

newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

AS THE ACADEMIC YEAR COMES TO AN END, I wanted to reach out to you to tell you about two outstanding highlights.

The first one is the purchase and set up of the *Bowman House* to support and further develop Tenley's formational activities for students attending *The Catholic University of America* (CUA).

The *Bowman House*, a townhouse located at 607 Lancaster Avenue in Northeast Washington DC, is now fully furnished and has already hosted speakers, presentations, and countless mentoring meetings.

A little background: The name we chose for the house recognizes Mr. and Mrs. Bowman who, for almost a decade, allowed Tenley to host its weekly activities in their own living room. Mr. Bowman had moved from Boston to be the Dean of CUA's Business School and lived in this house until quite recently, when he and his wife moved back to Boston to be closer to family and friends.

It was precisely as they were moving back north that a dedicated group of Tenley friends and supporters decided to purchase the townhouse so it could be used for Tenley's growing formational activities at CUA. We are sincerely grateful for their continued generosity and support.

We look forward to many years of formational activities that will reach many thousands of CUA students.

(Please turn to the back page to get a sneak preview of the *Bowman House*!)

The second highlight of the year is the great success of *Club Garrison* under the leadership of Mike Cheely, one of Tenley's residents.

The year started auspiciously when the 7th grade section filled up completely only 5 hours after the sign-up form went live on our website. The 8th grade took just a few more hours.

Club Garrison was way oversubscribed, and we ended up having to open an additional 7th-8th grade section on a different weekday so we could accommodate all the students. But this also opened up a great opportunity to ask many high school upper classmen and college students to volunteer to help run *Club Garrison*. Under the sure guidance and training of Mike Cheely, these volunteers did a terrific job.

Looking back at these two great highlights of the year, I can't help but feel a great sense of gratitude for your continued generosity over the years.

I am sincerely grateful.

Joe Cardenas, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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.



Dear Friends of Tenley



BY MICHAEL MESSENGER (HEIGHTS 2024)



“**M**ILLE VIAE DUCUNT homines per saecula Romam!” *A thousand roads lead men forever to Rome.* From turbulent flights to touring the heart of Rome, the 2024 UNIV Congress did not disappoint. One

of the greatest experiences that the Tenley has, amongst its high school programs, is for students to participate in the UNIV Congress in the Eternal City during the holiest week of the liturgical year. Youth Services International hosts a symposium for the thousands of young men and women from all over the world who come to UNIV each year. UNIV is a cultural and educational forum for students to engage in discourse on the serious issues that face our world today. This year’s theme was “The Human Factor (in regard to Artificial Intelligence).”

I was fortunate enough to travel to the Congress in Rome with ten senior classmates, Mr. Joe Cardenas, Mr. Mike Cheely, and Fr. Diego Daza. Not only did we participate in the Congress, but we were also afforded the opportunity to see and learn about the foundations of the Catholic Church and relive the

ancient world through the Roman ruins scattered throughout the city. From the moment of our arrival to our final departure, everyone took advantage of all that this experience had to offer. We ventured on a Scavi Tour, offering an in-depth look at the remains below the iconic Saint Peter’s Basilica including the bones of Saint Peter. Dome after dome and ruin after ruin, the experience was transformative. Within the first few days, our group also had the chance to meet other students and professionals from varying backgrounds.

“Any average church in Rome is your A-grade church in America,” seniors Leo Zelaya and Santi Bendeck both commented. The statement certainly rings true after seeing some of the most ornate churches in the world. With organized and efficient planning by Mr. Cheely and Mr. Cardenas, we were able to attend the Papal audience with Pope Francis, and a get-together with the Prelate of Opus Dei, Don Fernando Ocariz, at Cavabianca, a seminary for the Prelature of Opus Dei. Our group was also fortunate to be able to make the traditional walk to Seven Churches on Holy Thursday, which was logistically not a problem since there’s a Catholic Church on almost every block in Rome. We were also able to get tickets to the Good Friday liturgy at Saint Peter’s Basilica with Pope Francis as the main celebrant. It was an amazing



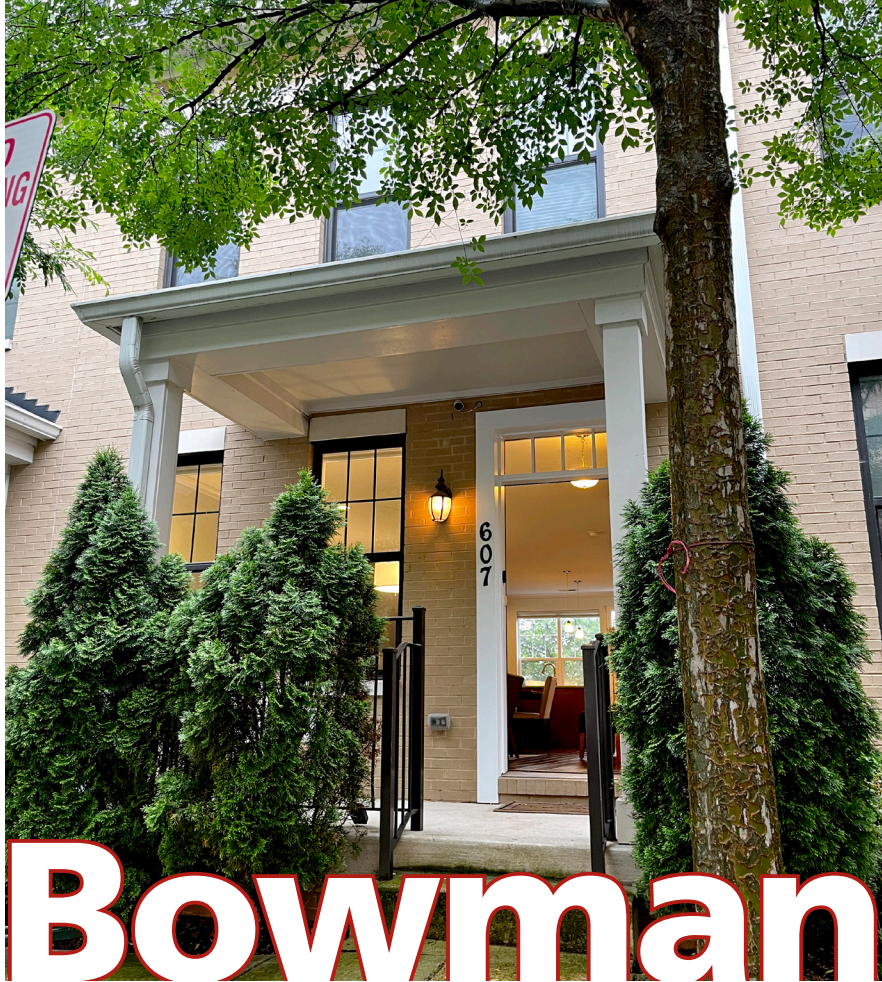
experience to say the least. We saw stunning churches and learned about the history behind them with well-curated tours by Mr. Cardenas and saw artwork dating centuries back. We visited Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, home to a myriad of relics such as the nails used to crucify Christ, thorns from the

crown he wore, part of a plank from his cross and many more. We also had the chance to see the manger where Christ was laid after his birth, located in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major. All of us indulged in delicious gelato, dinners together, and classic Italian pizza. “When in Rome” was our motto as we experienced destinations such as the Sistine Chapel, Saint John Lateran, the Roman Forum, or the Pantheon.

On Good Friday, we were able to ascend Scala Sancta, the steps that Christ walked to face Pilate before his condemnation on our knees, which is the custom. It is purposefully painful, to help one relate to the suffering and passion of Christ—an especially profound experience to have on Good Friday.

Our UNIV trip was life-changing, not only from a cultural and intellectual perspective, but most certainly spiritually. None of us will ever forget this! ★





The Tenley Study Center will soon open an extension for academic and spiritual activities just one block from the *Catholic University of America* campus. The Bowman House, as the new center will be called, was generously donated to the *Tenley Study Center* early this year. The location will host a myriad of activities including a speakers series, formational classes, one-on-one mentoring, and more. Generous benefactors also supplied most of the furnishing and fixtures for the Bowman House which will have its official opening this coming Fall.

