



newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS CROSSED ITS HALFWAY POINT AND IT IS, therefore, a great time to give you a quick overview of the many activities that have taken place so far this year. I will first give you an update about our high school seminars, and then bring you up to date regarding the two major trips planned for this year: the UNIV Rome Congress and the Peru Service Project. Finally, I will take a look at what's ahead in the coming semester.

The high school seminars continue to grow. This year we have reached our highest number of participants, with close to 100. Perhaps what is most significant is the increase in the number of freshmen participating—over 40 signed up! The other three seminars are also well attended. For example, we have over 25 sophomores signed up for the Professional Seminar. The Juniors and Seniors--with equal numbers--make up the rest of the participants. I believe the quality and topical resonance of the seminars are the two key reasons for their continued success.

For the UNIV Rome trip, four seniors will be representing the DC area in the Congress. The topic for this year's Congress is Identity in the World of Social Media. The students have already begun to plan out their position papers on the issue.

We have also finalized the dates for this summer's Peru Service Project: June 15-July 6. Last year's participants have been our greatest advocates in promoting the trip. Their stories about hard work, new friendships, great adventures, and personal growth have made the trip an instant hit among the seminar participants—so much so that we already have quite a large number of applications.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that we will have our usual Study Weekends and Retreats in St. Michaels, MD. These trips are always a great success and help the boys to grow academically and personally.

Thank you so much for your generous support. Tenley could not do what it does without it.

Sincerely,

Joe Cardenas, Director
TENLEY STUDY CENTER

Tenley's four-year High School Seminar Series gives students the practical, intellectual, and moral foundation to be men of character. Through a combination of classes, one-on-one mentoring, and career presentations by successful professionals, it helps them develop the skills and attitude necessary to be effective in high school, college, and later on as fathers, professionals, and citizens.



Tenley Study Center is dedicated to the academic and character development of men of all ages. Its activities encourage them to see their studies, work and family responsibilities from the perspective of character growth and service to others. The spiritual dimension of Tenley's activities is entrusted to Opus Dei, a personal prelature of the Catholic Church.

PERU SERVICE PROJECT

By Alex Hadley, Peru 2012 Participant



THIS YEAR, the Mexico Service Project made its way south to Peru where a party of fifteen students and four adults, led by Joe Cardenas, traveled to the little villages of Llapay and Laraos in the midst of the breathtaking Andes. The three-week project's main goal was to repaint and renovate the 16th century church in Laraos and teach the children English and catechism, together with talks on the virtues. However, we also found time on the weekends to soak in even more of the astounding and incredible scenery around us and, in the process, share the truly unforgettable memory of a newly planned yet epic service trip in the Andes.

After enduring a car ride of only 170 miles, yet took seven hours, we arrived in Llapay. Llapay, a one-road town whose population we almost doubled, would be our home for the next three weeks. Laraos, the location of the church and school, was a twenty-five minute ride up the side of a mountain, a trek that we would make every day and one that offered spectacular views of the *Andenes* (terraces) surrounding Laraos, a farming system famous because of Machu Picchu. As the mayor of Laraos proudly declared: "Laraos es un Machu Picchu vivo." ("Laraos is a living Machu Picchu.")

When we arrived in Laraos on our first day, we were shocked to find that because of disuse and lack of materials, the church had grown filthy and dilapidated. The task appeared nearly impossible: the church had barely any lights or windows; the back wall's whitewash was crumbling to pieces; the retablos needed a completely new paint job; the back half of the building was being used unceremoniously as a supply dump; and the place was full of dust and dirt.

We attacked our project with vigor, working eight hours each day. By the end of three weeks, the church looked gorgeous as we attended our last Holy Mass there with dozens of villagers present. The building had brand new lights, the retablos were carefully restored and painted (making a least a few artists out of the group), and the whole church was swept at least twenty times! The church had been restored to its former glory as a House of God.

While repairing Laraos' church, we also taught the schoolchildren of the village, giving the high schoolers talks on the virtues and English classes and playing with the younger children as well as teaching them basic catechism. For many of us, this was the most enjoyable part of our day as we got a chance to move out of the dusty dark church and

PERU
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Last summer, Joe Cardenas, Director of the Tenley Study Center, and three other adults took 15 High School students high up into the Peruvian Andes for a three-week service project. They repaired and painted the interior and exterior of the church in the village of Laraos, and taught English, art, and catechism to the local children.



spend time with people whose culture was both amazingly similar and yet different from ours. “Hangman” quickly became a popular game among the younger children as they tried to guess basic English words. However, some failed to grasp the strategy of the game: one boy always guessed x, y, or z. The virtue talks offered us a more sophisticated opportunity to improve our Spanish. Meanwhile, English class was always entertaining as we attempted, sometimes futilely, to improve our students’ pronunciation. By the last day, we were all sad to leave our new friends but satisfied to know that we had been able to serve them and hopefully provide them with a good Christian example.

While living among the magnificent Andes, one cannot simply ignore the incredible scenery. We spent our weekends hiking, once to a mountain lake and then to an abandoned pre-Incan village, first built around 800 AD. This second hike provided the most memorable experience of the trip. While hiking to the lake, we caught sight of the ruins of the village on a mountain ridge and spontaneously decided to camp there the following Saturday. When we arrived on top of the ridge the next week, the landscape was absolutely spectacular, with sheer mountains all around and a sunset falling on the peaks and the ruins of the bell tower of the village. That night, stars lit up the sky while meteors

occasionally blazed across the expanse of night. Despite this marvelous display of natural beauty, we had underestimated the cold and our blankets (we did not have sleeping bags) could not contend with the Peruvian winter night. Needless to say, sleep was in short supply that night. However, the cold did give me an excuse to witness the most beautiful night sky and most stunning sunrise I will probably ever see.

The Peru Service Project accomplished a great and rewarding objective: making a church once more serviceable and beautiful. It also achieved much more in showing the world that young men are willing to give up their summers to help others for the sake of Christ.



FROM THE DESK OF PHIL WEHLE



I WISH TO THANK ALL the members of the Tenley Association who continue to be so faithful in supporting the Center. This season, our high school seminar program is the most successful to date with 99 students participating. Your prayers and financial sacrifices have gone a long way to make this possible. For those of you who have not yet joined, I want to assure you that you cannot ask for a better return on your investment. Your prayers and financial support will insure that the seminars and the many other highly successful Tenley Study Center programs continue.

Last fall, we launched the Tenley Legacy Society. All are invited to join by taking the simple step of updating your will to include the Tenley Study Center, Inc. as beneficiary of a percentage or specific dollar amount. By doing so, your legacy will live on in the lives of future generations of Tenley alumni who will go on to transform their communities and the world at large. For more information on the Legacy Society, please contact me at 202.362.2419 or by E-mail at pcwehle@cox.net.

For details on Tenley Study Center activities, please visit our website at www.tenley.org. Our address is 4300 Garrison Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016. Your contributions to the Tenley Study Center, a 501 (c) corporation, are tax deductible. If you wish to donate through the Combined Federal Campaign, the number is 37306.

Phil Wehle, Director
TENLEY ASSOCIATION

FROM THE TENLEY STUDY CENTER ARCHIVES

SUCH INTENSITY!

Study weekends have been in the Tenley Study Center schedule for as long as anyone can remember, and the participants love them. Besides periods of intense study, there is daily Mass and prayer, sports, get togethers and just plain fun. Participants come back with a sense of accomplishment and awe at what can be done when one does not waste valuable time, which is a special gift.

