

# HILLTOPICS <sup>2019</sup> Since 1965

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Saint Lawrence Seminary



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## Rector's Corner

By: Fr. Zoy Garibay



Lent is just around the corner. In a couple of weeks, it will be Ash Wednesday. On that day, we will be receiving ashes on our foreheads, in the sign of a cross, to remind us of our mortality and of our need to repent and believe in the Gospel. At Masses and liturgies, we will listen to readings and sing songs that summon us to change our hearts and leave behind our sinful ways. Throughout the season, we will be invited to spend time in prayer and reflection, to observe fasting and abstinence, and to engage in acts of charity. Lent is that time of year when we “rend our hearts . . . and return to the Lord, our God” more than ever before.

One of my favorite Scripture passages for Lent is from chapter six of Matthew's Gospel: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.” (Mt 6:1-4)

Jesus warns his disciples against performing works of charity for the sake of publicity or recognition. He issues the same warning when it comes to praying or observing the custom of fasting. Implicit in those admonitions is the exhortation to reflect more deeply on one's motives. We need to ask ourselves, “Why are we doing these things?” Is it for the praise and glory of God and the good of the Church, or is it for our own (vain) glory?

One of the six values embraced by St. Lawrence Seminary is Humble Commitment. We define that as “serving by sacrificing for others.” Notice the root form of the verbs in the definition: serve and sacrifice. Reflecting more deeply on these terms, we find an element of self-denial, a shift in focus from one's self to others, a form of self-emptying—a giving of one's self for the sake of others. Whenever we serve or sacrifice, we do it not merely because it is our Christian duty to do so. Rather, we do it because we love God and we care about our neighbor. That should be our motive. That is what should underpin all of our works of charity, our prayers, and our observances of fasting and abstinence.

When we do things out of love, then our motive is pure. It is free of malice or conceit. At the heart of the Lenten readings and practices is love. May we strive to grow in this virtue as we prepare ourselves to enter the holy season of Lent.

## Celebrating Catholic Schools

By: Aaron Tarpinian

Every year since 1974, the community of all catholic schools in the United States celebrate the annual tradition of Catholic Schools Week. This year's Catholic Schools week took place from January 27<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Typically, most schools hold Masses, fundraisers, open houses, and many other activities, for students, families and the congregation. The goals of these events are to focus on the benefits of attending a Catholic school. This year's theme was "Catholic Schools: Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed". Fr. Zoy stated his reason for the importance of Catholic Schools Week saying, "The celebration of Catholic Schools week is to portray the importance that Catholic education has on the younger generation. It is important to teach them about Christ and Catholic values."

Here at Saint Lawrence, we kicked off Catholic Schools Week with an all school Mass and banquet on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Brother John Willger was honored at the banquet for his 45 years of dedicated service. Unfortunately, Br. John was unable to attend the event, but his family attended on his behalf. Then on Saturday, one of the most anticipated days of the year took place, Winter Carnival. This was the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival held at Saint Lawrence. The day had many activities and sports in which each fraternity bonded together and competed against other fraternities. Freshman Ian Le stated, "Winter Carnival was one of the best experiences I've had during my first year here at Saint Lawrence. It was a fun way to bond with my fraternity mates." The Saint Lawrence community ended Catholic Schools Week by inviting students and teachers from the local Catholic Elementary Schools from the Holy Land area for Mass on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the Holy Land schools cancelled due to the extremely cold weather. Although Br. John was not able to attend the celebration and the Holy Land schools cancelled, Catholic Schools Week was a fun, enjoyable time for all the students and teachers, which continues to teach us the values and benefits of attending a Catholic school.



## Christmas and Chill

By: Dominic Soto

The 2018 SLS Christmas banquet and concert were ones to be remembered. On Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, SLS hosted many faculty, staff and guests for dinner at the annual banquet in the refectory. The banquet theme evolved from Filipino culture. The banquet started with Fr. Zoy, along with SLS's Filipino students singing a traditional Filipino song with a parade of *parols*, colorful star lanterns. Dinner included a couple of Filipino foods, including *pan de sal*, salted bread. After dinner, the guests were led to the chapel to enjoy the annual Christmas concert. The school band and choir director, Mr. John Ahlstrom, practiced for hours with the students until each musical arrangement was perfect. The SLS band and choir are composed of all four grade levels which include returning students as well as new students, many of whom just started to play for the first time. One beginner Tam Le stated, "I had a lot of fun performing the pieces and I think I played well for my first time. I think the pieces were great for beginners like me." The school band performed four songs, including "Twenty Carols in Two Minutes". The band exited the stage to make room for the next performance, a small ensemble, arranged collectively by junior John Yoo and senior Anthony Le, playing a song called "The Castle in the Sky". John Yoo stated, "I was pretty nervous because we didn't spend as much time practicing as I wanted, but I think my team and I performed well, considering this was our first time." After the ensemble, the choir performed five pieces, including "The Little Drummer Boy" and "Angels' Carol", which everyone seemed to enjoy. The concert concluded with the annual invitation to the alumni choir members to join the choir in singing "Sleigh Ride". Every year the SLS Christmas Concert is well attended and remembered by all.



## Gifts for Angels

By: *Dominic Nguyen*

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Every year, students of Saint Lawrence Seminary actively participate in the Angel Tree Program. This ministry helps incarcerated parents to connect with their children during the Christmas season through groups purchasing and providing gifts for their children. Through the ministry, the parents were able to write a letter requesting a specific gift to be bought for their children. SLS students happily aided in the buying, wrapping and delivering of these gifts. The freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors helped to spread the Christmas spirit through these acts of ministry. Many of the students willingly volunteered to help spread the joy of the season. When Mrs. Buelow was asked why she takes on this project every year, she said, "It is always my favorite project of the year." Ultimately, the children of the incarcerated feel the spirit of Christmas on behalf of their parents through the help of the SLS community.

The freshmen and the sophomores did many things to make the Angel Tree Program a success. Spreading the Christmas spirit, the freshmen worked to compose Christmas letters which were sent to the inmates. These letters helped to cheer many of the inmates, especially during the Christmas season. On the other hand, the sophomores were elves of sorts. They worked diligently to wrap hundreds of gifts for the children participating in the Angel Tree Program. The sophomores assembled after school, with the help of Mrs. Margie Buelow, to carefully wrap all the gifts for the children. All in all, the freshmen and sophomores played an essential role in the success of the Angel Tree Program.

The upperclassmen also played an important role in the success of the Angel Tree Program. Each year, our juniors assist in the buying of the Angel Tree gifts. Each junior was given Angel Tree slips with the name of the child they were buying the gifts for, along with the parent's desired gifts for the child. During the ministry, the juniors went to many different stores in search of these gifts, including Target, Fleet Farm, and Kohl's. The juniors carefully picked out each present, paying close attention to the sizes, the colors and qualities of the gifts. It was the seniors who delivered them to the children. Upon delivering the gifts, a group of seniors would knock on the door of the Angel Tree participant, hoping that they could brighten their day. Senior Alexis Rojas said, "It is an extremely heartwarming experience. It is amazing to see how happy the children are when they receive their gifts, knowing that it is directly from the parent in prison." All in all, the juniors and seniors did indeed help to spread the Christmas spirit to all.

The Angel Tree Program has been an ongoing tradition at St. Lawrence Seminary High School. This program allows the children of the incarcerated to receive Christmas presents on their behalf. The students, at St. Lawrence, assist in making this program possible. They help with writing cards, buying gifts, wrapping gifts, and delivering the gifts to the Angel Tree participants. Although it was hard work, the Angel Tree Program did fulfill its purpose, the purpose of bringing happiness to the children of the incarcerated and the great feelings it brings to the SLS students, faculty and staff during the most wonderful time of the year. The Angel Tree Program turned out to be extremely successful this year, bringing Christmas joy to all those involved.



## Cooking Up A Storm

By: Peter Hall

One of the most coveted positions to hold as a senior at St. Lawrence Seminary is a spot in the cooking club. The purpose of the cooking club is to teach seniors skills that they will need in the kitchen during college and beyond. Students meet once per month on a Friday night to cook, bake, and fry up some of the tastiest food they'll try at St. Lawrence. The dish of choice is always different. Ranging from stir-fry to regular mac-and-cheese, nothing is off limits. The night offers busy seniors with a chance to relax, have fun, chat, and eat great food. "I always look forward to coming to cooking club," said senior Abel Fernandez, "The food is good and I have a chance to hang out with my classmates." Cooking club is more than just a club to learn your way around the kitchen.



## What Did You Do Over Christmas

By: Isaac Villegas

**JOSH PRADO- "I WENT ON PHOTO-SHOOTS IN DOWNTOWN SAN FRANCISCO."**

*Ricardo Rodriguez- "I spent time with my brother-in-law's family."*

**Alex Thao- "I went to a lot of parties."**

**Kevin Suzuki- "I visited Japan."**

Mr. McCabe- "I went to Chicago for a day and visited the *Home Alone* House."

**Kenny Krause- "I worked."**

*JP Allan- "I went to the beach."*

**MINH NGUYEN- "I WENT TO IHOP AGAIN AND ASKED FOR THE USUAL."**

*Michael Nguyen- "I met my cousins from a different state."*

**Ellison Juem- "I went to Door County with my family."**

*Carlos Nunez- "I went bowling with friends."*

## Wrestling Our Way to the Top

By: Ellison Juern

Every year at the end of the winter sports season, the wrestling team holds their annual JV Hilltopper Invitational. This year it was held on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Wrestlers from schools around the area came to SLS to compete. The Invitational is quite a big meet for many wrestlers. After a long season, the tournament is the last chance for the JV wrestlers to compete and win a tournament. Coach Phil McCabe said, "The guys are well prepared; we have been working hard since Christmas break." However, not just the wrestlers had been getting ready for the Hilltopper, some students have also been helping to prepare for the event. On the Friday before the tournament, many students helped prepare the gym by laying out the mats. The students rolled out the mats and taped them to the floor. There were also students who help out during the meet by working the clock, the scoreboard and manning the canteen.

After a lot of hard work to get the gym ready, it was finally time for the wrestlers to arrive. The athletes and coaches arrived later Friday afternoon and all of the wrestlers were eager to start the tournament. During the tournament most wrestlers had three matches, with the exception of a few who had four. Wrestler Eneo Tech said, "The Hilltopper was a great chance to see how I have improved since the beginning of the season. I also enjoyed the support of my friends and classmates." Many students did come down to the gym throughout the evening to see how the matches were progressing and to support their friends. Overall, the Hilltopper gave the students a chance to help out during a school event and support their friends and the JV wrestlers. Dominic Soto, Joseph Hall and Calodrino Williams all concluded the season with first place finishes at the Invitational.



## Wrestling Scoreboard

By: Robert Little

11/29/2019- SLS 15 Vs. Horicon 52  
 Winners- Osvaldo Gonzalez, Dorian Pabon,  
 Daniel Trinh, Dominic Nguyen

1/17/2019- SLS 24 Vs. Omro 57  
 Winner- Caulodrino Williams

12/6/2019- SLS 16 Vs. NFDL 63  
 Winners- Dorian Pabon, Daniel Trinh

1/24/2019- SLS 18 Vs. Lomira 65  
 Winners- Osvaldo Gonzalez, Ekin Her

12/11/2019- SLS 51 Vs. Oakfield 20  
 Winners- Osvaldo Gonzalez, Ciproquio Williams

1/25/2019- Hilltopper Invite  
 1st- Caulidrino Williams, Dominic Soto, Joseph Hall

12/13/2019- SLS 42 Vs. WLA 43  
 Winners- Shue Yang, Dorian Pabon, Daniel Trinh

1/29/2019- SLS 60 Vs. Mayville 24  
 Winners- Marcos Pedroza, Lance Do, Joseph Hall,  
 Dominic Nguyen

12/17/2019- SLS 66 Vs. Living Word 18  
 Winners- Joseph Hall, Martin Duong,  
 Caulodrino Williams, Daniel Trinh

2/2/2019- Flyway Conference Meet  
 Results- SLS Team 6th

12/20/2019- SLS 27 Vs. Laconia 52  
 Winner- Daniel Trinh

**Sectionals Participant- Daniel Trinh**

## Keeping the Super Bowl Sabbath

By: Aaron Villegas

This year's NFL playoffs were some to remember. At SLS watching football is known to be a second Sunday tradition. Two of the most favored teams at SLS are the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers. This season the Chicago Bears finally ended their drought and made it to the playoffs for the first time in twelve years. However, their post-season was cut short when a game winning field goal was tipped causing a loss. Mr. Francisco Saucedo, a die-hard Bears fan, stated, "It was heartbreaking to see them lose. In all truth, I think they could have gone to the Super Bowl."

This year the New England Patriots contended against the Los Angeles Rams in Super Bowl LIII. For the Los Angeles Rams, it was the first time reaching the Super Bowl since 2000, while the Patriots have been in the big game consistently over the previous years. "I want the Rams to win. I really don't like the Patriots," said sophomore Howxeng Lor when asked who he wanted to win the game.

To celebrate the game of the year, Saint Lawrence Seminary played the match up on almost all of its screens. Students gathered with their friends and enjoyed food and drink throughout campus. The game did not disappoint. It started off a bit slow, but towards the end the Patriots took the lead. The Rams tried to come back, but a last minute interception secured the win for the Patriots. Freshman Lance Do said, "I was shook. I didn't see that coming. I was really happy to see that the Patriots secured the bag." The Patriots won the match up and Julian Edelman won Super Bowl MVP. One of the highlights of the broadcast was the halftime show. "I loved listening to Travis Scott perform 'SICKO MODE', however, I wish they played more *SpongeBob*," said senior Benjamin Truong. Overall this year's Super Bowl celebration on the Hill was one to remember.



## Dunkin' on the Youngsters

By: Andrew Tran

Every year alumni are invited back to the Hill for the Alumni 3-on-3 Tournament and Pizza Party. This year's tournament was held on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. Many alumni came to play and represent their classes. The round robin bracket was drawn up and the gym was split for the tournament. The tournament lasted a few hours until the two finalists played it out to see who would be the Alumni 3-on-3 Tournament Champions of 2019.

There were representatives from many classes, ranging from the class of 1976 to the class of 2018. Throughout the tournament viewers saw some big plays and many exciting match ups. In a thrilling final game, the Class of 2004 went head-to-head with the Class of 2008. Could the Class of 2008 win it all for the third year straight? The final game was exciting, going back and forth, with the victory going to the Class of 2008 for a "3PEAT". When asked how it felt to see the alumni come back for the tournament, alumnus and tournament organizer, Mr. Francisco Saucedo said, "This has been a great event for the alumni. It is fun to see them back in the gym competing, but it is even better to catch up with them during and after the tournament." Joshua Tran, class of 2018 said, "It feels great and refreshing to see friends after graduation. It's worth the plane ticket to stay the weekend."

The Alumni 3-on-3 Tournament was great fun for everyone, from the players to the spectators. It brought old friends back to the Hill to relive old memories. After meeting up with many of his old classmates, Bob Solloway, Class of 1982, commented about the event, "It's great. We have played every year for the past couple of years. It's great to see old classmates, laugh, and have fun." The tournament is always something to look forward to each year and is a spectacle to watch.



## A Day in the Snow

By: Nicholas Rodriguez

We all know how stressful it can be on the Hill during winter. That is a major reason why the annual Winter Carnival is such an important event at SLS. Winter Carnival is a day where the students get away from their studies, have fun in the snow and compete in activities with their fellow fraternity members. The day started with a big hot breakfast in the refectory for the students. After breakfast the students gathered in the chapel for morning prayer and instructions for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival.

During Winter Carnival each fraternity competed against one another in a series of events. Points were awarded to each frat in relation to how they placed in each event. The frat to score the most points over all would win.

The morning events were all done outside in the snow. Some of the events included a relay race around the upper campus, football, soccer, and ultimate Frisbee. This year all of the morning events were done on the upper ball diamond because of the cold temperatures. While the students waited in the freezing cold for their next event, they huddled around by the fire pit with a nice warm cup of hot chocolate. Dough-nuts were also available for each fraternity for a snack in between their events. The students enjoyed how difficult yet fun it was to play soccer or football in the snow. Sophomore Osvaldo Gonzalez said, "It was very difficult to play in the cold snow, but it was really fun to be with my fraternity members." The students also enjoyed other events throughout the morning, which included the sled race, dodge ball, snow ball toss and the tin can toss. The morning events allowed a wide variety of students' abilities to show and many enjoyed the morning activities.

After the morning events were done, the students gathered once again in the refectory to warm up and eat a nice, hot and filling lunch. After lunch, the students were given some time to go to dorm in order to change into some dry clothes and to get ready for the afternoon events. The afternoon events included a three-on-three basketball tournament between all the frats. The tournament was an elimination-style bracket, when a fraternity lost they were out of the tournament and the fraternity who won received the most points for their fraternity. Freshman Cannon Ozongwu said, "I found the tournaments to be really exciting and very fun to play competitively." There was also a three-point contest, a game of knockout, ping pong, and a video game tournament. Two games played at the video game tournament were *FIFA* and *Super Smash Brothers Ultimate*. Both of these were played like an elimination-style tournament between all of the fraternities as well. For the three-point contest, a specific number of points were awarded for a certain amount of three-point shots made. After all the events finished, the students gathered in the refectory once more for a family style dinner.

After dinner there was a student versus staff basketball game. The students' team was picked at dinner by drawing from a hat of names of those who wanted to participate. The game was very different from the varsity level basketball games because it was just for fun, where whoever won or lost did not really matter. The game was a spirit-filled one where the crowd and players enjoyed the entire game. The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Carnival came to a close in the chapel where the results were posted from the day's events and the prizes were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> place. First place and dinner at the Pizza Ranch went to Fraternity 8, second place and a voucher to the Canteen went to Fraternity 7, third place and a voucher to the Canteen went to Fraternity 6, and fourth place and a voucher to the Canteen went to Fraternity 5. At the end of the day, the annual Winter Carnival created lasting bonds and memories amongst the students.





## It's Tet Time of the Year Again

By: Claiemore Tango-an

Tet is a very important Vietnamese holiday that students of Saint Lawrence have been waiting for. The Lunar New Year, also called Tet, started on February 5<sup>th</sup> this year. It's a very important holiday that is celebrated throughout the world. Each year a different animal of the Zodiac is honored and celebrated, and this year marks the Year of the Earth Pig. T

It's pretty common to refer this celebration as the Chinese New Year, but in fact, Lunar New Years is celebrated not just in China. It is celebrated in many other countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, Cambodia, and the Philippines. Tet is a term that Vietnamese use to refer this remarkable celebration, while Koreans call it Seollal. The holiday isn't just celebrated in Asian countries; it is celebrated in places throughout the world like America. The festive occasion is famously punctuated by numerous celebrations, concerts, parades, and parties, usually lasting over the weekend and sometimes the celebration goes on much longer, depending on the country.

If somebody were to experience this celebration, they would see one dominant color, red. Red, in many countries, means good fortune or good luck for the year. It is common for people to wear red clothes, and buildings to be decorated with red flags and banners, red lanterns hanging from them. Every party tries to incorporate as much red as possible to signify the good fortune for the coming year.

Some of the common foods during Tet include rice cakes, *japchae* (Korean noodles), *gio cha* (Vietnamese sausage), and many more. A lot of students at Saint Lawrence would probably talk about the food if asked about the Lunar New Year, but it's more than just the food. Another tradition during the festival is the distribution of red envelopes by the elders, called *li xi*. These envelopes are given to people as a sign of good luck for the coming year. The envelopes are typically filled with money. The envelopes are more than just a kind gift; it is also traditionally believed to ward off evil spirits.

Every year, Saint Lawrence Seminary celebrates Tet. Each year some of the Vietnamese parents come to the Hill, take over the kitchen and prepare traditional Vietnamese food for the student body. Some students even helped out preparing the food. "It was a great opportunity to enjoy my food from my hometown and share with my beloved brothers," says junior Hyeonyu Kim, one of the cooks who prepared dinner for Seollal. Traditionally after the meal, all the students and their parents went to the chapel for a special evening prayer session. There they witness the Dragon Dance. This special dance is performed in many Asian cultures around the world. It has been performed for thousands of years, not only for Tet, but also in weddings and many other types of celebrations. After the prayer session and the Dragon Dance, the evening ended with fireworks at the top of the upper ball diamond.

Tet is a very important Asian celebration. It's a time of joy and happiness, but also a time to look forward to the coming year.



## With Love, Fr. Zoy Garibay

By: Khang Chau

Christmas break is the ideal time for anyone to refrain from working, but to three of SLS's most vital staff members, the recent break offered them the perfect opportunity to fulfill the undertaking drawn out by the school's founders. Fr. Zoy, the Rector of SLS, along with Mr. David Bartel, the Academic Dean, and Mr. Francisco Saucedo, the Director of Admissions and Recruitment, planned an outreach trip to Vietnam and South Korea. It might seem tedious to give up the precious holidays revered by pretty much everyone, but to Fr. Zoy the trip was anything but exhausting. "Strengthening the relationship with parents of current SLS students as well as SLS alumni is certainly important," said the Rector. "Parents act as SLS's advocates to the Hilltoppers when they are not present on the Hill," he continued, "and they, indeed, are the ambassadors of SLS to potential students." With these ideas in mind, Fr. Zoy planned the trip with many preparations, both physically and spiritually, and hoped for an eye-opening, exciting voyage.

Unlike Mr. Saucedo and Mr. Bartel, who had yet to have any prior experience with long flights, Fr. Zoy had traveled to Southeast Asia before and thus, spending 18 hours on the airplane was not too much of a challenge, as the first stop on the journey, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, welcomed them at midnight of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. With the assistance from the parents of current SLS students, Kiet and Khoa Tran, Fr. Zoy and his companions were driven to the hotel where they would rest for the night. The following morning, Fr. Zoy was met by Mr. Phan, father of SLS junior Nhat Phan, for a visit to the Diocese of Xuan Loc, the biggest diocese in the ecclesiastical province of southern Vietnam's Archdiocese. There, Fr. Zoy met Bishop Joseph Dao, a much-beloved and well-known pastor, whom Fr. Zoy had previously corresponded with. The Bishop, upon hearing about SLS's mission, values, and the program it offers, was amazed by how Christ-centered the institution was. Fr. Zoy even discussed a possible collaboration between SLS and Xuan Loc Diocese, in order to help the school appear more prominent in the eyes of prospective students. After this, Fr. Zoy walked around the Xuan Loc Seminary, in which he met with Fr. Viet, whom he asked for references to any young man with the potential to join the SLS community. "It truly amazed me how we just arrived back from the trip, and Fr. Viet already referred one potential student to me!" Fr. Zoy said with great enthusiasm.

Fr. Zoy especially emphasized the hospitality of the Vietnamese parents during his visit to Ho Chi Minh City. "I had a chance to visit the school run by Mr. Tran, and he was also kind enough to invite us for such a delightful dinner with other parents at a fine, traditional restaurant!" said Fr. Zoy. However, he was especially thrilled with the opportunity he was offered to promote SLS to the Catholic community in the area. Together with Mr. Saucedo and Mr. Bartel, Fr. Zoy interviewed 21 candidates and their parents to see whether these young men were suitable for the program at SLS. The opportunity continued as Fr. Zoy made a visit to a parish outside of Saigon, where he con-celebrated Mass and gave a short speech regarding SLS to the congregation. "I concluded my visit to Vietnam by attending Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. It was such a beautiful church," he said.

In South Korea, SLS junior Hyeonyu Kim and his father assisted Fr. Zoy and his companions as soon as they arrived. Acknowledging the short length of the South Korean visit, Fr. Zoy focused on the parents of the current students instead of emphasizing on expanding SLS's name. Similar to Vietnam, they were also welcomed with warmth and gratitude from the Korean parents. Nonetheless, the most memorable thing to Fr. Zoy was the presence of the SLS alumni. The Rector was pleased to learn the alumni were attending their dream colleges, while still living up to the values that SLS had taught them. The coalition with the parents in South Korea once again affirmed for Fr. Zoy how important the parents are in carrying out the mission of SLS. "They are the essential collaborators in the operation," he accentuated.

Concluding the trip to Vietnam and South Korea, Fr. Zoy experienced a feeling of appreciation for the alliances with the parents and alumni. He understands the responsibility people on the Hill took upon themselves as they became a part of the community – to represent the school in a positive way. Vietnam and South Korea were just two other stops where Fr. Zoy envisioned the bright future of SLS.



# Student Spotlight

By: Aaron Villegas



**Christopher Broms**  
*Hometown:* Ontario, Wisconsin  
*Grade:* Freshman  
*Age:* 16  
*Hobbies:* Chemistry, reading, Dungeons and Dragons, watching Youtube  
*Favorite food:* Ice cream  
*What brought him to SLS?:* "I felt that this school would be challenging academically."

**Ricky Conlin**  
*Hometown:* West Bend, Wisconsin  
*Grade:* Freshman  
*Age:* 15  
*Hobbies:* Playing Magic the Gathering, video games, basketball, ping pong  
*Favorite food:* Jalapeño Pepperoni Pizza  
*What brought him to SLS?:* "I am the fourth of my family to attend St. Lawrence."



**Grant Bargender**  
*Hometown:* Caledonia, Wisconsin  
*Grade:* Sophomore  
*Age:* 15  
*Hobbies:* Soccer, listening to music, hanging out with friends  
*Favorite food:* Cheeseburger  
*What brought him to SLS?:* "Eric Howard recommended me to this school."

**Elijah Cardozo**  
*Hometown:* Dubai, UAE  
*Grade:* Junior  
*Age:* 16  
*Hobbies:* Playing the guitar, weightlifting, basketball  
*Favorite food:* Chorizo  
*What brought him to SLS?:* "To get a head start for college in America."



# Fresh Faculty Faces



**Mr. Joel B. Kolner**

*Reason Why You Came to SLS?:* "I was working as the Director of Advancement for a Catholic High School outside of Chicago. I had been there for three years and was looking to make a change. A good friend of mine let me know about a development position that was opening up at St. Lawrence. Living in the suburbs of Chicago, I was not familiar with St. Lawrence. After doing some research, I quickly understood the importance and how special a school St. Lawrence appeared to be. After several interviews, I was offered the position and readily accepted. I am truly blessed to be at the Seminary."

*Favorite Part About SLS?:* "I like that the faculty, staff and donors all want what's best for the Seminarians. It's all about supporting the Catholic men that we have on campus. It is readily apparent that everyone is happy to be a part of this wonderfully, historic Catholic institute and are

pulling in the same direction. When I am on campus, I also enjoy talking with the Seminarians. I hope when the Seminarians see me, they are comfortable saying hello."

*How Are You Adapting to SLS?:* "I think I am adapting very well. Starting at St. Lawrence during the busiest time of the year for development, I was given the opportunity to jump right in and begin engaging with our donors. I will begin traveling soon and look forward to meeting a number of donors that I have only had the pleasure of speaking with by phone. All of the faculty and staff have been very supportive, so I am very grateful to them for being so welcoming."

*Reason Why You Came to SLS?:* "I felt called by God to come here. As I have aged, I have become more attentive, trying to follow the subtle wishes of the Good Lord. I felt as if it was necessary, and, to quote the person who made it famous, And the rest is history."

*Favorite Part About SLS?:* "My favorite part is that it blends faith, work and family all together. I benefit from the opportunities of being on staff, such as the Masses on Wednesday and Friday. It has reinforced myself as a Catholic man, building my kingdom wherever I go. It feels great to represent the school."

*How Are You Adapting to SLS?:* "It feels like a blessing, I am using my skills and work to benefit the school, and I feel that I am given more than I give. It has reinforced my personal relationship with God. I benefit too, through being surrounded by wonderful people helping my personal journey. I live twenty miles away and never noticed it, and I feel blessed to finally have."



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## *From The Editors*

### *ISAAC*

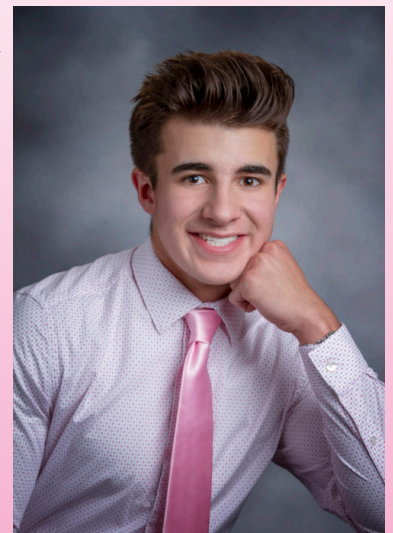
The second semester of senior year is always said to be the quickest. Although this semester has just begun, I think that what they say is true. However, I know that I should take it slow and enjoy what is left.



So far, I think that senior year has probably been the most challenging when it comes to school, but it will all be worth it come graduation. We seniors have really gotten to know each other quite well, and it will be a sad day once we are split apart by graduation. However, taking it day by day should help us enjoy what time we have left this final semester.

### *PETER*

Senioritis has officially spread throughout the senior dorm. I know that it's a little early in the year to say this, but I, for one, am counting the days to graduation. Still, as I absorb myself into basketball and my schoolwork, I make the time to be with my classmates. I think that relaxing and having fun with my brothers on the Hill is what I will miss the most once I graduate. The time after Christmas break until the next time we head home is always a bit trying, but it looks like myself and the rest of the school have been able to stay focused.



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