

newsletter

TENLEY STUDY CENTER

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Tenley,

AS ANOTHER ACADEMIC YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE, WE cannot help but look back with deep gratitude on what has been an extraordinary year for Tenley. From middle school activities to college programs, from seminars and retreats, to service and pilgrimage opportunities, we have seen once again how eager so many boys and young men are for friendship and formation.

One of the great highlights of the year was the annual father-son, Club Garrison overnight. Hosted on the beautiful farm graciously lent to us by Mr. Ron Vance, the weekend brought together fathers and sons for a memorable experience of friendship, adventure, and formation. Mike Cheely and Zig Sanchez led the trip, and Fr. Diego was able to celebrate Mass and be available for confessions. Along with virtue talks and spirited night games, the clear highlight for many of the boys was the shooting practice after Mr. Vance generously provided a gun safety course for both fathers and sons. The entire weekend reflected the kind of joyful and meaningful experiences that leave a lasting impression on middle school boys.

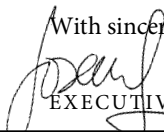
Our high school seminars also experienced another banner year, with well over 120 boys participating across the various programs. The discussions, mentorship, and camaraderie continue to be one of the defining strengths of Tenley's formation work. We are especially grateful to Nate Gadiano, who has faithfully led the Senior Seminar for several years with tremendous dedication and care. Many seniors have benefited from his guidance, wisdom, and example. As Nate now passes the baton to a new seminar leader, we want to thank him sincerely for the many hours and energy he has invested in the students of Tenley.

This year also marked the introduction of two new trips that have already become important additions to Tenley's growing calendar of activities. In the fall, a group of seniors participated in a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, an experience that combined friendship, prayer, and devotion to Our Lady. During Christmas break, another group traveled to the Bronx for a service project working alongside the Missionaries of Charity. Both trips offered students an opportunity to encounter the faith in a deeper and more personal way, while also stepping outside of their normal routines to serve others and grow together.

Before closing, I would also like to offer a special word of gratitude to Anthony Hadford, who will soon be leaving Tenley to move to Rome to study philosophy and theology. Anthony's work with the college activities at the Bowman House has left a lasting mark on many students, and his presence, generosity, and dedication will be greatly missed. We are excited for this next chapter in his life.

As always, thank you for your continued generosity and support. Everything described in these pages is possible only because of your trust in Tenley's mission and your willingness to make it your own. We are deeply grateful.

With sincere appreciation,


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.





My Years at Tenley

BY HENRY O'BEIRNE, HEIGHTS 2026

MY EXPERIENCE WITH TENLEY BEGAN IN sixth grade, before I had much agency in my own affairs. Throughout middle school, I participated in Tenley's Club Garrison activities, and I loved them. The Club consisted of a study hall where we did our homework, mostly against our middle school will. Afterwards, there was a virtue talk and a snack, followed by an outdoor activity. The snacks were good, the sports were fun, and we enjoyed ourselves. However, with my middle school brain, I did not truly appreciate what was being given to me until much later.

Fast forward to my senior year, and my outlook had changed significantly. The tone of high school Tenley was very different. There was still a study hall, which we took advantage of more willingly. However, instead of snacks, we had dinner, and the sports were replaced with longer virtue talks. The activities were less traditionally "fun," but far more fulfilling. More importantly, through Tenley I began to develop deep friendships.

These friendships were strengthened as the Center offered more trips. The most spiritually challenging were, of course, the yearly silent retreats, where we spent two days in silence, praying and reading Scripture and other spiritual works. The Tenley trip that brought me closest to my friends was the Peru trip. This legendary journey, for rising juniors, was a two-week expedition to the Andes Mountains in Peru. The purpose of the trip was to paint and refurbish an old church in the small town of Carania, but its effects were much deeper.

During the trip, I began to truly appreciate the gift of daily Mass. Spending time with the local people was incredibly refreshing. We were even challenged to a soccer game by a local girl's middle school team. Even though a good portion of our varsity team was on the trip, we let the girls win, much to the chagrin of the local boys watching.

I am very grateful to Tenley not only for the formation I have received, but also for the friendships I have made along the way. ★



How Has Tenley Affected Me and My High School Career?

BY VICO BUNUAN, HEIGHTS 2026



I BEGAN GOING TO TENLEY STUDY CENTER IN January of my freshmen year. I was still very new to The Heights School and my mentor, Mr. Lucas Lopes, encouraged me to go to some of the circle activities at Tenley for spiritual formation. He was a Tenley resident at the time, and despite his insisting that I was invited to come, I still felt unsure about whether I could go without a formal invitation. Then, Mr. Richard Ybarra pulled me out of Art class one day and formally invited me to come to the Tenley Circles. Yet, being the unsure freshman that I was, I needed and got a bit more encouragement from my friends and finally decided to go.

Now a senior in high school, this year will mark 3½ years attending the circles and other means of spiritual formation at Tenley Study Center. Being able to come to the Center every week, receive formational talks, mentoring, and spiritual direction was so important to my development. Each of these played an important part in helping me grow in my faith.

As impactful as the weekly circles and recollections at Tenley were, so also were the amazing service trips, retreats, and pilgrimages I attended. We were able to serve a small town in the mountains of Peru by cleaning and repainting their church. Then, just this past year, we went on great pilgrimages to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico and to beautiful churches in Rome and the Vatican. The silent retreats offered from sophomore to senior years gave us all an opportunity to step back and really strengthen our relationship with Christ and reflect on all the blessings he's given us.

At the heart of all this formation were the great friendships that I've formed through the Tenley activities. Being surrounded by other high schoolers who wanted to grow in the faith is something really special. I've had the great honor of not only experiencing exciting and fun trips with them, but also silent and contemplative times of prayer together. As my time as a high schooler at Tenley comes to an end, it will be these friendships that I will carry on into the future: not only the friendships I made with my "circle mates" and comrades, but also the friendship with Christ that has grown through the formation that Tenley Study Center offered. ★



FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Dear friends,

IN THE 2025 SUMMER EDITION OF THE TENLEY NEWSLETTER, WE PAID tribute to a beloved former Director of the Study Center, Matt Anthony, who tragically passed away along with two other members of Opus Dei in a swimming accident at a Sierra Nevada Mountain waterfall. During the incident Matt and Matt Schoenecker heroically attempted to rescue their friend, Val Creus, from a frigid plunge pool but they all ultimately succumbed to the freezing water.

As the article detailed, Matt Anthony had a significant impact on both the Tenley Study Center as its Director from 2007–2011 as well as a teacher at The Heights School. “Under his guidance, Tenley continued to develop and expand the TAP program, ... service projects to Mexico ... and pilgrimages to Rome.” He oversaw many of the needed physical plant improvements of the Center as well as launching the first newsletter, website and the high school seminar curriculum which we still use today. “His impact (on Tenley) was profound ... he left a lasting mark through his energy, vision and dedication.”

In honor of Matt, the Board of Directors and Executive Team of the Tenley Study Center have approved the establishment of the *Matt Anthony Directors Fund*. This newly created fund will be used to grant scholarships for students with financial constraints who would like to participate in the many virtue, academic, spiritual and personal development programs provided by the Tenley Study Center while also helping to support the ongoing development and mission of the Center itself. We are extremely grateful to some generous benefactors who have already donated \$5,000 to “jump start” our new fund! A portion of these funds will be used to grant scholarships to several young students who have applied to some of our summer programs this year.

Our hope is that, in this way, Matt’s legacy of guiding and forming young people will continue for many years to come. Just as he generously gave his time and wisdom to help others grow, this fund would allow many young men—who might not otherwise have the opportunity—to benefit from the kind of formation he cared so deeply about. We are confident of Matt’s intercession for the success of this newly created fund and the ongoing mission of the Tenley Study Center as well as for the support and prayers of our families, alumni and benefactors.

With much gratitude and best wishes to all,

Phil Wehle
DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

Denis Harper
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, TENLEY ASSOCIATION

