



newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

THIS NEWSLETTER BEGINS ON A SOMBER NOTE. WE WERE devastated to learn of the tragic passing of Matthew Anthony, who served as the director of Tenley from 2007 to 2011. Matt lost his life heroically while trying to save a good friend from drowning. We hold firmly to the hope that he is now in a better place—"No greater love has a man than to lay down his life for his friends." We are profoundly grateful for all the work Matt did during his years at Tenley, and for the legacy of generosity and dedication he left behind. As you will read at the end of this newsletter, you will find a tribute to a life well lived.

Amid this loss, Tenley's mission has continued forward this summer with a number of enriching programs for young men. Mike Cheely, along with Zig Sanchez, our new Tenley resident, led a group of 20 high school and college students to serve as counselors at our yearly Leadership Camp. Their hard work and example made a strong impact on the younger boys.

Meanwhile, Ricky Ybarra, Anthony Hadford, and Joe Kilner led two academic camps in Pittsburgh: *High School and Beyond* for rising freshmen and the *Practical Leadership Seminar* for rising sophomores. Both programs challenged participants to grow in knowledge, confidence, and vision for their future.

Farther afield, Will Schroeder, Santi Bendeck, Fr. Diego, and I guided a group of young men on a service project in the Andes of Peru. There, the group worked together to repair a small village church, while also immersing themselves in the culture and forging bonds through shared service.

As we start a new academic year, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways Tenley continues to inspire and form young men. None of this would be possible without your prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Thank you for standing with us in this mission.

With deep appreciation,

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.





Practical Leadership

BY WILL MESSENGER HEIGHTS 2029

A SUMMER TRIP TO PITTSBURGH, rich in its industrial history, is bound to be a formative experience. The 2025 Practical Leadership Seminar facilitated just that. It was hosted in the Heinz Mansion near the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. After arriving, we were provided with the schedule for the week, outlining the upcoming events and guest speakers. Various professionals were selected to give lectures to present a moral perspective on topics such as entrepreneurship, AI, and the necessity of work in society. Also, we were assigned the task of preparing a presentation to share at the end of the week on the topics that were presented to us, identifying current problems that face our culture today and suggested solutions. This also provided us a forum to practice public speaking which is a helpful skill to have in the workplace. In addition to

focusing on leadership and professional skills, we had time for spiritual growth as well. This was made possible through a combination of attending daily Mass and opportunities for confession along with meditations and the rosary.

The most fundamental aspect of our moral education involves formation of character - growing in personal virtues, the treatment of others, and cultivating our relationship with Christ.

One way that formation came to fruition during the trip was through bonding initiatives and athletics. Without hesitation, Mr. Ybarra wove this into the schedule. Every day we played a different sport where teams were made, fostering friendship and teamwork. It also helped us work on our sportsmanship, which is essential with a competitive group of guys.





p Seminar

We had free time that allowed us to participate in more activities that led to a deep and sincere comradery between the participants. The attendees also enjoyed one of Pittsburgh's culinary marvels, the giant pizza, along with a seasonal cookout in the middle of the week and ice cream sundaes on the last day. We were able to enjoy an excursion into the city and play a game of kickball alongside the three rivers area, surrounded by the Steelers' stadium and skyscrapers in downtown Pittsburgh. This seminar absolutely achieved its goal of fostering intellectual, moral, spiritual and physical growth fulfilling the overall mission of the program. We were fortunate to be a part of it. ★



In Memorium

IT IS WITH DEEP SORROW THAT WE REMEMBER the passing of Matt Anthony, who served as Director of Tenley Study Center from 2007 to 2011. I first met Matt as a high schooler on a service project in Mexico. Though he was the only one from St. Louis among a group of DC students, he immediately became their natural leader. Even then, I recall thinking what an outstanding young man he was—so much so that I suggested he consider transferring to The Heights for his senior year. Little could I have guessed that twenty years later he would actually become a teacher at The Heights and director of Tenley Study Center.

During his four years of leadership, Matt left a lasting mark on Tenley through his energy, vision, and dedication. He was not only a director but also a builder—always looking for ways to strengthen the Center and prepare it for the future. Under his guidance, Tenley continued to develop and expand the TAP program, an outreach initiative in DC's inner city, and to sponsor service projects to Mexico and pilgrimages to Rome. But Matt was also into the day-to-day details of running a large educational Center. For example, not only did he publish the first newsletter, but also launched a new website, opening wider doors for outreach and communication. He oversaw the replacement of all the windows of our large facility, a tangible sign of his care for the students and families who came through our doors. He guided the landscaping of the grounds, creating a welcoming environment. With dedication, Matt even supervised the scanning, organizing, and identifying of forty years' worth of photographs, preserving the rich history of Tenley since the early 1960s.

Perhaps most lastingly, Matt gave final shape to the high school seminar curriculum we still use today—an enduring testament to his educational vision.

His impact at Tenley was profound, but Matt's generosity reached far beyond our walls—as the wider community of Opus Dei has also recognized. In the right sidebar, we share a few excerpts from the Opus Dei website, including words from the Prelate of Opus Dei in Rome and the head of Opus Dei in the U.S. and Canada.

Matt was truly a heroic man. We will miss him greatly. His generosity, faith, and tireless dedication to others continue to inspire all of us who follow in his footsteps.

Sincerely,
Joe Cardenas

Matt Anthony (top row, third from right) participated in the 1998 annual Mexico Service Project as a high school student. Joe Cardenas, Tenley Director (first row, right), was the leader on the project.



In the past few days, the faithful of the Prelature have been united in mourning the loss of three members—Matt

Anthony (44), Val Creus (59), and Matt Schoenecker (50)—who died tragically in a swimming accident in the Sierra Nevada Mountains on June 18, 2025. They were part of a group of six hikers enjoying a day outing while taking part in a workshop at Trumbull Manor, a conference center in Novato, California.

The tragedy was not without a touch of heroism. Some of the hikers were swimming near a waterfall well-known to several in the group, though the water was unusually cold and the current unusually powerful. When Val jumped into the water, he began calling for help. Matt Schoenecker and Matt Anthony immediately leaped in to rescue him. None of the three surfaced, and despite the water's depth, their bodies were recovered a few days later.

Their loss has brought great pain to their families and stirred an outpouring of prayers and condolences from friends and members of the Work throughout the world. Upon hearing about the incident, the Prelate immediately wrote to the Vicar of the United States and Canada, expressing his love and support.

In his letter dated June 19, he wrote: "It is natural that we ask the Lord why. It is not easy to find an answer, but we know that He knows best, and we continue our dialogue with Jesus who, through faith, fills us with hope and transforms our pain and sorrow into a path of salvation... Let us continue praying. The whole Work prays with you, and through prayer we are very united... As you are already doing, continue to be very united, attentive to one another, and, even in the midst of this enormous sorrow, joyful, because we know that Jesus blesses with the Cross."

From the Opus Dei website: opusdei.org/en-us/article/united-in-grieving-and-hope/
08/08/2025

