



St. Augustine Academy

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In Memoriam

Mr. Roy S. Rohter, S.F.O.
† 2018
Co-founder
St. Augustine Academy

September 25, 2026

Bl. Herman the Cripple

Dear Families,

Yesterday, many of the students gathered to watch the beatification of Fulton Sheen. Many of you know that Bl. Fulton Sheen was an American TV star. He had a primetime television show called *Life if Worth Living* in which he would discuss political theory, theology, philosophy, poetry, literature, marriage, etc. In addition to being a TV star, this great man was also an author, an educator, and a Bishop. Growing up, I used to watch reruns of Bl. Sheen on EWTN. If you haven't had the opportunity to see the show, I would put down your regular podcast next time and just put on one of his episodes from YouTube.

For many years before he was a television star, Bishop Sheen was a professor at Catholic University of America. He developed very firm views on what it meant to be an educated person. Bl. Sheen wrote: *Are the schools and universities throughout the country that ignore God really educating the young men and women entrusted to their care? Would we say that a man was a learned mathematician if he did not know the first principles of Euclid? Would we say that a man was a skilled litterateur if he did not know the meaning of words? Would we say that a man was a profound physicist if he did not know the first principles of light, sound, and heat? Can we say that a man is truly educated who is ignorant of the first principles of life and truth and love—which is God?*

To Bl. Sheen, one can only be an educated man who has learned the first principles of his own creator at the college level. To call anything else a true education was like calling someone who hadn't studied Shakespeare to be well-read. The idea of it was ridiculous to Sheen. An education without the study of the First Principle, that from which all things True, Good, and Beautiful came was oxymoronic.

Sheen referred to living things as having the ability of plasticity. The further along the scale of life a thing is, the more plasticity it had. A plant can grow and respond to some stimuli, animals can recognize signs, but humans are capable of understanding the causes behind those signs. Sheen stated: *"Education cannot be understood apart from the plastic nature of man. Taking due cognizance of it, one might say that the purpose of all education is to establish contact with the totality of our environment with a view to understand the full meaning and purpose of life."*

With that in mind, Bl. Sheen wrote: *They who have been educated in the sense in which I have defined, are the only ones of all university graduates who know why they are here and whither they are going. The least that can be expected of any college or university is that when it embarks its graduates upon the sea of life it will furnish them with a compass with which they may find their port.* The good bishop is even stronger in his wording here. The *least* a college can do is to educate students on the First Principle to give themselves an end. It's good to note that Bl. Sheen is putting this on colleges rather than parishes or private groups. He is specifically calling for this to be done in the academic setting.

Bl. Sheen, pray for St. Augustine Academy that we may help students understand why they are here and where they are going!

God Bless, Timothy Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOLF-A-THON KICK-OFF- Thank you to all the dads who attended the kick-off event! All dads should be on the lookout for a follow-up email containing Golf-A-Thon information from Rob Bagdazian or one of the golf team leaders.

PSAT- The PSAT is coming up in October! While the date is TBD (mid-October), we wanted to remind 10th and 11th grade parents that students will need to provide their own laptop or iPad to take the test. **Chromebooks will not work for the PSAT.**

PROGRESS REPORTS- Grades for 4th-12th will be visible on Gradelink from this afternoon until Tuesday morning.

LIFE CHOICES' WALK OF COMPASSION- The walk is this Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 am. Please join the pro-life club in supporting Mrs. Kolbeck's wonderful work for pregnant moms and babies!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE KICK OFF RALLY- From Mrs. Seeley: "Monday, Sept. 28 at 3:15 pm in front of Planned Parenthood in Ventura. See attached flyer. We'd love to have moms with babes in arms come out for this rally-- if you have little ones and can spare an hour, please bring this beautiful witness of life and join us!"

ST. FRANCIS PARISH- Fr. Devassy from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Fillmore has invited the school for Mass. There is a special indulgence that is given to those who visit a parish dedicated to St. Francis with intention this year in honor of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis. The whole school (K-12) will be traveling to the parish on Tuesday, October 6th where Father will have a private mass for the school at 11:40, after which we will have lunch at the parish (Students must bring a sack lunch). Thank you to Sun Shuttle Transit for providing buses for this trip! Parents are welcome to meet us at the parish and join us for Mass.

UPCOMING SPORTS GAMES

High School Volleyball-

Friday, Sep 25 @ Foothill Tech. JV- 4:30 pm, Varsity- 5:30 pm

High School Baseball-

Saturday, Sep 26 @ Hueneme High, Varsity- 2 pm, Sunday, Sep 27 @ Oxnard High, JV- 2pm

Middle School Boy's Flag Football-

Wednesday, Sep 30 vs OLG @ OLA- 3:30 pm

Middle School Girl's Volleyball-

TBD

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Sep 25- Progress Reports

Oct 2- Mass/Early Dismissal

Oct 8- Lower School Open House

Oct 12- Well Read Mom's Talk at SAA (See Flyer)

Oct 12- No School, Columbus Day

ORA PRO NOBIS – We continue to keep all our friends and family in our prayers! For the repose of the soul of Teresa Woodward, aunt of SAA student, Liberty Lopez. For a successful and joy-filled school year at St. Augustine Academy. For the health of Fr. Paul Donlan. For the health of Kevin Kolbeck and Linda Kern. For the repose of the soul of Paul Scamperle, former SAA parent. We pray for our Pope, our Archbishop, all of our priests and religious, **and we pray especially for each other!**