



St. Augustine Academy

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

August 26, 2026

St. Zephyrinus

Dear friends,

Welcome back to St. Augustine Academy! We are so excited to begin the 2026-27 school year. There was *so* much success last year- test scores increased across the grade levels, seniors received a *lot* of scholarships- including a full-tuition scholarship, *A Man For All Seasons* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* were incredible productions from Mr. Trull, and our inaugural field trip to Rome was a huge endeavor that lead to so many blessings!

There is a lot happening this year as well. There are changes- the order of the classes getting shuffled, new families joining the school, and new teachers ready to make great impressions. Improvements have been made around the upper campus- in the classroom building, the boys' bathroom, and the fencing especially! We are also looking forward to mock trial, cultural night out, two play productions (can't announce which yet!), choir concerts, high school baseball and volleyball, *Rome*, our annual Gala, and of course- *Classics Day*! We are in store for a very good year.

As you are probably aware, each year the school chooses a virtue to focus on. Teachers get together to do readings during our meetings, blue letters often focus on the virtue, and the students are subjected (perhaps 'blessed' is a better word?) to a variety of talks about the virtue throughout the academic calendar. Last year, we focused on the three theological virtues. This time, we wanted to tackle the first of the cardinal virtues- *prudence*.

The teachers began the study of prudence by reading Plato's *Apology*. This work of Plato centers around the trial of Socrates and the vast majority of it is Socrates' defense of himself. Socrates has been charged with sophistry (bad/misleading argumentation) and corrupting the youth of the city of Athens. However, what he's really being persecuted for is being a seeker of truth and for frustrating the elders of the city with his argumentation. Socrates defends himself by showing that he wasn't ever trying to be a frustration- he just wandered around interacting with those who proclaimed themselves to be "knowers" and yet were shown by Socrates to not know anything. Socrates says he is considered to be 'wise' not because he knows anything, but because he knows he doesn't know much of anything.

In the *Apology*, Socrates is put on trial, convicted, and then sentenced to death. The question the teachers were discussing was whether or not Socrates was really try to defend himself from the conviction or whether he had a different end in mind. After a careful discussion of the text, we came to the conclusion that Socrates was not really trying to defend himself to the court of Athens; the end he had in mind was far greater. Socrates' argument was intending to defend his way of life to the court of the world. While he failed to sway the court of Athens and was swiftly put to death for his 'crimes', 2300 years later the world is reading and analyzing his arguments. It is fair to say that Socrates was successful in reaching his desired end.

What does any of this have to do with prudence? Prudence is a virtue that is directed toward reality. Really, prudence is that virtue which allows us to see things as they really are. This is why it is the first of the cardinal virtues. It is difficult to be brave and practice the virtue of fortitude when one is misjudging a situation. Telling a child to 'be brave' when the light goes out at night is really just an imitation of the virtue of fortitude. What we're actually telling them to do is to 'be prudent';

that is, we are asking them to see the reality of the situation. No danger has been added to their room which should cause them to be scared. We are really telling them to stop, think rationally about the situation, and assess that the reality is not frightening at all. It would be prudence that tells us when a situation is actually dangerous and requires the virtue of fortitude.

In the case of Socrates, he recognized from the beginning that the court of public opinion was almost certainly against him. The only way to win his case at the time would be to recant his actions. To do this, however, would be to go against *truth*, which is a ridiculous proposition to the prudent man. Therefore, he makes his defense so that the court of public opinion can go back and reflect on it over and over again. Socrates may not have been able to make an impact with the jury in front of him, but he knew that his words could have a permanent place in the canon of the world.

I look forward to many more readings and discussions on prudence, the mother of cardinal virtues. Mostly, though, I look forward to another year with you and all of the students of St. Augustine Academy. I will see you all again on Back to School Night!

God Bless, Timothy Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT- Back to School Night is Thursday, September 3rd. This is one of just a few mandatory parent events. It's an evening where we make announcements, we go over expectations for the school year, and you meet your children's teachers. The event starts at 6:15 pm and will be at the Upper Campus. Make sure to mark your calendars!

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER-

Sep 3- Back To School, 6:15 pm

Sep 4- ALL SCHOOL (K-12) Mass and Early Dismissal from Upper Campus, Mass @ 11:40 and Early Dismissal at 12:30

Sep 6- No School, Labor Day

Sep 10- High School cultural night at the Hollywood Bowl!

Sep 11- Late Start

Sep 12- *Frankenstein* Seminar Night for High School at the Van Hecke residence!

ORA PRO NOBIS – *We continue to keep all our friends and family in our prayers! For a successful and joy-filled school year at St. Augustine Academy. For the health of Kevin Kolbeck. 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!*

