

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

100 Years!

Issue 1 October 20, 2022 St. Augustine High School

## Saints Celebrates Centennial Mass



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)  
MANAGING EDITOR



By Riley Scanlan ('23)  
EDITOR

Every six years, the worldwide members of the Augustinian Order hold a meeting known as the Intermediate General Chapter, and the year 2022 presented itself as another time to gather: the two-week meeting would be the 187th in their history, designed to update and discuss the issues of the Order.

Augustinian Vicar General Father Joseph Farrell presiding over the Centennial Mass.

Donovin Bocalan ('23)

They could have held this meeting virtually anywhere in the world, but they chose to come to San Diego. The California Augustinians had lobbied to host this event here because the timing coincided with the 100 year anniversary of Augustinians arriving in California and establishing St. Augustine High School.

In September 1922, Saint Augustine High School opened its doors for the first time, becoming the center of Augustinian education on the West Coast of the United States. One hundred years later, Saints

would briefly become the center of the Augustinian world as it welcomed over 65 Augustinian friars from all over the world to celebrate its centennial anniversary on the occasion of their Chapter.

On Friday, September 16, 2022, Fr. Alejandro Moral Antón, the prior general of the Order of Saint Augustine, joined by his vicar general, Fr. Joseph Farrell, made the journey from their Augustinian headquarters in Rome to San Diego to lead the centennial Mass celebration.

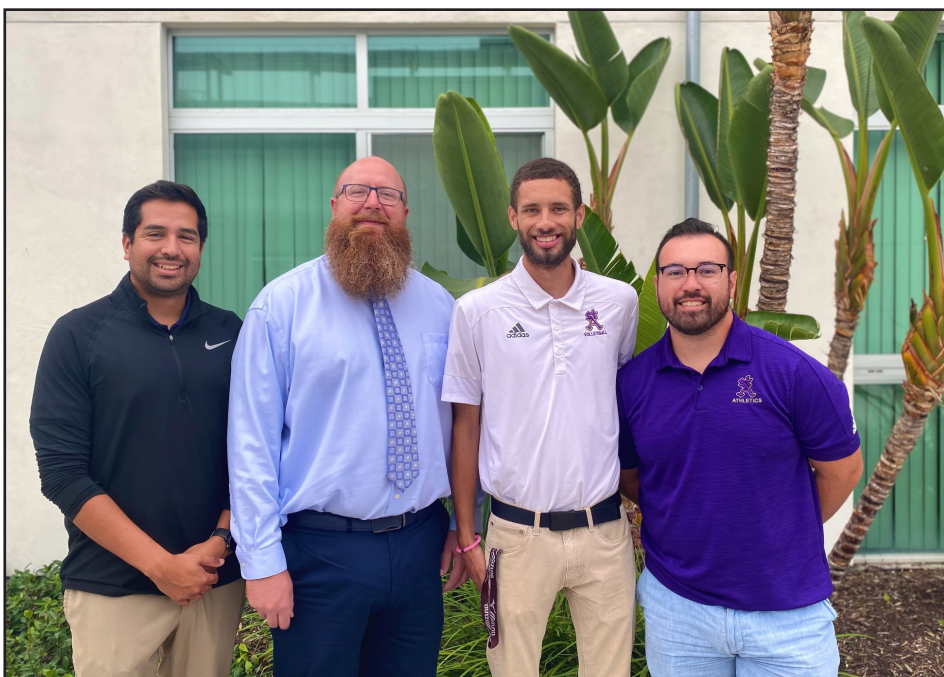
Prior to Mass, a mural of Our Mother

of Good Counsel was unveiled on the side of Villanova Hall overlooking Keane Plaza. Based on a 15th century fresco found in Italy, the mural was designed to match the original—even its imperfections—and thereby connects the Augustinian community in California with the one in Italy.

This mural will stand as a landmark attesting to St. Augustine High School's first one hundred years and to all that the Order of Saint Augustine has accomplished in this school.

SEE 100 YEARS, pg. 6

## New Teachers Join Saints Team: Pt 1



From left to right: Mr. Nicholas Pradel, Mr. John Hickey, Mr. Michael Theilacker, and Mr. William Raines.  
Noah Villafana ('23)



By Henry Barwick ('26)  
STAFF WRITER

This school year brings with it plenty of new staff hires, more than Saints has had in many years: Mr. Michael Theilacker, Mr. William Raines, Mr. Nicholas Pradel, Mr. John Hickey, Mr. Victor Hourani, Brother Mauricio Morales, and Mr. Casey Gayton. To provide a more in-depth look into the lives of our new faculty members, we will highlight four new teachers in this issue of *The Augustinian* and the remaining three teachers in the next.

Some of the new teachers are Saints alums, like Mr. Michael Theilacker, class of 2015. He teaches Pre-Algebra as well as Algebra I in his first year. With experience as a former volleyball athlete and student here at Saints, he now continues the tradition, coaching both indoor and beach volleyball. As a student,

Mr. Theilacker's favorite thing about Saints was that he felt that he could always be himself. He attended San Diego State University, where he majored in Recreation Tourism Management with an emphasis in Sustainability.

"My favorite thing about Saints is The Pit, simply because it is an extension of all the sports and the Brotherhood," Mr. Theilacker said. When he is not teaching, Mr. Theilacker likes to spend his free time watching baseball games, attending concerts and movies, and playing video games. His favorite sports teams are the Padres and the Toronto Maple Leafs, as he has family in Toronto. He also enjoys listening to rap, reggae, and rock music.

Next, we have Mr. William Raines, who graduated from Saints in 2013. He attended college locally at Point Loma Nazarene University and then at Life

SEE NEW TEACHERS, pg. 5

# Fall Sports Fight to Forge New Fame



Junior running back Humble Faalave-Johnson leads the Saints to victory against Scripps Ranch.

Colton Kellmeyer ('26)



By Jacob Soro ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

## Football

Following last year's disappointing season, the Saints football team was looking for a fresh start with a new coaching staff led by Coach Gladnick. According to CIF, the team entered the season projected to win only one game. However, barely past the season's midpoint, they have already exceeded those expectations and proved to be a much tougher team with three wins so far.

Nevertheless, there is a higher need for patience and quick recovery from mistakes, due to the team being so young.

The team has many stars, including freshman quarterback Brady Palmer and juniors Brady Klem and Isaiah Hasten. However, the team has proven that no player outshines the other, with each player contributing to their specific role in the team. What makes this team like no other is their strong bond with each other and the encouragement all around.

The Saints started the season at home against a tough El Camino team.

A few mistakes did not stop the Saintsmen from fighting throughout the game, but in the end, the Wildcats were victorious, winning by a score of 29-13.

The highlight of the season came in a thrilling double overtime win against Oceanside, where junior Humble Faalave-Johnson caught a game-winning touchdown to secure the victory. Freshman Bronx Letuligasenoa helped the team stave off a late Oceanside offensive with a number of big defensive plays, and the team won 27-24.

Another critical victory was their statement game against Steele Canyon,

in which Saints completely dominated with a score of 45-7, showing all who doubted that they still have what it takes.

Against a highly-ranked Helix team, Saints actually led at halftime, but were unable to stay out in front, eventually losing by a score of 43-29 in a hard-fought battle. The Saintsmen also struggled against Mater Dei, failing to get momentum in a 44-0 loss.

On a brighter note, Saints was able to beat the reigning D2-A state champions, Scripps Ranch, on the road. They ran the ball hard and proud and fought their way to a 28-17 victory.

The Saintsmen encountered a tough opponent in their game against Lincoln. They fought hard against the number one team in San Diego, despite seventeen players being out due to illness, but were ultimately unsuccessful.

The team sits at a record of 3-5 with a few games left before they attempt to make a playoff run.

## Beach Volleyball

The beach volleyball team entered the season with three new coaches to assist the experienced Coach Palafox: Mike Theilacker, Darren Bayless, and Marty Gorsich. Led by experienced seniors Patrick O'Leary and Andy Boeh, the team features a plethora of young talent, with four sophomores and two freshmen on the varsity squad.

The number one team, consisting of O'Leary and Boeh, has continued their dominance from last year to lead the team to a 4-2 record. In their first scrimmage against Clairemont, many young rising stars showed their potential, as the Saints did not lose a single match. In particular, the number two team, featuring sophomores

SEE SPORTS, pg. 8

# Idiot of the Month: The San Diego Padres



By Liam Olds ('26)  
STAFF WRITER

AJ Preller, general manager for the San Diego Padres, is an idiot. He authorized the sixth largest contract worldwide in team sports history for a player who can barely stay on the field.

Fernando Tatis Jr, the face of the Padres franchise and proud subject of a \$340 million, 14-year contract, has never played a full season.

Tatis was a rookie in 2019, but the young talent quickly made a name for himself. On the field, the superstar-to-be was known for his aggressive playstyle, making him a regular on highlight reels.

However, highlight reels were not the only list Tatis was a regular on; he became quite familiar with the injured list. Over the course of his three seasons in the major leagues, Tatis has battled hamstring, back, oblique, shoulder, and wrist injuries. These injuries caused Tatis to miss significant playing time. As a result, Tatis will have only played 273 games in his soon-to-be fourth season with the team. Considering the shortened 2020 season, this amounts to a meager half of all the team's games while on the roster.

As such, Tatis is making twice what he expected to accrue per game. This is because he still gets paid an inordinate amount of money in his contract, no matter how often he plays.

In the offseason leading up to 2022, shortly after signing his massive contract, Tatis was in a motorcycle accident that resulted in a broken wrist. Not only was the young shortstop care-

less to be riding a motorcycle in the first place, he then neglected to find the proper treatment for his injury. This injury then worsened to the point that it held him from playing a single game all season.

Tatis was finally nearing his season debut, almost having fully recovered from his injury, when news broke that he had received an 80-game suspension for PED use. He tested positive for Clostebol, a synthetic form of testosterone.

Tatis admitted to taking the steroid but claimed he took it accidentally, saying it was a component in a medicine he was taking to treat a ringworm infection. This excuse raised a few red flags in the medical community because products containing any steroid, including clostebol, are not a proper treatment for ringworm.

Ringworm is a fungal infection and, according to Justin Ko, the chief of medical dermatology for Stanford Health Care, "A typical steroid is going to be giving that fungal infection MiracleGro."

The Padres organization also expressed concern about Tatis' maturity. AJ Preller went so far as to say, "I think what we need to get to is a point in time where we trust [Tatis]." Effectively, Preller was willing to sign him to a 340 million dollar, 14-year contract, but it came down to the lack of trust that has led to the issues that keep the star player off the field. So now, Tatis is an injured, suspended, expensive, and untrustworthy player who remains on an already strained payroll.

One can't help but ask what to do



Fernando Tatis Jr. probably looked something like this while falling off his motorcycle.

Dustin Bradford, Getty Images

with such a player. The team, already hauling a large payroll, does not need to pay such an excessive amount of money to someone who isn't even playing. Additionally, the team is attempting to make a playoff run, and any resources they can scrounge up could aid them in their journey.

The typical first approach in a situation like this would be to consider trading the player to a competing team that is more able to take on such a large contract. But wait! AJ Preller gave Tatis a "no trade clause" in his contract through 2028, meaning the Padres are

now stuck with a perennially injured player who has one of the most significant contracts in team sports history.

The point is, this entire mess could have been avoided if Preller had waited to offer the ludicrous contract until Tatis had fully proven himself reliable, or at least finished an entire season! But, unfortunately, AJ Preller's mistake is beginning to catch up with him.

The Padres are now attempting to make a playoff run in Tatis's absence and have struggled all season to fill the offensive hole in their lineup that Tatis left. Well done, AJ, well done.

# Gladnick Ushers in New Era of Saints Football



By Michael Luzi ('25)  
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to *The Augustinian's* Team Feature article, where Saints sports are highlighted, and coaches and players alike are admired. This month's sport is football. This year is notable for the Saints football team because there is a new head coach and coaching staff. Coach Ron Gladnick, former Torrey Pines head coach, is now in charge of this great Saints tradition. This incredible coach once led Clairemont High School's football team, and he was able to bring them back to the playoffs after a decade of fruitless attempts. He was also responsible for bringing Torrey Pines two Avocado League Championships.

Coach Gladnick has had some ideas on changes that could be made this year to develop this young Saints team into a winning program. His main goal is to instill the right attitude in his players.

"The number one priority was establishing a great work ethic. You need a certain passion for the game," Coach Gladnick said.

He also stressed the importance of the offseason, saying that it determines the tone of the season and that "lifting was the main priority throughout." Finally, Coach Gladnick emphasized mastering basic tasks like blocking and tackling to improve the team's fundamental skillset. Those simple drills create habits that are transferred into long-term success for the program. This emphasis on the little things will lead to big wins.

"Coach Gladnick has been phenomenal, he's definitely going to turn this program around, and he already has accomplished so much with the resources he has been working with," senior Misa Sandoval said.

This year's team is special not only because of its unique coach but also because of its unique players. Players come from all over the county to play football at Saints, from Oceanside to San Ysidro,



Naish Kellmeyer ('23)

but there is a strong unity amid this diversity. This year, a record number of underclassmen have made the varsity team, coming to a total of seventeen sophomores and freshmen and an unprecedented low of six seniors.

There are already some standouts, such as freshman Bronx Letuligasenoa, about whom Coach Gladnick said, "The kid will be a monster." Coach Gladnick also spoke highly of freshman quarterback Brady Palmer, saying, "He has the potential to be special."

Other standout players include junior Humble Faalave-Johnson and freshman Parker Johnson. In addition, junior transfers Isaiah Hasten and Parker Patterson have added much-needed depth to the recovering offense. The youthful presence on the team has promising potential to build a new Saints legacy.

This year, the Saints football team

has started off with a 3-5 record in games played. The Saints earned road wins against many tough teams. Of these include the Oceanside Pirates in an incredible double overtime shootout. Saints also defeated the Steele Canyon Cougars in a spectacular game. Moreover, the former D2-A state champions, the Scripps Ranch Falcons, were also blown out of the field.

Unfortunately, they suffered losses against several talented teams, including the El Camino Wildcats. The game against the former CIF San Diego Section D1 champions, the Helix Scotties, ended in a tough loss. On top of that, the game against the former D2-AA state champions, the Mater Dei Crusaders, was also a heartbreaking game.

Coach Gladnick focuses on "making fewer mistakes than the week prior" in order to maintain a winning record. He

wants to continue to "improve his players, win the game we are supposed to win, and play an upset." He also encourages the junior varsity and freshman teams to work hard to move prospective talent up to the active roster.

The season is far from over, and there is still tons of potential both from the new coaches and players. With playoffs around the corner, the team is working hard to put their heads down, focus on the games ahead, and correct their mistakes in practice one day at a time.

"I feel, come playoffs, we can make some heads turn," senior Misa Sandoval said.

This football team is not only about playing good football but also focusing on making these players into much more.

"I want to focus on turning the young boys into men," Coach Gladnick said.

## Political Pair Takes on Sacramento



By Henry Hooper ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

This past summer, seniors Caden Webster and Nathaniel Kotnik were selected to attend a week-long program in Sacramento called Boys State. Held at Sacramento State University, the program seeks to teach young men to be social leaders and active participants in their communities. Webster and Kotnik assumed simulated positions in the state government of California, representing the 9th Legion Post based in San Diego.

Every state except Hawaii has its own version of Boys State. The event is held annually by a veterans' organization known as the American Legion, which selects high school representatives from all parts of California. It was originally started in 1935 to counter both the neo-Nazi and socialist movements, as well as to encourage active engagement with and participation in government.

In total, about 900 boys attended this program from across California. Boys State is essentially a mock state government, split into local and state-level governments. The event began with all participants being issued fake "Boys State dollars" and given the opportunity to run for different elected offices.

Upon arrival, the boys were split into two political parties: the Whigs and the Federalists. They were then divided into counties and cities. Five cities made up a county, and there were five counties in the state. Following a long, rigorously-



Seniors Caden Webster (left) and Nathaniel Kotnik (right) with their AP US History teacher Mr. da Luz.

Donovin Bocalan ('23)

scheduled day, students slept in the Sacramento State dorms on campus.

Webster ran for district attorney of his county, but unfortunately lost. However, he was appointed deputy district attorney of his county and later rose through the ranks to become deputy attorney general for the entire state. While in office, he was able to prosecute many court cases brought to his level.

"I prosecuted five court cases, including one where I got a man sentenced to 22 years in prison for using water in his cereal. I also settled a court case in

which someone was forced to sing 'Let it Go' at the state talent show for scamming people," Webster said.

Kotnik took a different route to his positions in the Boys State government. First, he went into the financial department, where he served as treasurer for his county, focusing on devising a budget plan, setting tax rates on the people, allocating department funds, and paying county officials. He also became the treasurer for the media, assisting the head of marketing and issuing paychecks for over fifty newspaper staff

writers. Finally, he was appointed to the governor's council as the first principal deputy of the Department of Finance. His job was to advise the governor's commission on financial matters and create a budget plan.

At its heart, the Boys State program focuses on teaching boys the incredible benefits of participating in a democratic form of government. The hope is that the participants leave with newfound appreciation for governance and a new passion to work for positive change in the world.

"I learned the importance of local government and how city governments immediately affect the lives of their citizens. I met many excellent people who taught me how to campaign, talk to people, and develop my political identity," Webster said.

Webster and Kotnik both plan on applying to become counselors next year at Boys State. It is an amazing opportunity to learn and interact with the governments, finances, and laws controlling so many parts of this great country.

"I learned a ton. I learned how to interact with people around me and understand that hard work can pay off faster than you think. Whatever you put on your plate, you can go as far as you want, and you will be successful," Kotnik said.

\*Applications for Boys State 2023 will open to all juniors in the second semester. Talk to Mr. Christian da Luz for more information.

# Saintsmen Debate: Student Loan Relief

*A matter of compassion: Your rising student debt isn't entirely your fault*

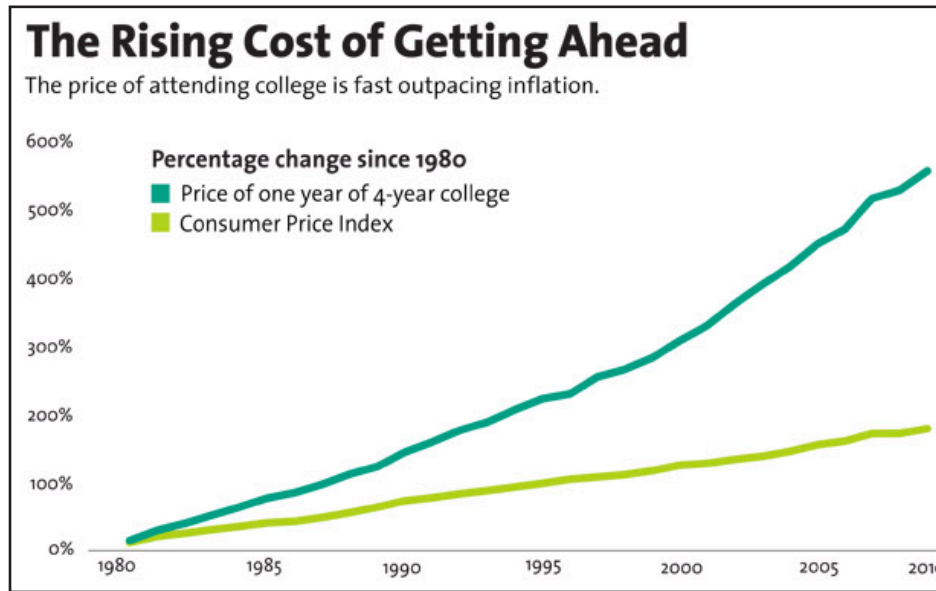


By **Nata Velarde-Alvarez ('24)**  
STAFF WRITER

Any action done by the government will always result in some agreement and some level of criticism. The Biden administration's student loan forgiveness plan is no different. Often in the debate about student loan forgiveness, opponents argue that the plan is unfair or unjust to the taxpayer. However, like so many other government programs, the student debt relief plan is more about compassion than justice, relieving some debt of the many who struggle to repay their student loans.

The cost of a college education is significantly more expensive than it used to be. Since 1980, the cost of four-year programs has tripled. For many people, getting a college degree is not only a goal, but a necessity in order to work in certain fields and maintain a livelihood. Because of increasing college costs, more and more students have to take out loans to receive an education. For many low and middle class students and families struggling to pay back student loan debt, Biden's student loan forgiveness plan will help alleviate some of this student debt.

It is true that the current plan does not fully address the culpability of the schools responsible for such costs and that the \$10,000 to \$20,000 relief for each recipient does not cover the debt that most students have. However, the astronomical burden of student loan debt that plagues students, especially



after the pandemic, must be partially dealt with now rather than waiting for a full solution later at an unknown date.

Obviously, many students have more debt than will be relieved, as the average student loan borrower has about \$30,000 in student loan debt. However, the Biden administration estimates that almost 20 million people will have their debt completely eliminated. As for the other 25 million people, anything is better than nothing, and \$10,000 will go a long way to ease the financial burden of the graduates.

Some opponents bring up the fact that the student loan forgiveness plan is unfair to those who did not take out student loans or those who paid off their student loans. However, many of these critics base their argument on

the education costs of the past, which were much lower relative to the average American income.

In recent times, costs have skyrocketed, leaving millions with no choice but to take out loans for their higher education. And with more jobs requiring college diplomas of applicants, it is increasingly difficult for Americans who did not attend college to find jobs. They have no option but to take on massive amounts of debt.

Critics argue that it is the sole responsibility of whoever takes out a loan to pay it back, saying that forgiving loans creates an environment where people do not take accountability for their actions. And yet, during the pandemic, millions of dollars worth of loans were given to wealthy people such as members of Congress and ce-

lebrities. These loans were often in the amounts of hundreds of thousands of dollars and sometimes into the millions, and they were not only granted but also forgiven. If loan forgiveness can be given to the upper class, why not to the middle and lower classes as well?

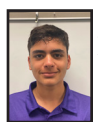
Inflation is also cited as a possible negative effect of the student loan forgiveness plan. However, there is division among economists as to whether the plan will do anything to accelerate inflation. The Center for American Progress and Roosevelt Institute both predict that loan forgiveness will have little to no effect on inflation.

In fact, loan forgiveness may actually bolster the economy. When the burdens of debtors are eased, they do not have to use as much of their income to pay down their loans. Therefore, they have more money to purchase consumer goods, which stimulates the economy and increases America's GDP.

Plain and simple, the student loan forgiveness plan is a merciful act for all students who are struggling to pay their student loan debt. It would help ease the burden of debt for over 40 million Americans and fully cancel the debt of nearly 20 million people.

If we can afford to give bailouts to massive corporations and the wealthiest in our society, then surely we can spare something for ordinary citizens. After all, is it not our duty as Americans to help our fellow Americans in the pursuit of the American dream?

## *A waste of money: Loan relief is a misguided solution to the wrong problem*



By **Omar Jaibaji ('24)**  
STAFF WRITER

Student loans are a form of money lending that currently hold over 45 million Americans in debt. In total, 55 percent of all bachelor degree recipients have or have had student debt. It is something most households have to face, and as upcoming adults, many Saintsmen will have to consider taking one out to seek higher education. Student debt, on average, takes about twenty-one years to be paid off. So why is forgiving student loans a bad idea?

First, let us examine the cost of such an action. To forgive \$10,000 from every student loan would cost the US about 344 billion dollars and could cause a much larger budget deficit. The current administration has promised that taxes on the middle class would not be raised to pay for the loan relief

plan, instead taking the money from taxes on corporations and the upper class. But the reality is that while corporations and the upper class may fund the plan on paper, this will likely lead to increased costs for consumer goods, placing some of the burden on the lower and middle classes.

Leading economists have become increasingly worried about the effects a high budget deficit could have on the health of the US economy overall, fearing an economic downturn. There is also no guarantee that debt forgiveness will boost the economy, as some have stated.

Forgiving debt does not give money to anyone, but rather reduces the amount owed. While it can wipe debt completely for some people, it won't for most. This assumes we stick to the \$10,000 forgiveness model.

If more loans are forgiven, it would cost more and increase the effects it may have on inflation. Inflation has

risen 8.3 percent on average in the last year, and such a project would likely further hurt the economy and punish the middle and lower classes with tax hikes.

Next, let's look at whom student loan forgiveness affects and, perhaps more importantly, whom it does not. The median yearly salary of a person with a college degree is \$69,700, significantly higher than the median salary of all Americans (\$54,100) and nearly double the median salary of those with no more than a high school diploma (\$36,600). So most college graduates are wealthier than those who have not attended college, regardless of student loan debt.

While the intention of loan forgiveness is to help the poor, many of its benefits will instead go to the wealthy. Currently, debt forgiveness is set to cap at those making more than \$125,000 a year, but this still means those in the top 15 percent of income in the US can be eligible for forgiveness. Students in medical school, business school, or other high paying professional schools will also be eligible, despite their high likelihood of economic success, because they are not yet in the labor force.

Many college graduates will not benefit at all from this student loan relief: those who have already paid off their loans and those who could not afford to take out a loan in the first place.

The standard student loan repayment plan is set at a ten year period, which many graduates achieve, and afterwards they are out of their student debt. Those who manage to do this, whether it be by saving every dime, selling possessions, working second jobs, and more, get nothing from the current student debt forgiveness program, rendering their hard work and struggling a waste of time.

Perhaps more frightening, about a third of all high school graduates are currently skipping college, either because they cannot afford it or consider it a waste of money. The lack of provisions for them means that those on the bottom of society, the lowest classes, are less affected by student loan forgiveness, as they could not even consider taking one out in the first place. Student loan forgiveness, as a result, benefits the upper middle class and upper classes rather than the lower classes, who arguably are more deserving of government assistance.

Finally, something needs to be said about the accountability of the colleges and universities in this country regarding the cost of education. The cost of higher education has continuously outpaced inflation and wages, with tuition increasing 169 percent since 1980. During the same period, the average wage rose only 19 percent.

With higher education only becoming more and more expensive, student loan inflation is set to feed its flame. If colleges expect that student debt will be reduced or relieved in the future, they may increase tuition costs in an effort to collect as much money as possible in the present. This is a reality that many students in the next couple years may have to face, since there are few mechanisms in place to restrict how much universities can charge students. As a result, loan forgiveness will become more expensive and difficult to pay off for the next generation of students.

By relieving student debt, we are only filling the wallets of colleges and allowing the problem to continue. If we wish to fix the issue of student loan debt, we need to hold lenders and higher education institutions more accountable.

# Saints Clubs Show Spirit of Service

**By Alex Granda ('24)**  
STAFF WRITER

Saints clubs have long immersed students in educational, fun, and productive activities which have augmented their high school experience. Some clubs disappeared, some have been with us for decades, and this year, as always, new ones sprung to life. In this issue we will focus on five clubs. Future issues will feature the activities of additional clubs.

**Key Club** (President: Sean Kerwin, Meetings: Wednesdays at lunch in room 219)

Easily one of the most recognizable names on this list, the Saints Key Club is a timeless tradition, now led by senior Sean Kerwin. It features year-round service projects to help serve the greater San Diego community, providing Saintsmen the opportunity to engage in meaningful work for service hours and volunteer experience. For example, the Saints Key Club organizes the annual Saints Blood Drive, which aims to help thousands of patients who require blood transplants.

Other projects include partnering with "A Clean San Diego" to organize beach and street cleanups throughout the city on various weekends. In addition, as a member of the Division Eleven Conference, the Key Club plans events with other local high schools in our district. Individuals contribute ideas for projects and participate in division council meetings that coordinate events such as the Fall Rally. This rally will be held at Six Flags this year, celebrating the conference's achievements throughout the school year.

**Catholic Athletes Club** (President: Logan McKerring, Meetings: Every second Wednesday of the month in the purple and gold room at lunch)

One of the newest service clubs founded this year was the Catholic Athletes Club. Also known as the Cathletes Club, it was founded by senior Logan McKerring to organize the active Catholic athletes of Saints to learn the core values of Christi-

anity through Christian service and active participation in ministry. For example, the club organizes and referees sporting events for disabled athletes every other weekend, offering a leader's spirit to fellow brothers looking to enrich their community.

In addition, the Catholic Athletic Club hopes to partner with the national organization known as the Catholic Athletes for Christ to branch out into the larger American community and organize similar events with partners up north in Los Angeles and beyond. By providing a social, collaborative, and fun environment to support other athletes, the Cathletes Club is an excellent way to branch out into the local sports community and interact with your favorite sports from another perspective.

**The Hogar Infantil Club** (President: Ricardo Laborin, Meetings: See Father Max for information)

Back once again, the Hogar Infantil Club might be of particular interest to Saintsmen who reside south of the border. Led by senior Ricardo Laborin, this club works to provide physical and emotional support to the Hogar Infantil, an orphanage in La Gloria run by the Augustinians. By raising money through fundraisers such as the NCAA bracket tournament or the canned food drive, this club helps supply food, clothing, and other necessities to the orphanage.

A unique aspect of the Infantil Club is its monthly service trip down to the actual orphanage. With a typical group size of around twelve individuals, Saintsmen take the opportunity to get to know the children and participate in hands-on activities throughout the day. The trip lasts from midday to about four PM on Saturdays, and most volunteers carpool back to Saints. It is a unique experience, and the joy of leading a day of fun for the children is well worth the trip.

In the near future, the club looks to its various events and partnerships with clubs such as MEXUS, which hosts spon-



**The Key Club is always looking for new members.** *Xavier Magat ('23)*

sored fundraisers and drives that donate proceeds and supplies to the needy at Hogar Infantil Orphanage. It is a fulfilling and rewarding experience that encourages Saintsmen to come out and support the orphanage wherever possible.

**Help the Homeless Club** (President: Blaze Ackerman, Meetings: Wednesdays at lunch in room 315)

One of the biggest challenges San Diego faces is its homeless population. The new Help the Homeless club, founded by senior Blaze Ackerman, hopes to help alleviate their plight by having volunteers provide necessities such as food, water, and shelter for the homeless and assist in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and more.

This past week, the club collected over 150 lbs of clothes and distributed them to the needy at Streets of Hope in downtown San Diego. Streets of Hope is a sanctuary for homeless individuals, and the Help the Homeless Club works with the shelter to distribute meals every Monday night from 6 to 8 PM.

A vital facet of this club is its commitment to making "small changes" or "habits" that ultimately contribute to a more

significant difference in the local community. Just a couple of hours of service or a couple of pounds of unused clothing can significantly impact someone's life.

**The American Red Cross Club** (President: Max Gracia, Meetings: Wednesdays in room 221 at lunch)

Are you looking to help those who are in desperate need of urgent care? The American Red Cross Club, led by senior Max Gracia, hopes to provide aid and support for the greater Red Cross organization and teach Saintsmen about the basics of medical assistance. In addition, the club completes various service projects around the greater San Diego area. Just this past month, Saintemen headed to Escondido to replace fire alarms in mobile homes that desperately needed to be upgraded with new safety features.

With more support, the Red Cross Club hopes to complete at least two service projects every month, and they look forward to raising money with fundraisers in the near future. By collaborating with various clubs, such as the Key Club and Help the Homeless Club, Gracia hopes to see increased involvement in service projects from the student body.



*by Alex Watson ('24)*

**NEW TEACHERS**  
*continued from page 1*

Chiropractic College West in the Bay Area. He teaches Biology and AP Biology in Mendel Hall, and he helps coach the Saints rugby team. He considers rugby one of his hobbies, in addition to powerlifting and occasionally playing video games. One of his favorite sports teams is, of course, the Padres.

"I love the rich culture at Saints and the community," Mr. Raines said. In time, he will be able to add his own stitch to the rich tapestry of Saints tradition.

Our penultimate teacher featured in

this article is Mr. Nicolas Pradel. Mr. Pradel teaches environmental science and physical science here at Saints. He graduated from Clairemont High School in 2009 and then studied at the University of California, Davis. He enjoys swimming, biking, and running, and his favorite sports teams are the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Philadelphia Eagles, and Juventus, a soccer team from Italy. A few things he loves about Saints include the friendly faculty, fantastic students, and the dynamic social events, as well as the significant emphasis on sports and extracurricular involvement.

"I like the energy that the student

population brings daily to class, to the rallies, and at lunch," Mr. Pradel said. Unlike the first two teachers, Mr. Pradel has taught before at other schools. This is his fourth year as a teacher, and he taught previously at Clairemont High, La Jolla High, and a charter school.

Our last teacher featured in this issue is Mr. John Hickey. He graduated from Damien High School in Laverne, California, in 2002 and went on to UCSD, where he majored in Mathematics Secondary Education. Here at Saints, he teaches Algebra II and Algebra II with Trigonometry. Like Mr. Pradel, Mr. Hickey has taught before, hailing from Kearny High School, Cal Coast Academy, and Gompers Preparatory School, located here in San Diego. Nobody can overlook his miraculous beard, which

took over six years to grow and requires a diligent washing routine every month.

Mr. Hickey likes to golf, hike, watch various sports, and sometimes play video games. His favorite sports teams to watch are the San Diego Padres, the Chicago Bulls, and two teams from Buffalo, New York: the Bills and the Sabers. His favorite thing about Saints is both the energetic atmosphere and brotherhood.

It is always wonderful to see new teachers on campus with every new school year, and this year is no exception. All Saintsmen wish Mr. Theilacker, Mr. Raines, Mr. Pradel, and Mr. Hickey a fantastic first year at Saints, especially as it is the school's 100th anniversary, and that they have many more years to follow.

## THE AUGUSTINIAN

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# An Interview with the Vicar General



Father Farrell celebrating the Centennial Mass in the Saints gym.



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On September 16, 2022, Augustinians from all over the world gathered at Saints for Mass to celebrate the one hundredth year of the school. The Mass was led by Father Joseph Farrell, the Augustinian vicar general who oversees the entire North American region and assists the prior general in Rome. We here at *The Augustinian* were able to procure an exclusive interview with Father Farrell.

**The Augustinian:** In your address to the congregation after our Centennial Mass, you kept asking us to pray for Philadelphia sports teams. Is that your hometown? Can you tell us a bit more about your upbringing?

**Fr. Farrell:** I was born just outside of Philadelphia in a town called Drexel Hill, PA. I have four brothers and one sister. All of them are married with children and now grandchildren. I was baptized as an infant and attended the local parish elementary school, where I received the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. I went to an Augustinian high school called Monsignor Bonner High School, which was one of the Philadelphia Archdiocesan High Schools and

was administered by the Augustinians.

After high school, I attended Villanova University as a student in the college of business. I graduated from Villanova in 1985 (the year the men's basketball team won their first NCAA National Championship), and then I joined the Augustinian Formation Program. After six years of initial formation, I professed my solemn vows as an Augustinian in 1990 and was ordained a priest in 1991.

I have been blessed to serve in many places: St. Augustine Parish in Massachusetts from 1991 to 1994; Monsignor Bonner High School in Pennsylvania from 1994 to 1996; Merrimack College in Massachusetts from 1996 to 2003; Graduate Studies in Rome from 2003 to 2007; Villanova University from 2007-2013; and finally, the Augustinian General Curia in Rome from 2013 to now.

**TA:** How did you know God was calling you to be an Augustinian? Tell us a bit about your discernment journey. Did you already feel the tug as a teen?

**Farrell:** I was always comfortable knowing that I was Catholic and enjoyed participating in Church related activities. My parents and my brothers and sister and many of our friends were

Donovin Bocalan ('23)

also involved. In high school, I became involved in the Catholic Youth Organization in the archdiocese of Philadelphia and would work on service, social, spiritual, cultural and athletic programs with my peers. During that time, I had not seriously considered a vocation to the religious life as a brother or to the ordained life as a priest.

It was in my last year at Villanova University when I began to seriously discern whether God was calling me to the religious vocation. After graduation, I entered into the first year of initial formation with the Augustinians. It is called the Pre-Novitiate Year. Each of the six years in formation provided me with opportunities to do serious self-discernment, as well as reflection with others to see if I was truly called to live this vocation for the rest of my life.

Throughout the formation process, I kept feeling more and more confident

that this was the right decision. I have been blessed to be an Augustinian all of these years.

**TA:** You are the vicar general of the Augustinians. What does it mean to be a vicar general?

**Farrell:** The vicar general serves on the general council of the Augustinian Order as an assistant to the prior general. The prior general depends on six assistants to help him in the geographic areas of the Order of St. Augustine, so I also serve as an assistant for the North American geographic region.

As vicar general, I work alongside our friars who operate in Rome and Vatican City. I also participate in international commissions on vocation promotion, Augustinian initial formation, and pastoral activities in parishes and schools. The vicar general also prays for the good health of the prior general every day.

**TA:** So what do the top Augustinians do in the chambers of power?

**Farrell:** Those of us who have been elected to leadership roles recognize that we are called, firstly, to serve our Augustinian brothers to the best of our ability. We don't see our positions of leadership as power roles but as opportunities to be of service. A lot of the aid we provide is administrative, but we are also blessed to work closely with Augustinian friars throughout the world by seeing how we can best follow the Rule of St. Augustine in community life and also serve the people we are blessed to meet in our ministries.

**TA:** I'm sure you've seen many Augustinian-run high schools—is there anything that sets Saints apart?

**Farrell:** Saint Augustine High School has an extraordinary sense of brotherhood. One can sense it immediately on entering the campus. The ideals of unity, truth, and love are evident in the way the faculty, staff, administrators, and students interact with each other on a daily basis. The Saints alumni also have a strong bond to the school and to each other.

## Chaplain's Corner



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA  
COLUMNIST

I find it interesting as chaplain of Saints to find myself with a newspaper column again, now in my fourth year in this role hosting the "Chaplain's Corner." When I was in high school, I lived in San Francisco and went to a school that no longer exists.

During my senior year, I assisted in editing and publishing our weekly school "newspaper," which was more of a newsletter than a full publication.

After graduation I was accepted into San Diego State University, and to continue my career in journalism, I began a weekly radio show "Maximus Radio" in which I expounded upon the issues of the day in the KCR radio booth at the old Aztec Center.

This "corner" from the chaplain in the current Augustinian newspaper allows me a different forum to engage and encourage the student body towards particular ideas or themes that

I find important to our school community at the time of the paper's publishing and distribution.

Though the world is in a constant state of flux and change, eternal truths thankfully remain the same. The lens of these truths allow us to begin the process of making sense of the world around us. At the same time, the greatest failure of journalism over the past twenty years has been a failure to live up to its noble duty to seek out the truth, no matter the outcome, favoring certain narratives or clickbait headlines over true understanding and choosing entertainment over genuine news.

Today, we find ourselves in a period of post-Covid normalcy as well as a state of economic unrest and geopolitical peril, mixed in with a dose of homecoming and freshman dance lessons. That is how life goes sometimes.

Whatever happens, *The Augustinian*, and this corner, will be there.



The OMGC mural honors 100 years of Saints.

Noah Villafana ('23)

100 Years  
continued from page 1

Fr. Farrell was the main celebrant Mass, and Fr. Max delivered the homily, during which he mused that for this occasion, he actually wore shoes.

On the occasion of its one-hundredth anniversary, Saints produced its very own documentary movie entitled "The Sons of Saint Augustine."

Directed by Mr. Chris Cashman and produced by Mr. Edwin Hearn, the one-hour film gives viewers the opportunity to see Saints throughout the years. It included stories of life in the monastery, the early days of the school at Saint Vincent's, the evolution of Freshman Welcome Week, and even the age-old tradition of dance

lessons with the girls of OLP. Many alumni provided humorous anecdotes about their life at Saints, and fondly explained why life at Saints means so much to them.

After seeing the movie, I can say that its message resonates quite strongly with anyone who has ever witnessed or contributed to the Saints experience. You feel like you are a part of the message, as you nod your head at anything the interviewees say. In addition, seeing familiar faces on screen, such as current students, recent graduates, and returning teachers makes the story much more compelling.

A consistent message throughout is that regardless of your graduating class, every Saintsman is your brother.



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# The Saint Augustine Driving Test



By Patrick O'Leary ('23)  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since the dawn of time, people have pondered one question: when two cars meet on a narrow North Park road, who yields? And truly, there is no answer. But many of life's biggest questions do have answers. And I'm going to share the most important ones with you now.

### The Official Saints Driving Test

1. What is the best way to return to the I-805 after dropping off your son at Saints?

- A. North on 33rd Street
- B. North on literally any other street
- C. Walking
- D. I don't take the I-805

The answer: B

Believe it or not, since 33rd is the street that leads directly to Saints after exiting the I-805, it has a constant stream of students and parents driving south down it. Because most of the streets around North Park are too narrow to comfortably fit two cars heading in opposite directions, it is better to return to the freeway by a different route to avoid creating congestion.

2. How does a roundabout work?

- A. It doesn't
- B. It's a fancy stop sign with a curvy intersection
- C. Head down, hands on the wheel, and accelerate as fast as you can
- D. Yield to cars in the round about, then go

The answer: D

Look, I know this isn't Europe, but for some reason North Park fancies itself an anglophile. So we're all gonna have to work on our British accents and convince



The only street in North Park wide enough to allow two-way traffic.

Donovin Bocalan ('23)

ourselves that tea is better than coffee. Once you get into full British mode, you won't even have to think about roundabouts - you will instinctively know what to do. Although you might run into some problems driving on the wrong side of the road...

3. If you see a Saints student jaywalking across an intersection, you are legally required to:

- A. Full speed ahead and ram him
- B. Answer A, but only if it's a freshman
- C. Roll your eyes, honk loudly, and give him the bird
- D. Come on guys let's just take a deep breath and stay calm

The answer: D

As tempting as options A-C might

seem, both the law and the Saints' handbook frown on all of them, calling them "harassment" and "un-Christian behavior" and "vehicular manslaughter." Sure a lot of times students dodge out into the road without looking both ways, but it's still the driver's responsibility to not mow the students down with their Prius. Nothing's wrong with a little eye-rolling though...

4. What is the speed limit on the roads near Saints?

- A. 15 mph
- B. 25 mph
- C. 35 mph
- D. What's a speed limit?

The answer: B

I was under the impression that all drivers had to know this one in order to pass their drivers' tests. But evidently I was mistaken. As much as we would all

to work and try again.

Superstar seniors Jimmy Markowicz, Nate Wilson, and Colin Behan have been able to run with the best of the best, with junior Thomas Banzhof also sharing in the success.

The most exciting part of the season came during the Woodbridge meet for varsity, where they raced in an electric atmosphere. The entire team impressed with incredible times including notable ones such as Markowicz at 15:14, Wilson at 16:02, Banzhof at 16:22, and Behan at 16:25. Under the wings of the experienced upperclassmen, promising sophomores Billy Gault, Levi Clair, and

love to save an extra 0.65 seconds getting to the freeway, it's kinda not the coolest to be blowing by houses and revving your engine and hitting children. Sorry guys.

5. What is the proper response when someone lets you pass on a narrow street?

- A. Put your head down to avoid eye contact
- B. Return the favor by letting them go first, so that both of you wait there in the same positions for five minutes
- C. Smile and wave
- D. Trick question: no one would ever let you pass

The answer: C

The Penguins of Madagascar knew what they were talking about. Remember, you know a lot of the people who drive around school - it's ok to look at them. After all, we're not animals. We live in a society.

6. When exiting the I-805 onto University Avenue, drivers should:

- A. Join the incredibly long line of cars waiting to exit
- B. Barrel through everybody in front of you
- C. Take the convenient offroad path
- D. Just give up, turn around, and go home

The answer: A

As counter-intuitive as it may seem, joining the long line ahead of you is actually the quickest way to get to school on time. Just wait your turn, and the line will move smoothly. Plus you won't have to risk running into a conveniently placed police officer waiting just around the corner to intercept those who opt to engage in less-than-legal maneuvers.

Owen Arnaudy are providing excellent signs of their abilities.

Another incredible moment was seen when Jimmy Markowicz broke the Saintsmen record for the fastest 3-mile time with his time of 14:56.

The thing that sets this team apart is the community. As a place of both fun and acceptance, the team also pushes everyone to their limits. Continuing to assert dominance, the cross country team advances to 3-0 with wins against High Tech High, La Jolla, and Clairemont, as they look to ride their momentum into the playoffs to take what is theirs.

## SPORTS

continued from page 2

Luke O'Leary and Noah Heuring, was especially dominant, showing hints of the greatness that could await them in their future.

The next games were no different. The Saints flexed their muscles and swept La Jolla 5-0 and beat Eastlake 4-1.

The following week against Coronado was a hard-fought game, played in ferocious winds. The senior teams of O'Leary/Boeh and Alcoser/Soro both fought for tough wins, but the rest of the team just couldn't overcome the el-

ements, resulting in a 3-2 loss.

They rebounded from this setback with a clutch victory over Helix, winning 3-2 in a heart-pounding game. Unfortunately, they lost to a skilled Scripps Ranch team 4-1. The beach volleyball team is looking to continue their success the rest of the season and compete in the playoffs for a chance at a county title.

### Cross Country

Cross country is coming off a disappointing race in CIF from last year. Wanting to have another shot at a league title, they are ready to get back

# The Struggles of Honors English II

by Edgar Alcoser ('23)

