

newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1

WINTER 2026

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

EACH YEAR BRINGS ITS OWN MILESTONES, AND THIS season has given us particular reasons for gratitude. I would like to begin by thanking all of you who supported our *Learning and Mentoring Campaign*. Because of your generosity, the campaign was a complete success. We have already begun working with an interior decorator to renew our mentoring rooms, gathering spaces, and classrooms. Our aim is not simply to improve furniture or layout, but to shape spaces that feel lived-in and welcoming places, marked by a family spirit rather than an office atmosphere. We look forward to having these improvements completed by the summer so that, come fall, the school year will begin with renewed energy in spaces that reflect the dignity of the work taking place within them.

At the same time, our regular programs continue to flourish. *Club Garrison* remains a steady presence for our middle school boys, and the high school seminars are not only strong but growing. Attendance has increased, and with it the seriousness and enthusiasm of the discussions. It is a privilege to watch these young students take ownership of their formation and invest themselves fully in the opportunities before them.

On the spiritual front, the past months have been especially encouraging. Since our last newsletter, we have hosted four silent retreats with more than fifty high school and college students participating. These days of quiet prayer and reflection bear fruit in ways that are often unseen but deeply lasting.

Our formational circles at the University of Maryland, The Catholic University of America, and Georgetown University continue to meet, as well as our six high school circles. These gatherings—simple, consistent, and personal—remain at the heart of Tenley's mission.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the UNIV College Conference in Rome during Holy Week, where twenty-five Tenley students—high school seniors and college men—will represent us.

As summer approaches, our programs are already filled or filling quickly. The *Peru Service Project*, *High School and Beyond*, the *Practical Leadership Seminar*, and the *Leadership Camp* all reflect a healthy and growing demand. It is a sign that the work resonates and that the desire for serious formation is alive among the young men we serve.

None of what I have described would be possible without you. Your generosity does more than fund programs—it sustains our mission. As always, please know how deeply grateful we are for your trust and support.

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.





The New York Service Trip

BY TOGUE KOUMTINGUE, HEIGHTS 2027

THIS PAST CHRISTMAS I HAD the opportunity to go on the New York Service Trip with Tenley to help the Missionaries of Charity at their soup kitchen in the Bronx. I'll be honest, I went on the trip with low expectations. I was one of only two juniors going with eleven freshmen. That's a risky setup. But the trip ended up being a blast and an awesome experience for everyone. We helped people who really needed it, made time for prayer, had a lot of fun... and yes, listened to K-pop Demon Hunters music.

After a four-hour drive, we finally arrived at Southmont, the Opus Dei center in South Orange, New Jersey. We claimed our rooms, got settled, and then it was time to cook. Dinner that night? Spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. And here's the shocking part: we made it ourselves. In fact, the students cooked every single meal the entire trip. No parents. No chefs. Just us. Honestly impressive.

The next two days we worked at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen in the Bronx. We helped prepare and serve meals for the poor and homeless. Some of us swept, mopped, replaced curtains, and handled random jobs that needed to get done. Before every meal we prayed, and during the meals we sang Christmas carols for the guests. On day two,

Henry Rowles became the star of the show with a solo in "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." It was legendary.

After serving each day, we went to Mass at a nearby parish—sometimes in Spanish. We actually went to Mass every single day of the trip. And on the drive to the Bronx, we prayed the Rosary together. So yes, we were busy.

Even though service was the main reason we went, the fun level was high. After the first day at the soup kitchen, we did a walking tour of New York City. After the second day, we played an absolutely intense game of handball on a snow-covered soccer field. Two locals, Paul and his sister, joined us. Our shoes were freezing and soaked, but that did not stop us. We played like it was Game 7 of the Finals. It was epic.

That night, after cleaning up and eating another student-made dinner, we played a board game with the unfortunate name of Secret Hitler. It's a game of strategy, alliances, and betrayal. It was easily one of the most intense board games I've ever played. We played again later in the trip, but that round was slightly less dramatic (slightly).

On our last full day, we had a massive scavenger hunt across midtown Manhattan. The challenges were random and competitive. The wildest one? Holding the most expensive item you could find in a store. The starting benchmark was \$20,000, and you earned another point for every \$3,000



above that. With confidence, boldness, and maybe a little luck, I managed to hold an item worth \$200,000. That earned us sixty-one points and secured the win.

After that eventful day, we went to Murray Hill Place, the Opus Dei center in Manhattan, where we celebrated with New York-style pizza and ice cream before heading back to New Jersey for our final night.

We drove home the next morning completely exhausted—but it was worth it. The trip gave us great memories, stronger friendships, and experiences I won't forget anytime soon. We served people who truly needed help, we had a ton of fun, and we grew spiritually along the way.

Not bad for a trip I underestimated. ★



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Dear friends,

AMONG THE MOST CRITICAL AND INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT Tenley's experienced and dedicated staff offers to each boy are one-on-one mentoring and the example and moral support which help the student grow in character and reach his full potential. In his Director's Note, Joe mentions that our recent Learning and Mentoring Campaign in support of this program was "a complete success." Many of our generous donors came through once again. Tenley is so blessed by the faithful support of over 130 families who are members of the Tenley Association. Your prayers and financial assistance are vital to the continuing success of our many activities. We could not do it without you and are so very grateful for your longstanding support.

We encourage all of you who have not yet done so to please join us in this great endeavor. As members of the Tenley Association, you will underwrite and sustain continued success of our programs, and your contributions will pay dividends for years to come in the lives those young men who come through the Center. Contributions can be made by check and credit card, or by 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 text deductible. The Center's federal tax identification number is 52-1545933.

With much gratitude and best wishes to all,

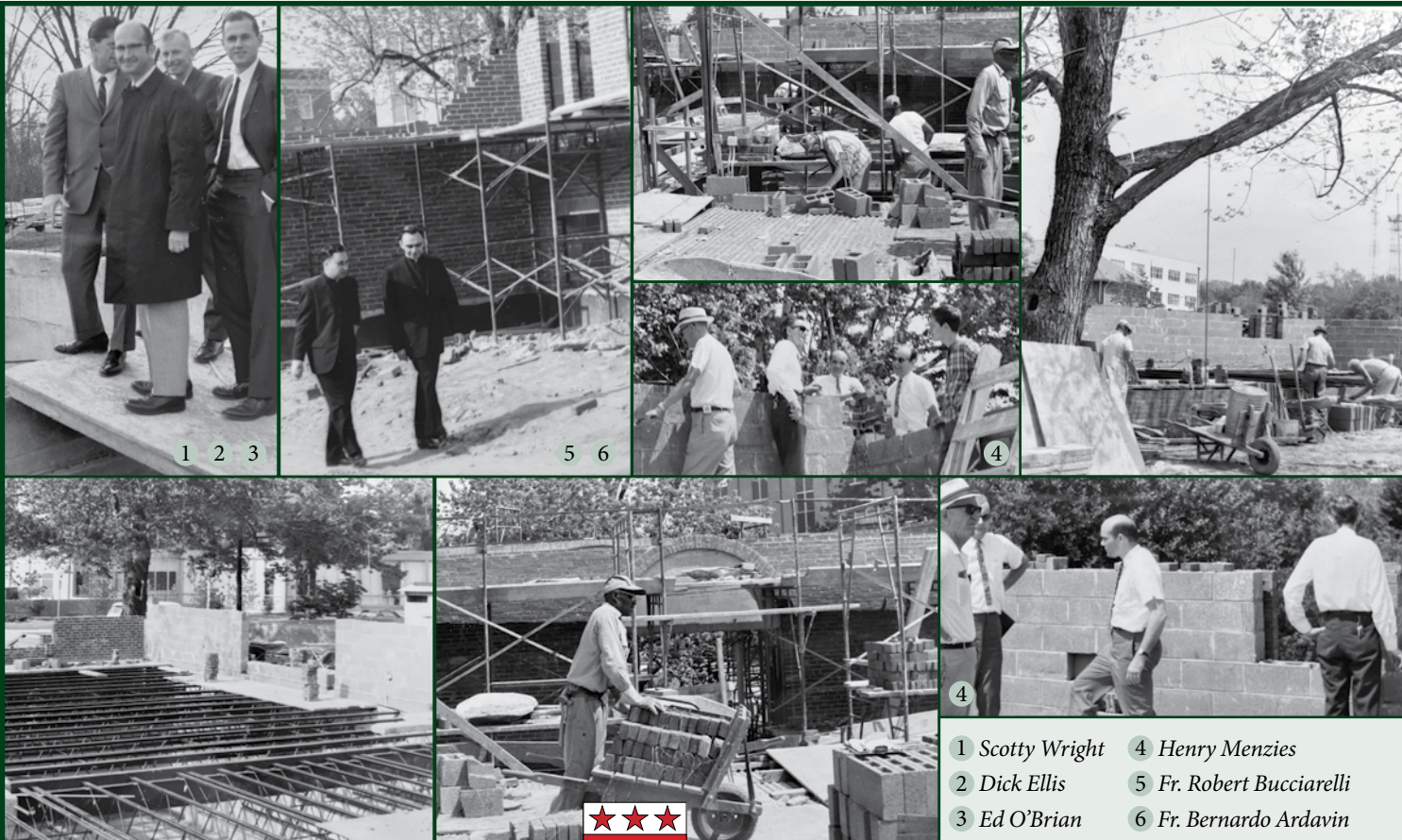
Phil Wehle
DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

Denis Harper
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION



FROM THE archives

TENLEY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, SUMMER 1966



- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Scotty Wright | 4 Henry Menzies |
| 2 Dick Ellis | 5 Fr. Robert Bucciarelli |
| 3 Ed O'Brian | 6 Fr. Bernardo Ardavin |

