

newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4

FALL 2025

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW IN FULL SWING, AND WE ARE happy to see all our programs at capacity. The energy and enthusiasm from the participants have been great, making this a successful start to an academic year. It's inspiring to see so many young men hoping to grow in faith, character, and friendship.

One of the great highlights of the fall was our pilgrimage to Mexico to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The trip was designed especially for seniors who take part in our classes of formation, offering them a chance to deepen their devotion to Our Lady and grow in their faith. You can read more about this unforgettable experience in the main article of the newsletter, written by Michael Matus, a senior at The Heights School. I would be remiss if I failed to thank the many families that offered work opportunities so the participants could defray the cost of the pilgrimage and other families that made our stay in Mexico much more memorable.

Our college programs are also off to a great start. We have two formational classes at The Catholic University of America, as well as circles meeting regularly at Georgetown University and the University of Maryland. Many of the participants recently took part in a silent retreat at *Warwick House* in Pittsburgh—a time of prayer and reflection to help them grow in their spiritual life.

On the home front, I am happy to announce that, thanks to the great success of the *Mentoring and Learning Campaign*, we are now preparing to upgrade all our mentoring rooms, classrooms, and one of the living rooms used for circles. These improvements will make a lasting difference in the formation we're able to provide, creating spaces that reflect the importance and dignity of the work carried out within them.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are deeply grateful for you—our friends and benefactors—whose generosity and prayers make everything we do possible. Your continued support allows Tenley to accompany young men in their journey toward maturity, faith, and service. Thank you for standing with us.

With sincere gratitude,

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



A Pilgrimage to Remember

BY MICHAEL MATUS, HEIGHTS 2026



LAST MONTH, THE TENLEY STUDY Center organized its first pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. It was a terrific trip in every respect, and I am most thankful to Tenley for facilitating it. The pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe provided us with opportunities to grow in our devotion to our Blessed Mother, strengthen our faith, and deepen our friendships.

The one regret we all have was that we did not get to spend more time with the miraculous Tilma, a real sign of Our Lady's intercession for us. Also, from the information we received beforehand and the talk we were given by a direct descendant of Blessed Miguel Pro, we knew what to look for and what to expect from the Tilma—but there was no way it could have been fully communicated to us because we were only able to see Our Lady from a great distance. Pictures show in detail the miraculous imprint but do not do justice to it. Though there are not any bright colors on the Tilma, it is vibrant, surrounded by a mysterious aura. The colors are miraculously as strong as they ever were and give an impression of the strength Our Lady possesses. Learning about the care that Mary showed to Juan Diego, how she interceded to help his uncle, Juan Bernadino, and then seeing the actual physical imprint that she left behind as a sign were purely amazing.

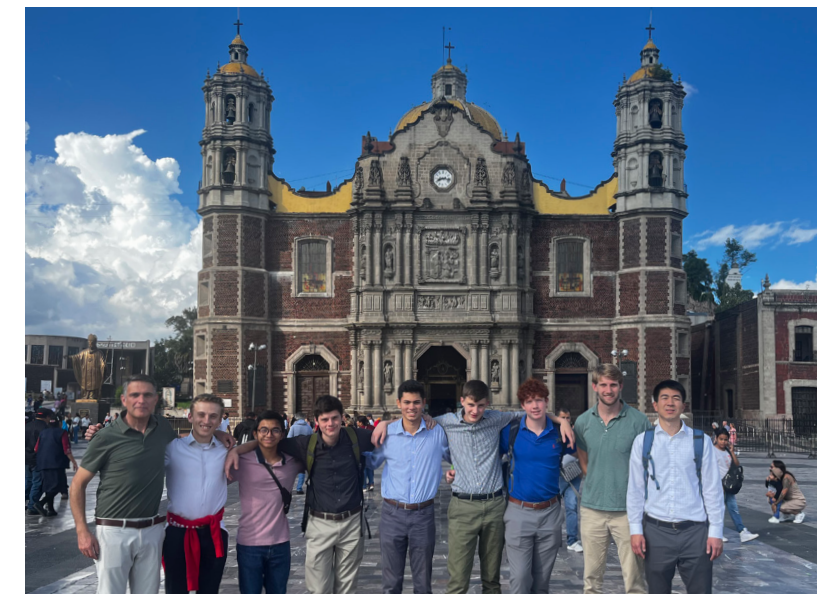
Hearing about the history of the conversion of Mexico to Catholicism was also inspiring. For a people not embracing Catholicism before the apparitions to then go on to build numerous churches dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe and hundreds of others, becoming an almost entirely Catholic nation, goes to show that anything is possible with God. After learning what happened, how the stars align on the Tilma and many other amazing facts, and then seeing it and the place where it is held, it would be hard to not believe.

Besides seeing the Tilma, visiting numerous other churches, and going to daily Mass, we were able to tour much of the city and experience this most populous region of Mexico. The local Opus Dei college kids hosted us for a fun evening cookout and one of the local centers had us over for dinner. We are also extremely grateful for the house in which we stayed, made possible by the Alvarez-Menchaca family from The Heights.

The pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe was in every respect awesome. Along with my friends, I was able to strengthen my faith and especially my devotion to the Blessed Mother. Hopefully, this trip becomes a Tenley tradition, and the next group of students can have the same experience. ★



Michael Matus '26



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



My dear friends,

JOE MENTIONED THAT WE ARE PREPARING TO UPGRADE OUR MENTORING and learning facilities in his Director's Note. Thanks to the generous support of a number of you, we have achieved almost 90 percent of our goal of \$35,000 in our Mentoring and Learning Campaign and are now able to start these much-needed renovations. We want to thank all of you who continue to sustain the Tenley Study Center with your prayers and financial support during these challenging and uncertain times. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, Tenley is meeting the ever-growing demand for its academic and character-building programs for young men. These life-changing activities complement, reinforce and supplement the efforts of the parents. If you are not yet a contributor, won't you please join us in this extraordinary endeavor? Donations can be made by check, credit card or through PayPal on 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)(3) corporation, are tax deductible. The Center's federal tax identification number is 52-1545933.

Our very best wishes to you and your family,

Phil Wehle

DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

Denis Harper

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

FROM THE archives



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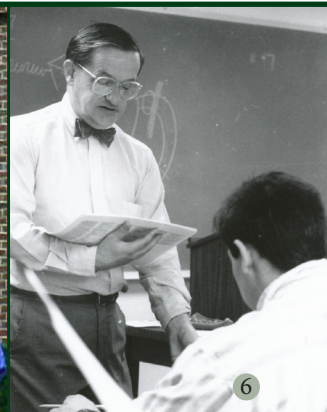
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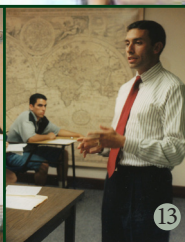
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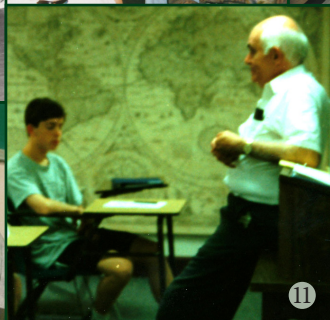
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1 Fr. John Agnew

2 Matt Anthony

3 Joe Cardenas

4 Fr. Javier del Castillo

5 Fr. Ron Gillis

6 Dennis Helming

7 Fr. Malcolm Kennedy

8 Pat Kilner

9 Mr. & Mrs. William Moss

10 Andrew Royals

11 Jim Stenson

12 Leszek Syski

13 Alvaro de Vicente

