

NAVIGARE

VOLUME 1.4

Thanksgiving Fun Facts

1. Americans eat over 260 billion turkeys each year for Thanksgiving.
2. The wishbone tradition is older than Thanksgiving.
3. The Jingle Bells song was originally a Thanksgiving song and not Christmas.
4. Benjamin Franklin liked turkeys more than bald eagles.

Did you know?

Spicy food is very uncommon in Spanish food, in fact, many Spaniards can't even handle the heat.

Story Time: Stephen Danos and I went to a few stores to look for Jalapeños to make jalapeño poppers.... but they were no were to be found. For all we knew, they probably didn't know what a jalapeño is....

2 Truth and a Lie..

1. Robert used to make balloon animals for kids.
2. Stephen loves to play the tuba.
3. Dominik was prom king.

*answer is at the end



Br. Stephen's mother's apple pie recipe is incredibly delicious

New Journalist?

Bienvenidos familias y amigos! This is the time of the year where the Navigare switch "oficios" in the community or as Americans would say, "chores"! That means that you'll now get to hear the words from me, Robert Perez! The Spanglish fluent Mexican-American 19 year old that is obsessed with coffee...

Before we get into the monthly newsletter, I would like to introduce myself properly. As I said before, I am 19 years old and I come from a blessed Mexican family. I learned the majority of Spanish basics as I grew up and I've learned to enjoy my Mexican culture and share some with the community here. I would like to call myself a very ambitious and hard working person but I also have a fun and lighthearted personality. I love to make delicious food, works of art, and I love learning new things. I'm just here to grow as a person and become my true self.

Now that we are familiar with each other, I'd like to elaborate more on the "chores" situation. Dominik is now responsible for Sacristy and Gardening, Stephen is now Cook, and I am now in charge of laundry and the newsletters. Now, let's get into Navigare Newsletter: November Edition 1.4....



Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving was probably one of the biggest events of November for the community. It was a huge moment for the growing American population to shine through with this yearly tradition... and to say the least... we killed it. Both houses, La Gavia and Valdamarín, reunited on this day to cook together and have a very traditional celebration. In the end, the food came out incredible. Every crumb of food was packed with flavor and mind-blowing taste. (on the left, you can see the menu of food that we devoured on the 25th of November...)

This was a very special day for everyone because we got to share our American culture and pride with the Spaniards. Thanksgiving is really a lot more than a pilgrim holiday, because it brings people together and creates a bond that we wouldn't normally have on a normal day. At least that's what our community experienced here in Madrid.

Happy Birthday to ...

Speaking of celebrations.... this November was full of birthdays! La Gavia community celebrated 3 people this month that were all, in fact, Americans. The three were: Dominik Scelza (19), Riley Blanchard (26), and myself (19). Happy Birthday y'all!



Thanksgiving Dinner Includes:

Appetizers:

Jalepeño Poppers and Deviled Eggs

1st Plate:

Sweet Potatoe Casserole and Green Been Casserole

2nd Plate:

Turkey with Mashed Potatoes and Stuffing

Dessert:

Guinness Brownie Fudge with Bailey's Brown Butter Icing and Apple

Pie

Drinks:

Water, Beer, Wine, and Gin Tonics

The Perez Family Visit



At the very beginning of November, from 3-10th, my family came to visit me! Emylin and Maria (2 of 3 sisters) came along with Maria’s husband, Roy (aka my brother-in-law) to visit me for about a week. The first thing we all did together to celebrate this reunion was to have an authentic Mexican dinner with the community! The four of us spent hours in the kitchen on 11/4/2021 to get groceries and make tacos with fajitas, delicious salads, and empanadas covered with cinnamon sugar. To make the dinner even more Mexican, the brothers’ took out a sombrero from the basement (take a look at the picture on the left with Stephen rocking that sombrero - made me think that he was Mexican too...).

For rest of the week, my family took a trip to Barcelona and we visited many important places, which included the Sagrada Familia Basilica! 100/10 Basilica and I recommend for anyone that travels to Spain. It is beautiful and it’s still being constructed even after 100 years (picture on the bottom left).

Although my siblings didn’t stay for too long, I was so grateful that we got to reunite and catch up. It’s a great reminder to me that although this year might be a rollercoaster, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity that not many people get. And it’s important to take advantage and grow as a person. It’s only been 3 months and I’ve already changed so much, in the best way possible. I’m sure the other Navigare can relate as well.



Filandon

Every so often, the Disciples like to have an event called a *Filandon*. This is a night where everyone prepares a poem, song, act, etc. for the rest of the community. However, every poem or such has to follow the same theme. At the end of the event, the three judges reveal who had the best presentation! Think of it as *Disciples Got Talent*.

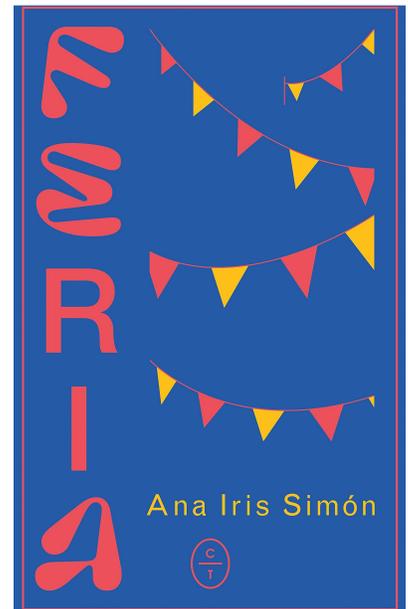
Now this past November, we had to present something dealing with the theme of "Hope". The Navigare had a lot of fun with this theme and we all decided to present poems. Dominik found a really well-put together poem and presented it very well. Stephen and I decided to write our own poems and we had lots of fun sharing our poems with the community.

You're probably thinking.. that's great and all but who won? And I'll answer that for you. Unfortunately none of the Navigare won first place, but Br. Tomas Sastre did! It was probably one of the best acts I've seen and it had so many emotions into it. However, both Stephen and I tied for 2nd/3rd place! I will attach the poems we wrote at the end of the newsletter, in case you might be interested! But it was a very memorable night and we will never forget it.

Feria and Concert

Another event that took place this month was that all the Disciples went to a book forum for the book that the Disciples read and commented on for the past month or so. This book was called *Feria* and the author, Ana Iris Simón, is very famous in Spain for many of her works. The book deals with Spanish culture and the world living in society of amusement and pleasure. They don't have an English translation yet but it is a really good book and she is a very human, simple woman with lots of humility. I even got to speak with her and she signed my book!

To the right, you will see a picture taken at a concert. That is because the Navigare got invited with the Disciples to go to our first Spanish concert! This group consisted of orchestra and a choir, however, the special thing about this group is that all the instruments they used, are considered as old because no one plays them anymore. It was truly one of the most beautiful pieces of art that I've ever heard.





A Spanish Tradition...

La Almudena

On November 9th of every year, Madrid has a huge celebration for the Virgin of Almudena. The majority of stores close down to celebrate this day and there's usually a big festival that takes place. La Almudena is the patron of Madrid which is why it's such a big day. There are also many people in Madrid that name their girls by Almudena. It's a beautiful tradition that brings Madrid together

This is a picture of Dominik and Stephen going to the festival in the center of Madrid. I was not in the picture because I was somewhere else with my family.

Vienna Gone Wrong...

After Thanksgiving, the Navigare had a plan to go to Vienna for a few days.... Thanks to Omicron, Vienna decided to confine it's country and set COVID rules back in place. Which was kind of an issue because... we were supposed to be relaxing there. However, it wasn't such a bad thing because we decided to spend those days in Valencia. When I tell you, that it might have been the best days of my life, I'm not lying. We stayed in this big house with a field full of juicy, delicious oranges. Sure there were other fruit but the ORANGES were incredible. We also had time to visit the Palacio de Xativa and the town around there. It was truly the most relaxed I've been a while. We had time to pray, chill, get ourselves straightened out, contemplate on life, the whole nine yards. It was amazing. Did I mention how good the oranges were?



Answer: 2 is the lie

Robert's Poem

One Day

I hope for my family
that they might make it to my funeral one day
I hope for my friends
that they might make it to my wedding one day
I hope for the unrecognizable faces that I pass
that we may recognize each other one day
I hope for myself
that I may become the best version of myself one day
I hope in Christ
that I may hug Him one day
Who do you hope in?

I hope that I may have compassion
so that one day, I may understand
I hope that I may have patience
so that one day, others may be patient with me
I hope that I may have a family of my own
so that one day, I may share the love that I was meant to give
I hope that I may achieve greatness
so that one day, God may be proud of me
What do you hope in?

I hope
so that one day, I may wake up with purpose
I hope
so that one day, my life may be virtuous
I hope
so that one day, others can confide in me
I hope
so that God may guide me
Why do you hope?

When the day comes and your life is behind you,
the questions will arise
Did you hope in the right people?
Did you hope in the right things?
Did you hope for the right reasons?
I hope I will, one day



Stephen's Poem

Heart of Light

Man had walked in darkness
Since the time of Eden
Waiting for Your new promise
Lost, scared, and broken

Then there came a night
When a star shone bright

Now that star, that fire alight
A burning fury of love
In our hearts, it gives sight
For a path to the One above

Though we stray and stumble
Your example reminds us to be humble

King of all creation blessed
Pray we may put down our pride
Renew the heart inside this chest
To look with hope, to you, my guide



Dominik's Poem
Saint Francis and the Sow
 By Galway Kinnell

The bud
 stands for all things,
 even for those things that don't flower,
 for everything flowers, from within, of self-blessing;
 though sometimes it is necessary
 to reteach a thing its loveliness,
 to put a hand on its brow
 of the flower
 and retell it in words and in touch
 it is lovely
 until it flowers again from within, of self-blessing;
 as Saint Francis
 put his hand on the creased forehead
 of the sow, and told her in words and in touch
 blessings of earth on the sow, and the sow
 began remembering all down her thick length,
 from the earthen snout all the way
 through the fodder and slops to the spiritual curl of the tail,
 from the hard spininess spiked out from the spine
 down through the great broken heart
 to the sheer blue milken dreaminess spurting and shuddering
 from the fourteen teats into the fourteen mouths sucking and blowing beneath them:
 the long, perfect loveliness of sow.

