

On holy ground

SAINT LAWRENCE SEMINARY

SUMMER~2018



From the Rector

Graduation is a comma, not a period.

Driving past an old church recently, I was surprised to see a quote on display from Gracie Allen: Never put a period where God put a comma.

Google Search told me Gracie Allen and George Burns were a legendary comedy team before I was born. But it seems Gracie was also an amateur theologian.

Sunday, May 20th I graduated the Class of 2018, my first Graduation Class as Rector of Saint Lawrence Seminary.

I was surprised how much the Graduation Liturgy moved me. I was caught up in the emotions as I witnessed from the altar of parents and grandparents wiping tears off their checks.

And I recalled, graduation is a comma, not a period.

The life-stories of our 51 proud graduates are just beginning to unfold. Together we celebrated and marked this beautiful rite of passage. Sunday morning went from overcast to perfectly sunny warm and promising. How moving it was to send our seminarians forth with our prayers, hopes and affections onto their next chapters.

Their years here at Saint Lawrence Seminary were rich years of intense learning, of deep searching and journeying inward, of amazing moments of insight, inspiration and self-discovery. 51 young men from very

different backgrounds grow into true brothers, living together, praying together, studying together, and in the last moments, most of them are crying together as well.

Graduation is but a comma in God's unfolding call in their young lives. God has used well their time at Saint Lawrence Seminary, this sacred time on this holy ground. God entrusted each of them to our care, to the care of the Capuchin friars and seminary staff, and to your generous care as well, through your prayers and financial support.

You have partnered with the Capuchins and staff of Saint Lawrence Seminary in giving them a solid foundation of knowledge, faith and ministry. How will God continue to fashion and shape them? Where will God lead them from here?

I ask that you continue to pray for them as we send them forth. They will never forget the gift you have given them of Saint Lawrence Seminary. They thank God for you.



Fr. Jay



THE GIFT

Dear Benefactors...



Saint Lawrence Seminary beautifully integrated the Catholic Faith and way of the Franciscans into its program. It has put me on a path of success including my future as a member and leader of the Catholic Church and has changed my life for the better!

Saint Lawrence is a truly special place filled with special people.

God Bless, Wilson B.

Thank you for caring for my education and future. It means the world to me. Because of you, I was able to continue my studies and establish a stronger relationship with God as I grew in my faith. St. Lawrence has helped me to keep my values in line with my faith and become an independent young man.

I am eternally grateful for everything you have put into St. Lawrence and I am proud to say it has changed my life for the better.

Yann M.

Whether God calls me to follow him through the Order or through another profession, I know that I would not be where I end up without St. Lawrence Seminary. And St. Lawrence would not exist without your help. You have helped many faithful young men like myself. Thank you so much for what you have done for me and my brothers.



Daniel S.



Coming to St. Lawrence Seminary has been an amazing experience, one that would not have been possible without your generous support.

Through the intense religious experience, discussions with my teachers, mentors and brothers, I now have a greater understanding of what I believe and what it means to be Catholic. SLS changed my life for the better, and I know I will have a strong community of brothers in faith behind me for the rest of my life!

Matthew M.

I want to say thank you for blessing my school with your donations and love.

With the unique experiences of ministry available to the students of Saint Lawrence, I was able to see the joy in helping others in need, which I truly hope to continue in my college life. This unique experience that has truly changed my life.



Jasper S.

I learned to make God central in my life and I know that my relationship with God will continue to deepen thanks to the strong foundation of faith I received at Saint Lawrence Seminary. Another thing that I am grateful for is the ministry program. I have learned the value of service and have seen how much joy I can give and take from serving people.

*Thank you for your generous contributions,
John T.*



OF GRATITUDE



My experience at St. Lawrence Seminary will help me as I progress through my life. At St. Lawrence, I have acquired the strong Catholic values and morals that will help fashion my views on issues that I will encounter as I get older. Because of the rigorous academics at St. Lawrence, I have generated a

strong work ethic and became an intelligent young Catholic male. This challenging curriculum also gave me the confidence to stand up for what is right in the world.

Eric H.

I come from the rough Southeast side of Chicago. The transition from the poor school in my neighborhood to St. Lawrence Seminary was a dramatic change for me. I remember it was a very emotional moment for my mom and me. I cried when I was accepted to St. Lawrence because I knew I had the chance to make a new beginning for myself. I'm truly thankful to my teachers, alumni, and you, the benefactors, for giving me the chance to be part of this community.

Jeffrey

Because my family is so big, it was difficult for my parents to afford a proper high school education. Your generous contributions, economically and spiritually, made it possible for me to attend Saint Lawrence Seminary. God knows His plans for me. Thank you for believing Saint Lawrence was part of His plan for me.

Marcos H.



I really want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. The Hill of Happiness has been such a warm and welcoming home away from home. Not a day goes by without remembering those who blessed us with prayers, amazing facilities, and

immeasurable support.

Benjamin Q.

Your support is truly a blessing from God, and I was so lucky to be on the receiving end of it. Not a single day passes by without the students praying for your health, safety, and intentions. I am inspired by your charity for St. Lawrence Seminary's students. Thank you for believing in me.

Bryant N.

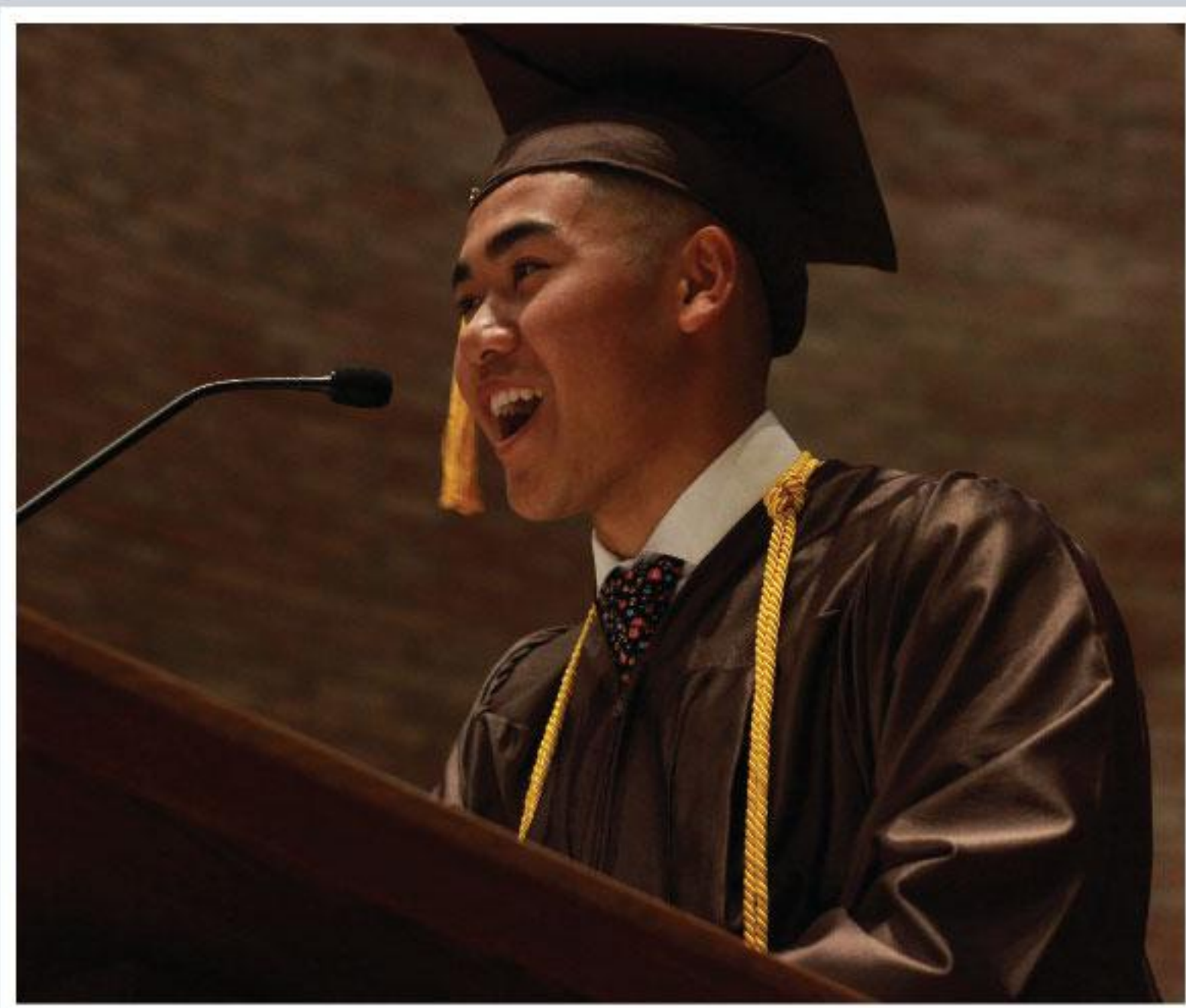
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience a wonderful education and a safe community to follow our path towards our Lord Jesus Christ. Inside the chapel, I had a time and place to communicate with God, thanking Him for my day, and not forgetting the generous people like you.

Joel R.





Valedictorian CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF Brotherhood



4 years ago, I packed my bags for the first time. I was extremely anxious, but at the same time, excited from all the stories the other SLS students from Virginia told me. Most of all, I was excited to

make new friends. Right now, I feel closer to the 50 seniors sitting behind me than anything else in the world.

By looking at us, it is easy to tell that we are all very different. We come from other countries such as Korea, Vietnam, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi, but we also come from more familiar places such as Virginia, Texas, California, Chicago, and Milwaukee.

Through the trials and tribulations of school and living with each other, we became a band of brothers. We found a home away from home in each other and in Christ, and that is a lesson that is not taught at any other high school.

Our relationships have only been able to grow this much because of the many experiences and memories we have shared together in all the aspects of life here.

An alumnus of St. Lawrence once told me, "The key to success is being grateful." In a similar manner, I would

like to extend my thanks and gratitude to a number of people for their support. First, I thank the faculty and staff for their commitment and dedication. I thank Fr. Zoy for an excellent first year as rector and for showing that he genuinely cares about our class. A huge thanks goes to all our parents, families, and friends, whose incredible support and love has kept us going. Most importantly, to the class of 2018, I thank you --- for 4 years of smiles, laughs, and tears --- for 4 years of unforgettable memories.

And now, graduation concludes this chapter in our lives. Even when we leave today, we all know that we will meet again, As a heroic knight-errant once said, "There are no birds in last year's nest." So go forth, and give the world a taste of the Calvary Spirit that we all know so well, and set the world on fire. Chase the higher quest. Dream the impossible dream. You have 50 brothers that are backing you up, every step of the way.

Bryant Nguyen





Vocation Awareness Day

Saint Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin is the site on which the Capuchin Province of Saint Joseph was founded in 1857, with the opening of "Saint Lawrence College" just three years later.

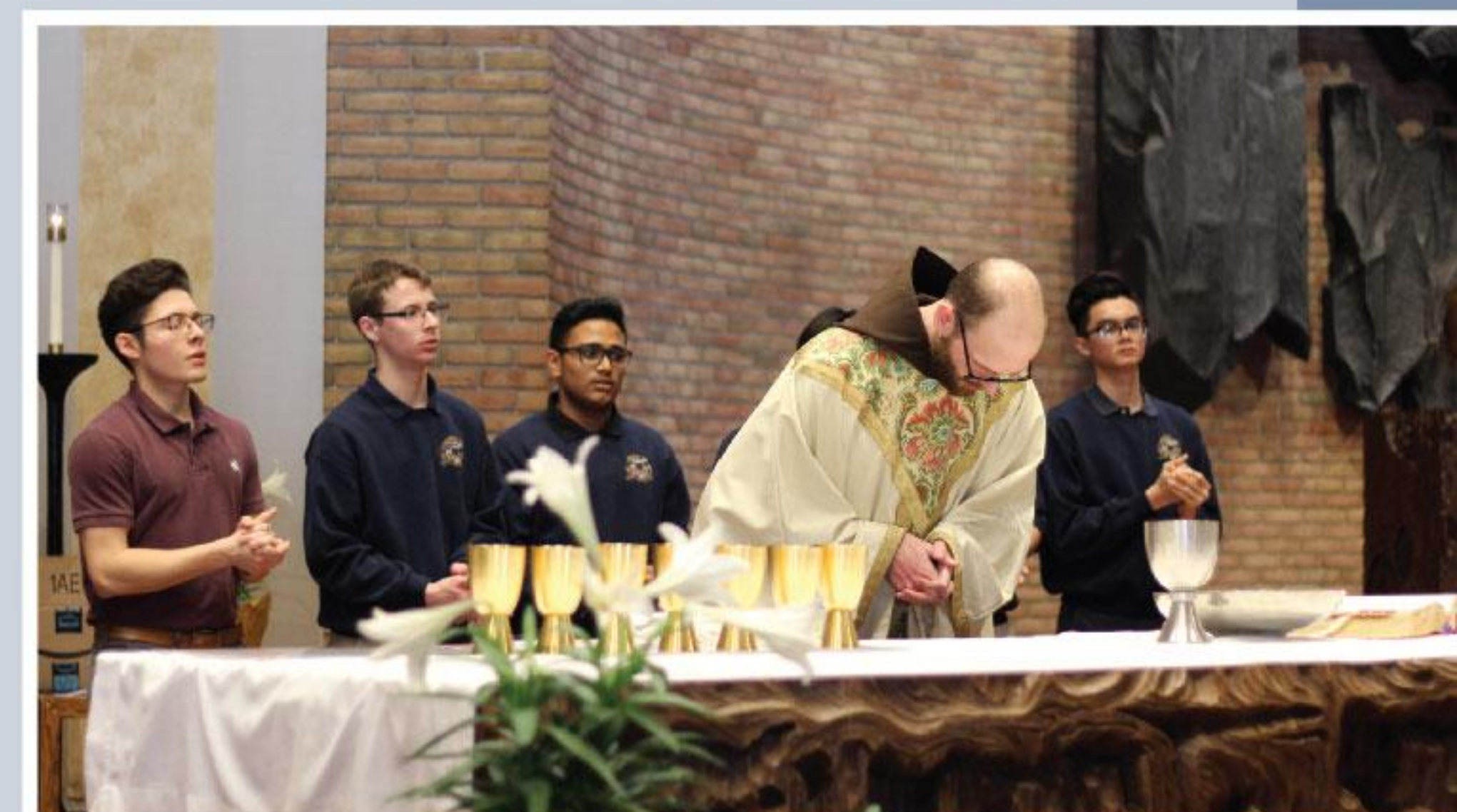
For most of the history of our Capuchin Province, most of the Friars attended Saint Lawrence Seminary. That reality has been changing in recent years as young men experience God's call later in life and in ever more diverse circumstances.

April 20th was Vocation Awareness Day. Fr Zoy invited nearly a dozen younger Capuchin Friars to give witness to their own vocational discernment and to meet with our seminarians and share faith.

Newly ordained Capuchin Father Jason Graves celebrated the Eucharist for the seminary community. Father Jason was later joined by Brother MJ Groark, Brother Brenton Ertel and Brother Joseph Babcock (SLS Class of 2010) and other Friars to share how they discerned God's call to the Capuchin way of life and what their Capuchin vocation means to them. Although the Friars' individuals stories were quite different, the common theme was that discerning one's vocation

demands patience, prayer and being present to the Holy Spirit's urgings deep inside. Discernment, the young Friars explained to our seminarians, is not a just a solitary endeavor. Vocational discernment takes place in the context of community, much like the community we are blessed to share in at Saint Lawrence Seminary. Classmates, teachers, spiritual directors, confessors and parents can all shed light on where God's Spirit might be leading a young man.

Our seminarians met in their fraternities with a young friar and could ask whatever questions they had about discernment, religious life and the challenges of the vowed life. The seriousness of the day was lightened with the group tasks of creating posters about discernment and recording group videos on how God's call might break through in a young man's life in this community. It was a worthwhile exercise topping off a full day of reflection, laughter, sharing and community building.



Legacy of Vocations

Hope and Trust

The senior class of 2018 just celebrated Graduation Sunday - their personal rite of passage. At their Graduation Mass, they sang our Alma Mater with great emotion, especially the words only seniors sing: "Though approaching graduation, bids us all farewell. We shall never be parted while fond mem'ries dwell."

I remember well how emotional I was when I graduated in May 1971. Leaving St. Lawrence Seminary, my home for four years, was difficult. Leaving my fellow classmates, my brothers, was distressing.

The Capuchin Friars had instilled in me the power of prayer. I had begun to learn to hope and trust that God hears and answers my prayers. While not understanding the depth of the gifts the Capuchins gave me, I now know that experience would guide my life. Since May 1971 I have learned over and over to pray, to live with hope and trust God does hear my prayers.

I believe my experience has been shared by hundreds of men who are loyal "Sons of Calvary." Soon another class of young men will begin their journey at Saint Lawrence Seminary. Pray they, too, will learn to pray, to hope and to trust in the God who hears and

answers ALL their prayers, albeit in His own time.

Keeping the doors of St. Lawrence Seminary open is a challenge. Without the sacrifices you make to partner with the Capuchins to educate and to form our seminarians, the doors of St. Lawrence Seminary could not remain open. We NEED your help to keep this ministry and mission alive in a world where God NEEDS our cooperation in fulfilling his plan for salvation.

There are many ways you can support Saint Lawrence Seminary. Please consider naming the seminary in your will or estate plan. You could specify a dollar amount, a percentage or a "residual" amount after you have looked after your loved ones. Other ways you can help is by making a gift through your IRA and/or securities. There are so many ways for you to donate and many ways you can take advantage of significant tax savings.

Another way you can help is by creating a charitable gift annuity. An annuity pays you income for life at an attractive pay rate and helps support the Capuchins future seminarians. A charitable gift annuity supports your future and the seminary.

By including Saint Lawrence Seminary in your estate plan you will be enrolled in our "Legacy of





Vocations Endowment" Society and always remembered in our grateful masses and prayers.

Thank you for sharing in my desire to assist the Capuchins in holding open these doors so future seminarians can join in singing the phrase I love the most in our alma mater: Love her Spirit, hold it ever, let our lives profess, "We are loyal Sons of Calv'ry, 'Hill of Happiness'."

If you would like to talk about Saint Lawrence Seminary and your estate plans, please let me know on the enclosed reply slip when best to contact you. My contact information is also included here.

Thank you for your prayers and sacrifices for the good of these young men and the good of our Catholic Church.

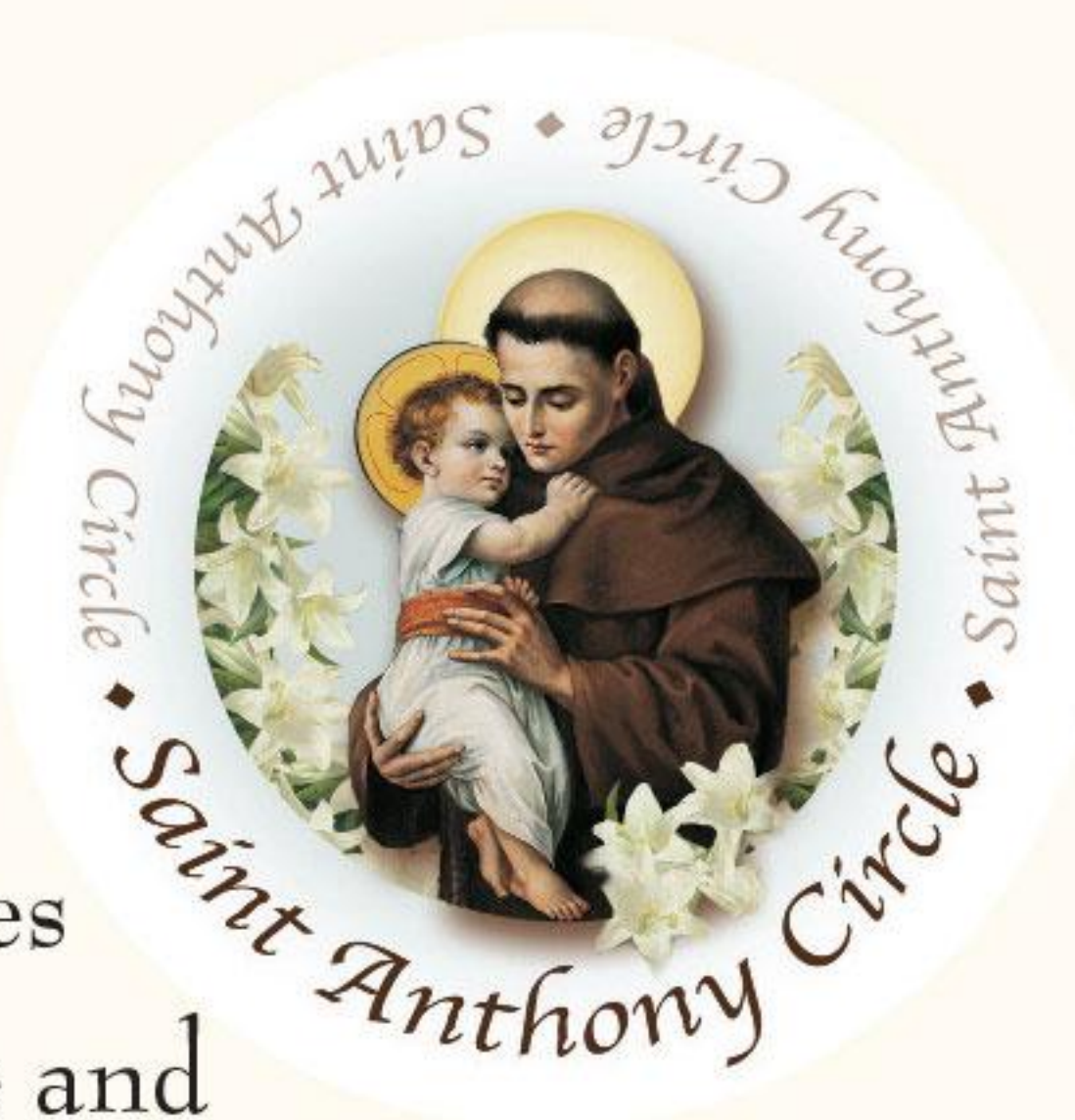


Deacon Jim Paterson
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Committed Giving

Giving through the Saint Anthony Circle gives you the freedom to choose your own schedule and helps us reduce the cost of frequent appeals for your support. That means more of your every dollar will be used directly for the education and spiritual formation of the faith-filled young men entrusted to our care.

Thank you for hearing God's call in your own heart and responding with such faith and generosity. Thank you for giving young men this holy ground and sacred time in their lives called Saint Lawrence Seminary.



- ▶ Give on your own schedule. Monthly, every-other-month or quarterly options.
- ▶ Check, Cash or Money Order made out to: Saint Lawrence Seminary. After we receive your gift we will send you an SAC envelope for your next gift.
- ▶ Credit/Debit cards. Your first gift will be charged upon receipt and then each month after on the date of your choosing.

To sign up for **Saint Anthony Circle** committed giving program please use the enclosed reply slip and check the option that fits you best.

Do you know a remarkable young man?

I would not be surprised if you did! You are a remarkable friend and partner to the Capuchins at Saint Lawrence Seminary. I'm sharing more words from our graduates to give you an even better feel for what their years here have meant to them.

Through their words and mine, I'm praying you will think of a young man (7th grade through 10th grade) in your family or in your parish or in your life who is budding with potential, who desires to grow in love of the Lord, who cares deeply for other people, who is strong in character and courageous enough to take a path different from his peers?

Do you know a young man remarkable enough to take up the challenge of joining our community at Saint Lawrence Seminary?

How You Can Help:

- Receive our Prospective Seminarian Parent Package to pass on
- Send me the name, address or email of prospective student
- Go to our Website at www.stlawrence.edu
- Tell your pastor, school principal and Director of Religious Education about Saint Lawrence Seminary and perhaps arrange a visit from a Recruiter.
- Call Mr. Francisco Saucedo, Class of 2002, Director of Admissions, at 920 960 9224

Dear benefactors and alumni,



I grew up in West Bend, Wisconsin, so I never really saw many people who weren't white and German. When I came to Saint Lawrence my freshmen year I was surprised by how diverse it was. It was so interesting to see so many people from different parts of the world all gathered together. Thank you for the chance to become friends with so many people from different backgrounds.

I am also extremely thankful for being able to share this experience with my brothers. I have two older brothers who graduated from Saint Lawrence and one little brother who will become a Freshmen at Saint Lawrence next year. My older brothers love to hear stories about my experiences at Saint Lawrence, and I love to hear their stories. I know I will forever look fondly upon my experience at St. Lawrence Seminary.

*Thank you,
Danny C.*



Dear Benefactors,

I am very grateful to have been able to attend Saint Lawrence Seminary. Because of your generous donations, I received a quality education, made great friends and received what is, in my opinion, the best high school experience possible. Thank for your great generosity and I hope you will continue to support students, such as myself, in the future.

Max E.

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