcome them. It also helps the student get into the habit of sitting down with his teachers and going over grades. So even though it might have been a scary day for students, it was also a helping hand. Junior Anthony Le said, “It gave me a chance to hang out with my parents and to look where I am at academically.”



Aidan Loop and his mother discuss his performance in World History with Mr. Krieg.

# A Delicious Celebration

By: Peter Hall

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most looked forward to dates of the whole school year. While every student enjoys the food that is served, many do not know why SLS celebrates the event in the first place. The feast day originated in Mexico. On December 9, 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a poor and humble Aztec Indian. He was asked by the Virgin to have a church built on the very spot that he stood as a place where she could hear the petitions of the Mexican people. Upon consulting the bishop about the matter, Juan Diego’s story was at first doubted. The bishop wanted proof of the apparition. When Juan Diego went back to the site, Mary fulfilled the bishop’s wish by sending Juan Diego to a hilltop suited to growing cacti where he found beautiful roses growing instead. He gathered them up to bring back. When Juan Diego opened up his cloak to show the bishop, dozens of roses spilled out to the ground and remaining on his cloak was an image of the Blessed Virgin. Due to this, the bishop immediately approved the construction of a chapel on the site that was requested by the Virgin.



Senior Pablo George and freshman Ellison Juern indulge in pozole at the banquet.

SLS celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in their own delicious way. In early December, numerous parents of Hispanic descent journeyed to the Hill in order to celebrate with their sons and the community. When evening came, a special prayer was held in the chapel that featured a bilingual recitation of the rosary. Following the prayer service, students and parents alike gathered in the student refectory for a delicious meal of *pozole*, *flautas* and *conchas* prepared by the Hispanic families. “It was great to experience some of the foods and traditions of other cultures,” said junior Jacob Koehler. The celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is always an event that is greatly anticipated by students at SLS, and now they may understand a little more fully the importance of the Feast day.

.....  
**Students and parents alike gathered in the student refectory for a delicious meal of *pozole*, *flautas*, and *conchas* prepared by the Hispanic families.**  
 .....

# Hold the Hour

By: Dominic Soto

Daylight Saving Time (DST) is the practice of setting the clocks forward one hour from standard time during the summer months (known commonly as springing ahead), and back again in the fall (falling back), in order to make better use of natural daylight. Some studies have proven that extending daylight may save on energy. It gives everyone other benefits, including an extra hour of sleep in fall. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, this hour shift occurred. Many students were happy for the extra hour of sleep that they got. Unfortunately, in the springtime, everybody loses an hour of sleep. Over the years, there has been much confusion (like getting places at the wrong time because of the switch) and controversy over the necessity of DST. In fact, *EDST.org* is run by a group who has started a petition to end daylight savings. Freshman Aidan Loop agrees with the group’s goal, “It’s not necessary in our time anymore.” Whether or not you agree with the change, hopefully you got to enjoy the extra hour in early November.



# A Joyful Noise in Fond du Lac

By: Nicholas Rodriguez

Students recently attended the Fond du Lac Cathedral Band Concert, which took place at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Sunday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. The music selections were sophisticated and brilliant. The fall concert marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cathedral Concert, which included sacred and secular music. Two members from SLS participated in the concert, Music Director Mr. John Ahlstrom, who played euphonium, and senior Joseph Hable, who played percussion. They were both glad to be a part of it. This was the fifth consecutive year that SLS had a student participate in the performance. Mr. Ahlstrom said, “It is a beautiful concert with a well-designed cathedral and the setting is magnificent, and I will keep on playing in it until I can no longer play.” Joseph Hable was very enthusiastic about playing in the band this year and grateful to participate in something that he enjoys so very much. Joseph said, “The concert was an interesting and good experience, and I was glad to be a part of it.” Some SLS students attended the concert to show their support of Mr. Ahlstrom and Joseph and enjoyed the beautiful music.

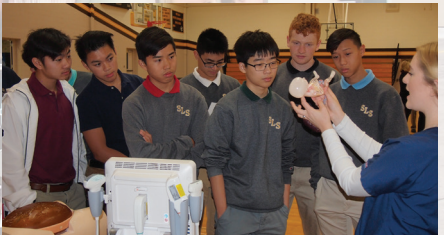


Mr. John Ahlstrom and senior Joseph Hable take part in the Fond du Lac Cathedral Band Concert.

# Health Clinic Heads to the Hill

By: Eric Howard

On Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Lawrence was happy to host Bellin College for an event especially geared to those interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. Bellin College has collaborated with many local high schools and provides a free, one-day experience, called “Hands on Healthcare” during which high school students can visit four different stations that last roughly 30 minutes in length. This experience allows students to discern if the medical industry is one they are interested in pursuing. SLS students in Biology and Physical Science classes took time out of their class periods to visit the mobile unit where they saw X-rays in action, used ultrasound technology, practiced lifesaving methods and utilized medical tools, such as a stethoscope. Senior Bryant Nguyen said, “I was always interested in the medical field, but to be honest I did not know if it was the right decision for me. So, I attended the Bellin College clinic, and I absolutely fell in love with what they had to offer. This definitely reassured my passion for the medical and healthcare professions.” Many other students also benefited from this experience, gaining knowledge and a basic overview of some of the disciplines of medicine.



“Hands on Healthcare” orients biology and health students.

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING

By: Eric Howard

As Christmas is approaching, *Hilltopics* interviewed various students and staff on what they wish for Christmas. Additionally, here are some little-known Christmas facts to share.

Some zoos accept donated Christmas trees as food for their animals.

Christmas purchases account for 1/5 of all retail sales in the U.S. annually.

An artificial Christmas tree would have to be reused for more than 20 years to be "greener" than buying a fresh-cut tree annually.

All letters addressed to "Santa" in the United States go to Santa Claus, Indiana.

Mr. McCabe: For Christmas I want a Lovesac—a massive memory-foam bean bag.

Mrs. Truchon: I want to see my brothers and my sisters who live far away.

Aidan Hager (9): All I want for Christmas is a Hippopotamus, and only a Hippopotamus will do.

Aidan Loop (9): I just want to get good grades for Christmas.

During this season, nearly 28 sets of LEGO are sold every second.

All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.

Pio Fernandes (10): All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth.

Daniel Zavala (12): I want a dog, preferably a Huskie because they look pretty cool.

John Vu (11): I want to get a World Series Houston Astros jersey.

Mico Macaraeg (12): I want to go home and see the rest of my family.

# Blockbusters

By: Dominic Soto

There are several movies coming out in December, such as a new installment of *Star Wars*, a sequel to *Jumanji*, and *Pitch Perfect 3*, but the one that many students are looking forward to is *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*. The movie is scheduled to be released on December 15<sup>th</sup>. This is the eighth installment in the wildly popular franchise that began in 1977. This film is set to feature the hero of the series Luke Skywalker, as well as Rey and Kylo Ren from the previous installment *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. In *The Last Jedi* Rey develops her newly-discovered Jedi abilities with the guidance of Luke Skywalker, who is unsettled by the strength of her powers. Meanwhile, the Resistance prepares to do battle with the First Order. Sophomore Philip Zampino said, "It better be good." *Star Wars* enthusiasts can only hope this new episode will be a major blockbuster, as many people are waiting to see it. If it is like its predecessors, it will gross billions globally and further cement the series' dominance in theaters and beyond. **T**

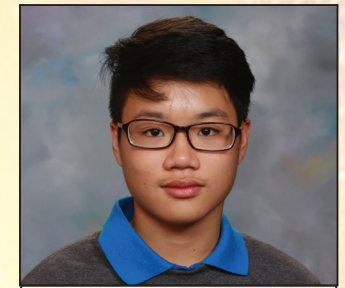


# Student Spotlight



FRANKLIN FISHER

**Grade:** 10  
**Ethnicity:** American  
**Hobbies:** Soccer, Drawing, Video games  
**Special traits:** Faithful, Skilled, Following Politics  
**Talents:** Soccer, Drawing, Sketching  
**Favorite foods:** Smoked ribs, Pulled pork, Peach tart  
**What brought you to SLS:** My brother is here  
**Motivation you always tell yourself:** "Focus on the future"



NHAT PHAN

**Grade:** 10  
**Ethnicity:** Vietnamese  
**Hobbies:** Piano, Video games, Photography  
**Special traits:** Talkative, Musical, Passionate  
**Talents:** Piano, Video games, English  
**Favorite foods:** Miso soup, Pizza, Spaghetti  
**What brought you to SLS:** An Dang (Class of 2017) told me about SLS  
**Motivation you always tell yourself:** "Try harder!"



LOC TUAN HOANG

**Grade:** 10  
**Ethnicity:** Vietnamese  
**Hobbies:** Soccer, Workout, Boxing  
**Special traits:** Friendly, Hardworking, Silent  
**Talents:** Math, Chess, Running  
**Favorite foods:** Pho, Chicken, Pizza  
**What brought you to SLS:** My father's friend  
**Motivation you always tell yourself:** "Study hard"

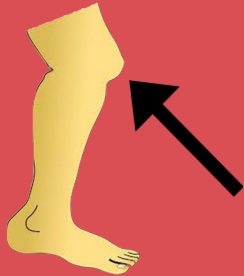
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301 Church St.  
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53057



## HENRY'S PUZZLING PROBLEMS



Henry has been having a hard time trying to figure what all of these pictures mean. Are you able to help Henry solve some of these equations?



Answers: Portrait, App Store, Three Bells