



SAINTS SCENE

SPECIAL EDITION

Augustinian Schools: Values Institute, City of God Retreats

Revamping the City of God Retreats

Global Conference Brings Leaders from all Augustinian Schools to Saints

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



REDUX. Attendees at the Building the City of God retreat—recently held at Saints--spend time writing and reflecting after a lecture on the famous painting “The Return of the Prodigal Son” by Rembrandt. In all 25 Augustinian school leaders participated. Left to right: Gemma Booth (Cascia Hall); Fr. Phillip Cook (Cascia Hall); Dcn John Donahue (St. Rita); Chrissy Leonard (Malvern Prep); Bev Gordon (Malvern Prep); Ed Hearn (Saints); Fr. Rich Young (Providence); Paul Paradiso (Villanova College); Josh Blaszk (St. Rita); Jim Hickey (Austin Prep); Shawn Gammill (Cascia Hall); Mike Susank (Mission Prep); Ron Algeo (Malvern Prep); Fr. John Kasa (hidden, Austin Catholic); Janel Coppens (Austin Catholic); Jim Horne (Saints); Joe Zagarella (St. Augustine Prep); Fr. Robert Murray (St. Augustine Prep); Brian Grisin (Villanova Prep); Paul Houston (Providence); Todd Goldsmith (Cascia Hall); Fr. John Merkellis (Providence).



President Edwin Hearn

They came from Australia, Ireland, Canada, the East, the Mid-West and the West. They were Augustinian Priests, Augustinian Brothers, laymen and women all

traveling to Saints to learn more about the Core Values of Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas. It was St. Augustine High School’s 100th-anniversary request to host the annual two-day meeting of the Augustinian Secondary Education Association (ASEA) for the Heads of School of

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Wherever you go, be a Saint!

Dear Saintsmen, Families & Community



Getting into college is a “mania” of its own. And this week as I participated in a college counseling family meeting with my wife, my junior son, and his counselor, I was reminded of a book by Frank Bruni titled, “Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be”.

Bruni, a New York Times columnist on education, politics and culture asks the question, “Is a degree from an Ivy or other elite university crucial to your career success?”. And as you likely guessed, his answer is ... of course not!

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Revamping the City of God Retreats

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the ten Augustinian schools. In all 25 Heads of School were in attendance for the meeting.

This meeting was followed by The Augustinian Values Institute (AVI) and Building the City of God (BCG). These three-day retreats were born out of the need for the Augustinian charism to be better understood by the facilities and staff of the North American schools. During the 20 years of the AVI, the Irish and Australians got wind of the experience and begin sending teams to the Institute. The fun quotient improved immensely upon their first arrival. In total, there were 110 Augustinian educators in attendance to learn the connective tissue of the Order of St. Augustine's profound effect on the educational process.

Seven years ago it was apparent a deeper experience needed to be created that people could attend as a sequel to the AVI. Through the good work of Fr. John Keller, ('55,) OSA, it was determined that Fr. Keller and I would create a retreat-like experience for a smaller group that would work inside their schools to formulate an environment that would be based on a book St. Augustine wrote in the 5th century, *Building the City of God*.

Since its launch in 2017, it has been a work in progress experience in helping educators see the possibilities of defining their work as fundamentally impactful to the students and families they serve. After five years, a sameness had set in to the point the original goals of the retreat were not recognizable and needed some attention.

After the last BCG ended at Malvern Preparatory High School in Pennsylvania last April, some of the group that attended from Saints, met with the intent to completely recreate the retreat by bringing the world's values into the retreat much like St. Augustine did in his book. At this meeting, Paul Sipper, Ryan Segura and I decided to include music and art in the experience along with the use of the Socratic method of instruction used by St. Augustine. We decided to schedule an Introductory Keynote to begin the three-day retreat. The speech would connect the AVI to the BCG and allow the host school to explain "the why" for having the gathering. In this talk,

the theme for the three days would be introduced to our guests from around the world.

It was a commentary written by St. Augustine on Psalm 99:10. It had been presented at the BCG at the gathering we had just experienced. It would serve as a metaphor for our schools--places to prepare students in a safe place for their ultimate voyage out of the harbor into the open sea.

For *Building the City of God*, the two presenters would be expanded to four from the host school. This would allow for more voices at the table. Long story short--It was a complete overhaul and we were excited to deliver it to our fellow Augustinian educators.

To entertain teachers and staff from other Augustinian schools from around the world was a wonderful opportunity to showcase St. Augustine High School in our centennial year. We know the quality of our faculty and their spirit for our school would shine through.

A visiting Head of School from a diocesan Catholic School was also invited. He wanted to experience and learn how our Augustinian system works. He told me on the way back to his hotel after the final event that he did not know what to expect when he arrived, but the experience deepened his faith and gave him new insights from his experience from AVI. He admitted to openingly becoming emotional during various parts of the experience.

As the delegates walked into the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts on the opening night, they noticed the Coat of Arms of each of the ten North American schools adorning the walls of the theater. After a welcome by Principal Jim Horne, the Symphonic Band played two pieces to rousing applause. During the first Keynote Address, I offered a short history of St. Augustine High School and introduced the theme "A Safe Harbor" to our guests.

One of our art students Alexander Watson ('24) painted a watercolor depicting four 5th Century ships in a placid sea with a purple and



REFLECTION. Attendees at the Building the City of God retreat spend time writing and reflecting after a lecture on the famous painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Rembrandt.

gold sky. It captured the audience's attention and was used throughout the retreat. Prints of the painting were made for each of the visiting schools to help them remember their experience at Saints.

The next two days, the delegates were broken up into two groups--those attending the AVI and those attending the BCG. Two completely different retreats occurring simultaneously in two different locations on campus.

Jim Horne completely changed out the speakers who had dominated the AVI scene for the past two decades. As Fr. John Keller stated, "Many thanks and appreciation for the great job that you and your gang did over the weekend--best ever! Please extend to all my thanks and gratitude for the work, detail, kindness, and smarts of the whole event. The content and presentations were great. Fresh, personal, and accessible."

The high points in *Building the City of God* centered on a presentation by the nonprofit--Any Body Can--an organization dedicated to keeping young people in under-resourced San Diego neighborhoods in school on the way to successful lives. A fifteen-year-old young man eloquently spoke about his need to learn the skills of boxing for self-defense in the school he was attending. He noted he is no longer bullied at school.

Another group, Rise-Up Industries, brought in two formerly incarcerated men who are in their program to learn job skills for re-entry into civil society. Both men talked about their previous lives and how life sometimes goes terribly wrong when growing up in tough situations.

Both these presentations will be remembered for their authenticity and the cultural divide that separates different communities across San Diego. Coupled with St. Augustine's thinking, attendees were challenged to return to their communities to build the Core Values more deeply into their school cultures.

Sitting at the closing dinner with Jim Horne, there was a sense of relief and excitement for our efforts to recreate a special experience for our colleagues from around the globe. There was a feeling that this AVI and BCG had reenergized our guests to more fully embrace the Core Values and to move forward in the tradition of St. Augustine.

Getting to Know You

Leaders of 10 Augustinian schools recently attended a conference in San Diego at the campus of St. Augustine High School to learn even more about the core values of Unitas, Veritas and Caritas. The following are brief capsules of information on each school.



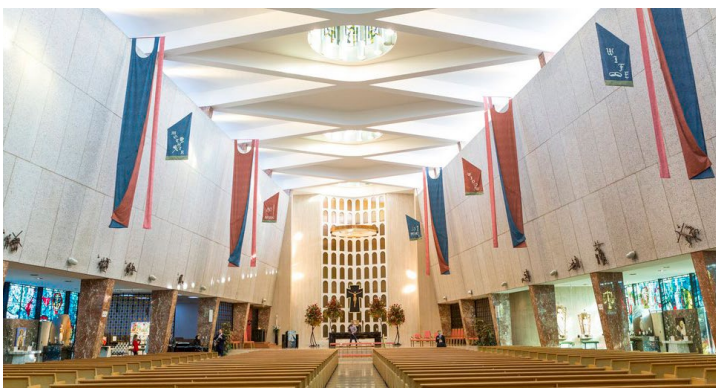
St. Augustine High School, San Diego, CA (1922)

[Photo: above]: Located on a little over seven acres of land in urban San Diego (not far from Balboa Park and the San Diego Zoo), Saints is a school for 700 young men from the San Diego-Tijuana region. Over 90% are Catholics. Known as "Saintsmen," alumni have made significant contributions to the civic and Church communities. A recent building effort has provided all new classroom, library, student services, and library facilities. Website: sahs.org



Malvern Preparatory School, Malvern, PA (Founded 1842)

Malvern Prep is the direct continuation of the academy program founded in 1842 by the Augustinians as the "preparatory school" for what is now Villanova University. In 1922 the academy program moved from Villanova to 143 acres of land in historic Chester County and became Malvern Prep. Originally a day and boarding school for boys, Malvern Preparatory School is now a day school for some 600 young men. Website: Malvernprep.org



St. Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago (1905)

Always a high school for boys since its foundation in 1905, in 1990 the school moved from its first historic campus at 63rd and Claremont in South Chicago to the former Quigley Prep campus at 77th and Western. The new campus has a church-sized chapel, swimming pool, gym, ball fields, and excellent teaching facilities which presently serves 900 young men. The school was named by "US News & World Report" as one of the top 25 high schools in the U.S. Website: Stritahs.com

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Getting to Know You

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Providence Catholic High School, New Lenox, IL (1918)

Originally established in Joliet, Illinois, in 1918, Providence took on a new campus in New Lenox in 1962. The Augustinians direct the 1150 student, coed institution. Unique to Augustinian schools in the U.S., Providence offers a large and excellent early education program for the community. In addition to excellence in studies, Providence has earned 24 state championships in sports. Website: Providencecatholic.org



Villanova Preparatory School, Ojai, CA. (1924)

Villanova Prep is located on 117 acres of land in the beautiful Ojai Valley, 80 miles north of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Santa Barbara. Founded as a boarding and day school for boys, the school became coeducational in 1971. With 315 students, it provides boarding facilities for about one-third of the students who are from ten different countries. Website: Villanovaprep.org



Cascia Hall, Tulsa, OK (1926)

Founded in 1926 as a school for boys in grades 7 through 12, with boarding as well as day students, Cascia Hall became coed in 1986. Its present enrollment is 575 students in grades 6 through 12. The beautiful and well equipped campus has a unique French Norman architectural style, and is located in a residential area of midtown Tulsa. Website: CasciaHall.com



St. Augustine College Preparatory School, Richland, NJ (1959)

The Prep has grown from its first graduating class of 12 students (1963) to a current enrollment of over 550 young men. It is recognized as the premier college prep school for boys in Southern New Jersey, and recently completed a major building program to provide greater opportunities in the arts and sports. Website: Hermits.com



Austin Preparatory School, Reading, MA (1961)

Austin Preparatory School was founded by the Augustinian Fathers of the Province of St. Thomas of Villanova in 1961 and opened to students in September 1963. In the 1970's the school ownership transferred to a lay Board of Trustees and it continues to operate "in the Augustinian tradition". The school serves a co-ed population of 700 in grades 6-12 and is located in Reading, MA, 15 miles north of Boston. Website: AustinPrep.org



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Villanova College, King City, Ontario (1999)

Villanova College (grades 4-12) was founded by lay educators in 1999 and established its campus on 33 acres of land of the Augustinian Marylake Monastery property in 2000. The school embraces Augustinian values and vision. With the completion of its facilities, Villanova College will be able to serve 800 young men and women. Website: VillanovaCollege.org



Austin Catholic High School, Ray, MI (2011)

Austin Catholic High School is a co-ed comprehensive college preparatory school serving young men and women of diverse backgrounds in northern Macomb County. Opened in 2011, Austin aims to cultivate healthy and resourceful students for college and beyond with a rigorous liberal arts program committed to the Augustinian values of Truth, Unity, and Love. Austin offers full academic and extracurricular programming, with highly qualified instructors and dedicated staff in a vibrant faith community. Austin Catholic: New Opportunities. Long Standing Tradition. Website: AustinCatholicHighSchool.org



SAVE THE DATE

for a wedding right out of the Roarin' 20s!

St. Augustine High School Players proudly present our spring musical

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE!

Winner of the 2006 Tony Awards for Best Original Score and Best Book.

Playing April 21, 27, 28, 29 at 7pm, and April 22 at 2pm,
at the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts
on the campus of St. Augustine High School
3286 Nutmeg Street, San Diego, CA 92104

The musical within a comedy is light as air; the characters and relationships have the density of cotton candy, the plot twists are ridiculously simple and easily spotted from the back row of the highest balcony, and there is (of course) a happy ending. It's all about being whisked away to the Roarin' 20s and place that is more joyous and full of color than everyday life in the present.

THE *Smarts* PAGE

Henry Hooper Earns Villanova Scholarship



Henry Hooper ('23)

When asked about Saintsman Henry Hooper being named a recipient of this year's scholarship to the University of Villanova, Principal James Horne said, "Henry represents the best in academic excellence and demonstrates a care of others that will positively impact the environment at Villanova."

Some of Henry's many highlights:

- Cumulative GPA of 4.37
- Principal's Honor Roll - 8 semesters
- Honorable mention for the Gold Medal for Academic Excellence - 11th grade studies
- Villanova University Book Award in 11th grade for his academic excellence and his commitment to helping the less fortunate
- Recognized by Instrumentalist Magazine for distinguished excellence on the trumpet
- Active member of the school's mock trial team
- Four-year member of the symphonic band & jazz band
- Campus Ministry - Big Brother (student leader) for the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior retreats

Patrick O'Leary National Merit Scholar Finalist



Patrick O'Leary ('24)

Each year approximately 2 million Juniors sit nationwide to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Those who finish with scores in the top 1% nationwide earn the distinction of National Merit Scholar Finalists.

St. Augustine High School is proud that Patrick O'Leary has earned distinction as a National Merit Finalist. When asked about Patrick's recognition, Saints Asst. Principal for Academics, Mr. Greg Hecht said, "We've known since Patrick's arrival as a Freshman that he was a special academic and intellectual talent. He has been the top student in many of his courses and has diligently and humbly worked to develop his gifts and talents."

Top Scholars at Entrance Named

St. Augustine High School is pleased to recognize Nine Scholars at Entrance for the Class of 2027. These young men achieved the highest scores on the High School Placement Test offered in January. As such, each will be admitted and has earned a \$40,000 Scholarship at Entrance.

Congratulations to each of these young men, their schools and their families. A tenth qualifying scholar declined to attend Saints therefore there will be nine awardees for the Class of 2027.



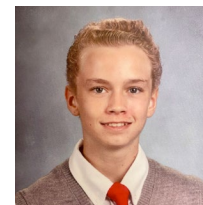
Benito Bayona
St. Gregory The Great



Bryson Morris
School of the Madeleine



Erik Johanson
Eastlake Middle School



Oliver Winn
St. Joseph Academy



Gannon Hayes
Our Lady of Grace



Lorenzo Lujan
St. Michael's (Poway)



Leo Mangine
St. Patrick School



Lorenzo Simon
St. Michael's (Poway)



Joseph Walker
St. Pius X



PORTUGAL *Lisbon*



Sign up for World Youth Day Adventure to Portugal

Fr. Max has opened registration for the Saints 2023 pilgrimage to World Youth Day and Augustinian Youth Encounter in Lisbon, Portugal to join the world's young people to celebrate our faith with Pope Francis.

Trip leaves July 24 and returns August 9.

Please email Fr. Max for more information and to register.



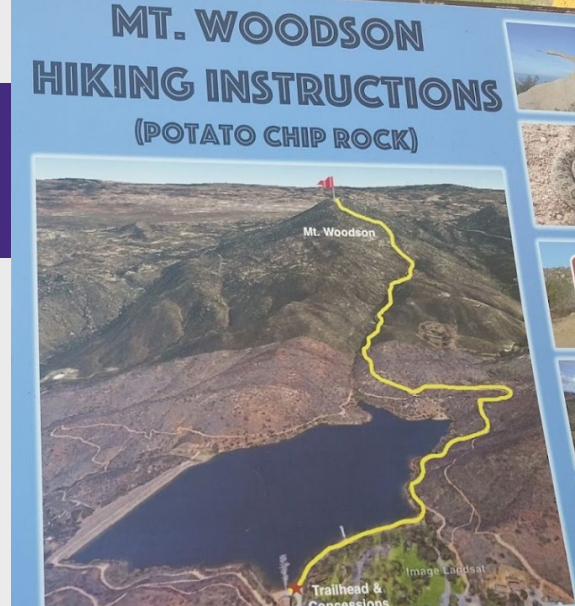
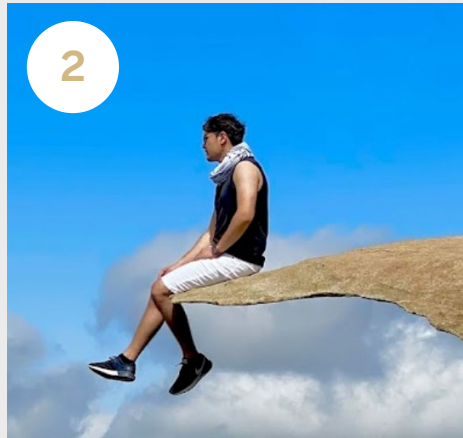
Mary arose and went with haste Lk 1:39

Hiking Club Adventure

Off to Potato Chip Rock

Recently the Hiking Club, led by faculty member and club moderator Ms. Briana Colorado went to East County's Lake Poway and dam (in the distance) to hike all the way to infamous Potato Chip Rock.

Through social media, such as Facebook and Instagram, and through numerous hiking blogs, Potato Chip Rock has become a sensation in the past couple of years. A Google image search turns up thousands of pictures of people on the rock doing all kinds of poses: handstands, yoga stretches, sitting at the end with legs dangling. It's become so popular that some days hikers have to wait a half-hour or more to take a picture on the rock.



1 Last known photo of Saints Hiking Club: Left to Right: Matthew Hopkins, Adrian Moran, Ms. Colorado, Max Martinez (crouched down), Eli Estevez, Raymond Moran, Gavin Beresford.

2 Anonymous person (no idea whom) in photo below is challenging fate on the edge of Potato Chip Rock.

Wherever you go, be a Saint!

Continued from page 1

We want our Saintsmen to be aware that many things are more important than the university admission. For example, admission to Heaven, being a good son/ brother/husband/ father, caring for others in need, and doing all things in love.

Bruni captures these ideas and the values the Saints Experience is built upon when he writes "Where we go to college will have infinitely less bearing on our fulfillment in life than so much else: the wisdom with which we choose our romantic partners; our interactions with the communities that we inhabit; our generosity toward the families we inherit and the families that we make."

So, when college mania strikes, resist the temptation to believe the lie that going to an elite college is crucial! Although we are creating great college and university opportunities for our students, we are after something more. We are teaching, encouraging and challenging Saints!

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,

James Horne
Principal



SAVE THE
date

OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

TASTE of
SAINTS

Saturday
May 20, 2023

GREAT FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, LOCAL BREWS

Winter Sports Wrap-up & Honors

By Mr. Matt Linville, Saints Athletic Director

Winter sports concluded with a lot to be excited about.



Basketball became the first team in San Diego to repeat as CIF Open Champions. Coach Haupt's crew rolled through Mater Dei, San Ysidro, and Montgomery en route to a second straight CIF Open title. In the SoCal State Regionals, an exciting win over West Ranch sent Saints to top-seeded Corona Centennial, where sadly, Saints' season came to an end. More post-season honors listed on the second page.



Soccer won a 5th straight Western League title, and then got a little revenge on playoff nemesis, San Pasqual, winning an exciting overtime game to advance to the CIF Open title game. As if fate was tapping Saints on the shoulder, soccer defeated top seed San Dieguito on the same day as basketball's title. Like basketball, Saints advanced through a first-round SoCal State Regional game, but lost in the semifinals to Birmingham. More post-season honors listed on the second page.



The **Wrestling** teams finished in 2nd place in the tough Western League. At D3 CIF, Saints took 5th place, but advanced a school record 7 wrestlers to the Masters Meet, which is the state qualifier tournament.



Rugby lost back-to-back heartbreakers to Cathedral and Fallbrook, coming up a game shy of making it to the SCIRF title game.

More post-season honors for winter sports:

Basketball: In Western League play, Jurian Dixon was player of the year, followed by Jaden Matingou and Lolo Rudolph on 1st team all-league and Derris Carter-Hollinger and Ian De La Rosa on 2nd team all-league. At the CIF level, the honors were the same. For Jurian Dixon, he was a back-to-back CIF Player of the Year. This is a huge accomplishment and a big congrats to Jurian.

Soccer: In Western League play, Iain Wagner was player of the year. Jack Elgas, Cesar Leal, and Andres Brambila were named to 1st team all-league, and Elias Gutierrez, Dylan Kelley, and Alonso Somohano were named to 2nd team all-league.

Wrestling: In Western League play, Blaze Ackerman and Z. Harrison Quinto were both named to 1st team all-league.



Jurian Dixon

BACK-TO-BACK. Helping Saints Varsity Basketball team win a remarkable second CIF San Diego Section title in a row, Senior Jurian Dixon, has earned CIF Player-of-the-Year honors for the second straight year. "Jurian is a well rounded student, who is a school leader as a Christian gentleman, top athlete and scholar. We are proud of all his accomplishments because he unselfishly contributes to the success of others," says Principal James Horne.



**ST. AUGUSTINE
HIGH SCHOOL**

3266 NUTMEG ST. SAN DIEGO CA 92104 619-282-2184 SAHS.ORG



ST. AUGUSTINE Summer Session 2023

Come join our Summer Session
Academic Classes and Sports Camps
Classes for Credit, and Enrichment
Sports Camps for Boys and Girls ages 6-15

See our Summer offerings at:
www.sahs.org

THE SENIOR CLASS SAINTSMEN
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

The Annual Mother & Senior Tribute Brunch

held in honor of the Mothers' support, encouragement and love at the

Bahia Resort Hotel

Sunday • April 23, 2023

12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost of attendance is \$55.00 per person (\$110.00 for mother and son)

If replying in the affirmative, register online at sahs.org or please remit the bottom portion of this page, as well the payment for attendance before April 14, 2023 by personal delivery or via mail to:

The Senior Class
c/o John Lamerato
St. Augustine High School
3266 Nutmeg St.
San Diego, CA 92104

Direct questions or concerns to John Lamerato, Senior Class Moderator,
by emailing: jlamerato@sahs.org

Yes, my son and I will attend the Annual Mother and Senior Tribute Luncheon.

My son's name is _____

My name is _____

(Checks should be made payable to St. Augustine High School)

Please submit payment and reservation form
before April 14, 2023 or register online at:
www.sahs.org after March 22, 2023

SAINTS TRADITIONS

Supporting Parochial Sports for 65 Years

Note: *Saints Scene*, as part of celebrating the school's 100th anniversary of its founding, is featuring a yearlong series of articles highlighting the school's beloved traditions. Last month: The Award Winning "Pit" Cheering Section.

The St. Augustine High Alumni Association has sponsored a parochial school football and basketball tournament for more than 65 years.

Parochial school sports can provide a tremendous sense of joy and purpose for students who participate in them these sports programs offer students an opportunity to develop their athletic skills and learn valuable life lessons that will help them in all areas of life.

One of the main benefits of parochial school sports is the sense of community and belonging that they provide. Students who participate in these programs often form strong bonds with their teammates and coaches, creating a supportive environment where they can work together to achieve their goals. Another benefit of parochial school sports is the opportunity to learn important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and perseverance. These skills are essential for success both on and off the field and help students develop the confidence and resilience needed to overcome challenges and achieve their goals.

This year the tournament ran over two weekends in March and gave over 30 Catholic elementary schools a chance to field a team and compete for the county championship. In the eyes of many 6-8th graders, it is the true March Madness.

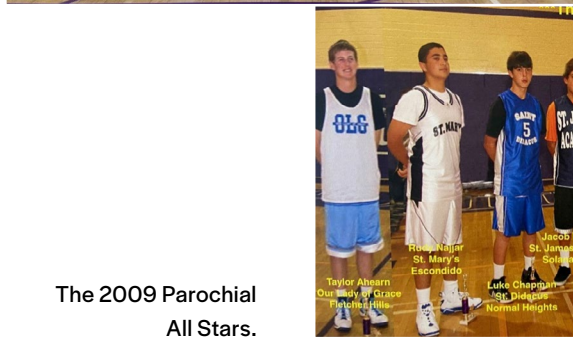


PAROCHIAL CHAMPS.
St. Gregory the Great School's 8th grade boys varsity basketball team recently won the Saints Alumni Parochial Tournament for 2023.

Fr. Max opened the annual basketball tournament with a prayer for the athletes, coaches and spectators.



2016 Parochial All Stars – Notice Luke Haupt (left) who now plays for Point Loma Nazarene.



The 2009 Parochial All Stars.



SAINTS SCENE

Your Award-Winning* monthly report on the St. Augustine High School Experience

Publisher: Edwin J. Hearn, Jr. Saints President
Editor-in-Chief: James Horne, Saints Principal
Senior Advisor: Fr. Gary Sanders, O.S.A., Augustinian Provincial
Senior Editor: Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director
Senior Editor: Gregory Hecht, Assistant Principal for Academics
Saints Scene Coordinator: Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com
Art Director: Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com
Circulation Director: Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events
Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55)
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***Awards:** Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.

