

# SLS guides young men on life's path

By Stephen Groessel

Quo vadis? (Where are you going?)

This question begs for an answer from all Catholic young men as they prepare to become future leaders of their church and community.

Having received spiritual formation, a solid Catholic education and physical growth opportunities while attending the school "on the hill" in Mount Calvary, for 150 years, young Catholic men have found answers to the question, "Where are you going?"

Although historically the school for decades was designed for young men who felt called to the priesthood, its mission has always been to provide a strong spiritual foundation for all boys in the Catholic faith. Fr. Keith Clark, OFM Cap. who is president emeritus at St. Lawrence Seminary High School and an historian said "the difference is that today the mission is to enable all our students to lay a foundation for a life of ministry in the church."

Fr. Clark's view is reinforced by others. "We graduate 50 students per class and several will decide to pursue further studies in religious life but the majority will enter colleges and universities pursuing other careers and become men of strong faith in their professions," said Mary Patricia Voell who serves as the school's director of public relations and marketing. Carrying forward that vision which its founders had is truly a challenge in this day and age, added Voell.

St. Lawrence Seminary High School at Mount Calvary is a college-preparatory boarding school that offers a nurturing atmosphere where students of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds are guided in spiritual growth appropriate for their ages that builds character, integrity and gospel values. Currently the student body is made up of young men from the United States and around the world. "We recruit a diverse student body that reflects an emerging Church" said Voell.

## Hybrid model for future

Current president and rector Fr. Dennis Druggan, OFM Cap. contends that St. Lawrence Seminary High School is a hybrid model for the future, fulfilling the need of many young men seeking a Catholic foundation and spiritual depth in their lives. Those who carry precon-



The student body at St. Lawrence Seminary High School is alive with the Calvary Spirit, conveying a sense of family, togetherness and peace felt by these young men knowing that they are now brothers with many others in the world.

ceived notions of the seminary do well to put them aside. "Whatever is happening in our programs today, we are not today what we were then," Fr. Druggan said.

The dynamics of the Catholic faith are opened to the students who are invited by the Capuchins and faculty to explore what their calling is, and wherever that may lead them, said Voell. The mission of the school is to prepare students as leaders throughout the world, leaders of their church and communities. Although after high school graduation only a small number go on to study for the priesthood, some chose to study for the priesthood after college or later and some as married men may embrace the permanent diaconate. Voell said she sees this as a period of transition leading to a resurgence of vocations to the priesthood

among older men.

Students at St. Lawrence Seminary High School pursue a college-prep course. While the academic program at the school is challenging, class sizes are small and instructors are always available for assistance. The 9:1 ratio of teacher to student is ideal and one must add to that the peer to peer learning that

takes place among students from all over the world, a factor that broadens their learning and rules out a strictly homogenous setting, Voell said. Of the 25 faculty members (some of whom are women), 13 teachers have a BA or BS

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## Five Star

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myself, I know what small businesses needs are and how to make their marketing affordable as well," she said.

With businesses that are not represented on the World Wide Web in some way, Odakick's Five Star Inspirations

spending time and effort in-person on certain products and services. Communication technology has progressed to the point where people connect online first, then make a personal contact. It is the flexibility that multiple communica-



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degrees; nine have masters degrees; two have doctorate degrees, and two have double master's degrees.

Spiritual growth and academics are balanced with many campus activities and competitive athletics that build mind, body and spirit. An astronomy club, a music program, theater, forensics, student publications, and community service are examples of broader enrichment. Plenty of managed movement off campus is scheduled with field trips to larger urban centers. Each season is filled with a variety of sports such as cross country, soccer, tennis, baseball, wrestling, basketball, bowling and track.

### A much different institution

The contemporary high school seminary is a much different institution than the seminary of the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, according to Marquette University Chair/Associate Professor Journalism William J. Thorn who is a St. Lawrence Seminary alumnus and whose two sons are alumni. In a piece Thorn wrote titled, "Historic High School Seminary, No! Contemporary High School Seminary, Yes" he writes about his sons' experiences. "They have absorbed far more about life as a Catholic and a Christian from their years in the seminary than they would have by attending...any other Catholic high school..."

The seminary, owned and operated by the Capuchin-Franciscan friars, currently has a student body of 200 students from the United States and across the globe. Tethered to the hamlet of Mt. Calvary, visitors to its campus "on the hill" will easily note the St. Lawrence

Seminary Spirit, an abiding feeling that conveys poverty and simplicity, attributes which have characterized the seminary throughout its 150 year history. "Our history is rich, our present is strong, and our future is alive with the Calvary Spirit," said Voell — words that convey a sense of family, togetherness, and peace that these young men have, knowing that they are now brothers with many others in the world. That Spirit has been contagious from St. Francis of Assisi to the Capuchins.

This year the Seminary which is the oldest and largest minor seminary in the United States, marks its sesquicentennial. Celebrations of that milestone have been planned and are scheduled into 2011. Named the "Calvary Circle Tour" some celebrations will take place on the hill, and others in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Detroit. Things begin with a kick-off celebration in Milwaukee on April 24, followed by a clergy event on the hill June 3 with Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeki. A hilltopper event on the hill which includes a golf outing will take place in September. The feast day of St. Francis will be specially marked in October with alumni returning. A celebration in Chicago (Feb. 19, 2011) is followed by a pilgrimage to Assisi, Italy (March 12-22). Detroit which is the headquarters of the Capuchin Province in the United States will also mark the event April 30, 2011.

Many in the Holyland are part of the "yesterday" of St. Lawrence Seminary's history. Spiritually, financially and physically they helped build the school. Many of their ancestors are buried on the hill.



**An aerial view of "the Hill" captures a peaceful place of poverty and simplicity, attributes of St. Francis which characterize St. Lawrence Seminary throughout its 150 years.**

This solid connection will be the final celebration event of the sesquicentennial in June of 2011. These folks were and are "an integral and wonderful piece of Catholicism in Mt. Calvary."

For additional information visit the school's Web site: [www.stlawrence.edu](http://www.stlawrence.edu) or phone 920-753-7522.

## New Holstein Progress briefs 2010

### Business captures special moments

Rachel Rolf is the owner and photographer at Treasured Moments Photography & Design, LLC, W2347 Kiel Rd., New Holstein.

The business performs wedding photography and portraits, including

families, engagements, seniors, babies, children, maternity, small business and executive portraits. Other services available are photo restoration, holiday and special occasion, photo cards, custom albums and more.

Treasured Moments Photography recently launched a new Web site and a new look. Check it out at [www.mymoments.com](http://www.mymoments.com), or call (920) 901-9270 for more information about the business.