



# SAINTS SCENE

## The Road Together... A Safe Harbor for Boys

By Edwin Hearn, President, St. Augustine High School



School President Edwin Hearn has penned another essay in his remarkable series "The Road Together" regarding life on campus and the nurturing provided each young man during his four-year journey as a Saintsman.

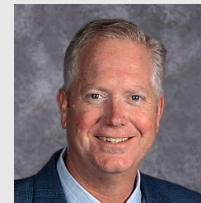
Each January the cycle of life at Saints moves forward to new beginnings while evaluating lessons from the past to be learned. Every year fourteen-year-old boys from more than 50 schools come to take an entrance test and sit for an interview. If all goes well, the admissions team will select them and they will begin their Saints journey.

How does it happen that a boy from a small Catholic school as far north as Oceanside, or as far east as Alpine, or on the other side of the border in Tijuana find themselves and their families highly motivated to become a Saintsman? Not only do Paul Sipper, the Director of Admissions, and Mike Haupt, the Assistant

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## Fresh Starts – WCEA/WASC

Dear Parents and Friends,



Principal James Horne

Every six years the school goes through an accreditation study to determine

what's going well, what needs improvement and fine tuning, and identify some new goals to drive the school's future work.

And, it is finally complete. The WCEA/WASC 2024 self-study process is over, the report has been written and published, and the visitation from the team representing the accrediting commission will happen at the beginning of next month, March 3-6, 2024.

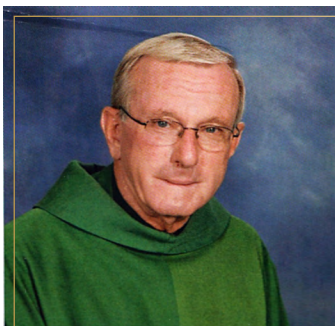
But is it really over? *No.*

*Continued on page 16*

## New Head Coach Brings a Wealth of Experience to Saints Varsity Football Program



MORE ON  
PAGE 9



### Rev. John D. Keller O.S.A ('55) 1937 – 2024

Celebration of Life on Saints campus  
February 28 at 11am

More on this good man in the next issue  
of *Saints Scene*.

# 4 More Saintsmen Achievers Added at Annual Awards Dinner



Saints 32nd Street Jazz Band provided entertainment at last month's annual Augustinian Achievement Awards.

The Augustinian Achievement Awards is a relatively new annual program, which was first presented in January 2019 and has been ongoing except for the 2021 Covid shutdown. Last month, four more graduates were granted entrance into this prestigious group who have embraced the Core Values of Unity, Truth, and Love into their lives.

During last month's special evening, four Saints alumni joined the 17 award winners from previous years. These are individuals

who have impacted our lives and those in their professional lives. Simply, they have made a difference and have modeled Jesus' ministry so well with selfless giving service and love to the people in their lives and to God. While at Saints, they learned their lessons well and are bearers of a more fruitful life—one based on friendship and love.

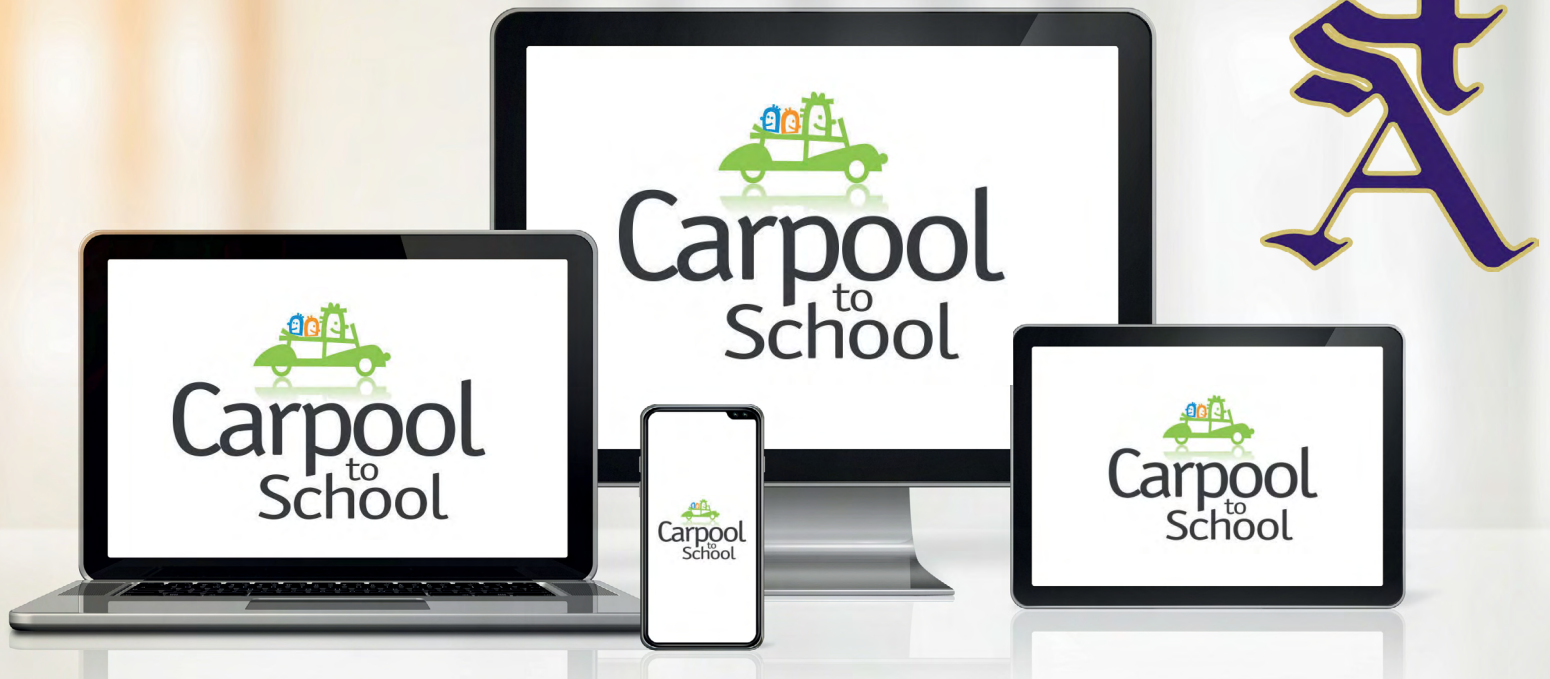
We are grateful to the Alumni Liaisons for their recommendations, the Steering Committee for their choices of 2024's award winners.

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Simply, they have made a difference and have modeled Jesus' ministry so well with selfless giving service and love to the people in their lives & to God.

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# Let's Get Started!

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**WINNING COACH.** Congratulations to Coach Mike Haupt, who surpassed the 600 career win mark as Saints Varsity Basketball Coach during this year's Holiday tournament schedule. Coach Haupt is pictured here at the recent 74-57 win over LA's Loyola High School at the California Coastal Classic held at Crypto Arena.



## Saints Grad to Coach National Cross Country Team

Paul Greer, Saints alum from 1983, has been selected to serve as the USA National Team Coach for the Men's U20 National Team (Under 20 years of age). As part of the USA Track & Field National Team staff for 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships, scheduled for March 30, 2024, in Belgrade, Serbia.

## Where Are They Now?

**What:** Winning a national football championship.

**Who:** Saints Alum Jay Harbaugh ('07) is an assistant coach with the University of Michigan football team.

**What:** The Wolverines under head coach Jim Harbaugh (Saints Dad) defeated the University of Washington 34-13 for the National Championship played in Houston.

*Continued on page 18*



# Rugby Update 2024

By Mr. Eric Dent, Rugby Coach

The Saints Rugby started the season with a new group of leaders to take charge of the team. Seniors Brayden Pinto, Conner Torquato, and Colin Shughrou have done a fine job leading the team on the field and off. Juniors Geno McKenna and Caelyb Aguirre have also really stepped to take big roles on the team. Sophomore Gavin Lowe has been a breakout performer in the forwards.

The team started the season with a victory over Fallbrook and has followed up with close matches resulting in a 2-2 record overall. The team in prepping to close out the season with two matches with Cathedral and a possibly playoff match. The JV has had a fine start to the season. Their improvement has been great to see and bodes well for the future. The JV side is currently 3-2.



Saintsman Sophomore Rugger Gavin Lowe fends blasts through a couple of would-be tacklers.



Caelyb Aguirre is about to elude a tackler in Saints Rugby action.



STA's Brayden Pinto prepares a lineout throw during a recent Saints Varsity Rugby game.

Players, coaches, fans at most recent Saints Rugby Alumni Game 2023.





# Interession Philosophy

## Updating a Remarkable Program



Saintsmen who elected to study Augustinian sites in Italy are pictured at the tomb of St. Augustine in Pavia, Italy along with instructor Fr. Max Villeneuve O.S.A.

Interession is a unique term of study (akin to a condensed third semester) designed to provide our students the chance to enrich their Saints Experience and their college prep curriculum by engaging in a variety of interest based courses.

The school's desire is to help students develop a passion for learning can sometimes be difficult to accomplish in traditional college prep classes. Providing students the opportunity to investigate studies in areas that interest them sparks a curiosity and inquisitiveness that naturally stimulates their

desire to learn new things. Offering courses like scuba, robotics, rugby, small business management, sailing, cooking, film, architecture and digital photography will give the students new and unique opportunities to discover a passion and/or skill set that they may embrace well beyond high school.

Photos in this following photo essay reflect Interession class activities. Next month, *Saints Scene* will publish news and photos from Interession internships.





Intercession fishing, not a bad day of school for Finn McMahon '26.



The Geocaching class had a great week of Intercession and hiked all 5 peaks in Mission Trails totaling about 17 miles.



Sophomore Derick Ritter with perfect lawn bowling form at the Coronado Lawn Bowling Club, a field trip day for the Lifetime Fitness class.



Christian Ledesma, Nick Lupinacci, Raphael Dunne studied Marine Biology over Intercession. Here they are preparing for their open ocean scuba dive at the La Jolla Cove.



Cooking class enjoying the spoils... Caprese salad, Chicken Parmesan, Pasta, Garlic Bread, and Strawberry Shortcake. Best part: no check!



Members of the Lifetime Fitness class Liam Veeramallu, Leif McCloskey, and Chris Black ran into Joe Musgrove while playing ultimate frisbee at South Mission Beach.



Intercession Racquetball is held at two LA Fitness locations and students learn from renowned racquetball and paddleball pro Aaron Embry. Pictured here are students who play at the Kearny Mesa club.



Students in Ms. Au's Music Technology Class had a field trip and a chance to get a studio tour at Rarefied Recording.



# Tale of Two Teams

Varsity Basketball saw January draw to a close looking very much like a Tale of Two Teams (with apologies to Charles Dickens). A hot offense and a stifling defense made short work of opponents [21 wins, three losses] saw the team compile at one point more than 887 points in a dozen-plus games.



**SUPERSUB.** Freshman Drew Parker is one of Saints Varsity non-starters who is benefitting from more playing time as a result of the team's hot offense.

This supercharged offense allowed Varsity second teamers a wealth of court time. The extra playing time gave regulars a breather. Resting an injury, All CIF lan de la Rosa at one point sat out the entire game with Steele Canyon.

Non-starters like Drew Parker, Leo Graves, Paisios Polamalu, Johnny Stone and Anthony Etheridge stepped in to have the spotlight shine on them.

Oft heard comments from the stands in Fr. Sanders Gymnasium opined that Saints non-starters could hold their own against many other high school teams in the County.

## Varsity Basketball Scores to Date

11/18 vs Scripps Ranch, Win 87-49

11/20 vs Mission Viejo, Win 94-59

11/21 vs Francis Parker, Win 88-51

11-22 vs Bonita Vista, Win 99-56

11/25 vs Mission Hills, Win 73-68

12/2 vs La Jolla Country Day, Win 68-43

12/8 vs Carlsbad High, Loss 74-75

12/15 vs Victory Christian, Win 88-45

@ TARKANIAN CLASSIC Las Vegas NY

12/18 vs Mater Lakes, Miami FL Win 52-41

12/19 vs Arbor View NV, Win 55-52

12/20 vs St. Pius/St. Matthias CA,  
Loss 50-62.

12/21 vs Branson, Ross CA, Win 56-55

@ TORREY PINES CLASSIC  
San Diego area.

12/27 vs St. Francis, Texas, Win 61-58

12/28 vs St. Francis Prep, NY Win 77-67

12/29 vs Faith Family Academy, Texas,  
Loss 55-75

12/30 vs Archbishop Mitty, Win 57-55,  
Tourney winner.

1/5 vs Madison, win 86-45

1/6 vs Loyola/LA, Win 74-57

1/9 vs Santa Fe Christian, Win 56-46

1/12 vs Cathedral Catholic, Win 70-50

1/16 vs Mission Bay, Win 81-62

1/19 vs San Diego High, Win 70-42

1/24 vs Steele Canyon, Win 72-43.

1/26 vs Madison, Win 64-26.

1/27 vs Serra High, Loss 48-54.



# New Head Coach Brings a Wealth of Experience to Saints Varsity Football Program



St. Augustine High School is proud to announce the hiring of Ron Caragher as its new head football coach. Coach Caragher, former head football coach at USD and San Jose State, will become the school's 25th head coach in its 101-year history.

"We are excited for the opportunity to have Coach Caragher come on board at Saints," said Matt Linville, Director of Athletics. "Hiring such an experienced, dedicated, and well-respected person is a huge win for Saints. Coach Caragher is a man who believes in community, faith, and education and we are thrilled to have him."

Assistant Principal for Auxiliary Services, Mike Haupt, added, "Coach Caragher is bringing nearly 30 years of collegiate Division 1 experience to Saints. His wealth of experience as a coach, educator, and administrator will help take Saints football to new heights."

After his collegiate career as a quarterback at UCLA ended, Coach Caragher served as a graduate assistant at UCLA under Terry Donahue, earning degrees in Administrative Studies and Education. After UCLA, he was hired by Rich Brooks at Kentucky, serving as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, helping Kentucky to its first bowl game victory in over 20 years (2006 Music City Bowl win over Clemson).

After four years at Kentucky, Coach Caragher was hired as the head football coach at the University of San Diego. While at USD, his teams went 44-22, winning three Pioneer League titles and being named Pioneer League Coach of the Year in 2011. Following USD, Caragher became the head coach at San Jose State from 2013-2016, as SJSU transitioned into the Mountain West Conference.

Caragher's time at San Jose was highlighted with a 27-16 win over Georgia State in the 2015 Cure Bowl and a 66-52 win over then-No. 16 Fresno State in 2013. Following San Jose State, Caragher

spent two years at San Diego State under head coach Rocky Long. Most recently, Caragher worked as an Assistant Athletic Director at USD from 2020-2022.

"The school is electric after hearing of Coach Caragher's arrival. His record as an educator, coach, and leader of young men speaks for itself," said St. Augustine President Edwin Hearn.

"Coach Caragher has served in recruiting roles, all phases of coaching, and in administrative roles at the collegiate level," said Linville. "He knows how to work within a budget, coordinate travel and logistics, handling a wide variety of fundraising efforts, how to hire a staff, and most importantly, how to mentor young men and foster relationships that extend beyond the football field. He understands community involvement and the importance of education. During his time at USD he worked with the Autism Tree Foundation and developed an annual mentor program."

Saints Principal, James Horne, added, "I am delighted we have a skilled coach and educator who understands his role in an academic and athletic environment. He is a true gentleman who is highly respected as an educator, coach, and member of the greater San Diego community."

Caragher is a native of San Jose, where he graduated from an all-boys catholic school at Bellarmine Catholic College Preparatory. During his time at SJSU, his three sons, Josh (27), Ryan (25), and Scott (24) all attended and graduated from Bellarmine as well. Coach Caragher currently resides in La Mesa with his wife of 33 years, Wendy.

"I am thankful and honored to have the opportunity to be at St. Augustine High School," Caragher said. "Coaching is a privilege and I feel blessed to return to the sidelines and help the young men at Saints pursue their goals and dreams on and off the gridiron."



### 4 More Saintsman Achievers Added at Annual Awards Dinner

*Continued from page 2*

**ANNUAL AWARDEES:** This night we continue to celebrate what it means to be a Saintsman.

- Halvor “Hal” Rover ('52)
- Fr. Barry Martinson, S.J. ('63)
- Hon. Thomas Whelan ('57)
- Mr. Larry Manzer ('53)

Each has exemplified the true spirit of a Saintsman’s life. They have each in their own way have brought Saints closer to the ideal of building young men who impact their environment in ways that make life better for the rest of us. It is our hope their example will encourage each of us to be a stronger catalyst for helping to build the Kingdom of God in 2024 and beyond.

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## 1 Halvor “Hal” Rover ('52)



Halvor Rover graduated from Saints in 1952. He followed his two older brothers to Saints even though he wanted to go to Grossmont. He was born in La Mesa and as a young boy could tell a World War II plane flying overhead by the sound of the engine. The 1952 yearbook states Hal was a “the caveman for La Mesa who will become ‘one of the few beachcomber hermits ever to attend college.’”

It goes on to say, “Hal was last seen taking bribes from Grossmont players.”

His Saints Experience was definitely all about sports. Hal has the rare distinction of having played in the first basketball game in the new Dougherty Gymnasium after it had opened in 1951. The game was a winning effort against Grossmont. When the John Sanders Gymnasium opened for its first game in 2017, Hal was one of the invited Saintsman who had played in the 1951 game. And as you might have surmised, it was against Grossmont. As it turned out, both games ended in victory.

When asked about his most memorable Saints Experience Hal stated, “the day that Jim Mooney transferred to Saints from back east.” He remembers Jim walking into class wearing a

suit. According to Hal “no one wore suits in those days.” As he approached Fr. Stars, his new teacher, Jim pulled his hand out of his pocket to shake hands and a bunch of change fell to the floor. It was a funny beginning to a friendship that lasted a lifetime. Mooney had lost his father and Hal was the Saintsman that helped him through the experience.

Hal and his wife, Angie married in 1958 and he has always been impressed that she was one of the few girls who could throw a perfect spiral. They moved to Coachella Valley in 1965 where they started an insulation business that grew into a drywall and building supply company.

Hal felt Saints greatest gift to him was a feeling of belonging. He remembered, “The Augustinians forced all of us through. While my brothers were excellent students, I was your typical “C” student.”

“It turned out both Fr. Aherne and I were attempting to help Jim Mooney deal with his dad’s death. As a result, I not only became friends with Jim, but also with Fr. Aherne. There were dinners at the “men’s only” Grant Grill with Fr. Aherne. He thought I had a vocation which helped me see myself in a different light.”

When Saints knew it had to modernize the campus, it was Hal Rover who made the first leadership gift to the campaign. Fr. John Keller who at the time was the President of Saints was afraid the school would not be able to raise the necessary funds for Phase I. It wasn’t until Hal and Angie made their gift that Fr. Keller knew it was possible. It was their generosity that established that Saints could command a 6-figure gift.

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When Xavier College Preparatory High School was being considered by Catholics in Palm Desert, it was the Rover family who stepped up over and over again to make sure the school was built. Hal was so instrumental in the development of the school, he was given the opportunity to name the mascot and, of course he chose “Saints.”

Hal and Angie live a simple life. To this day, they live in the home they purchased in 1968. Hal can regularly be seen in the flower beds of Sacred Heart Church making sure they have been adequately weeded. Hal and Angie had 3 children, 15 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

There is no surprise this Saintsman was chosen for the Augustinian Achievement Award. He and Angie have made a difference at Saints and certainly in Palm Desert with their stewardship of the new Catholic High School.

Without their generosity, insight, and strong desire to establish a high school for the Coachella Valley, Xavier College Preparatory High School would not exist. They have changed the future of that region as the school has lifted expectations for boys and girls who live there.

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Without their generosity, insight, and strong desire to establish a high school for the Coachella Valley, Xavier College Preparatory High School would not exist.

## 2 Fr. Barry Martinson ('63), Sg



A Biblical verse in Matthew applies to this recipient of the Augustinian Achievement Award, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me.” For over 40 years Fr. Barry Martinson, a Jesuit, has been ministering to the Ayatal people—one of 12 indigenous tribes of Taiwan. He along with his brother, Jerry, also a Jesuit

have transformed a region of the world that most people don’t know exists. As Fr. Jerry Martinson died a few years ago, it was the two of them that have solved a multitude of problems to bring the critical tools of the contemporary world to them. It was a work that brought all of their facilities into play for the chance of revitalizing their community.

Born into Mission Hills and parishioners of St. Vincent’s, Fr. Martinson graduated from St. Augustinian High School in 1963. It became evident early in his time at Saints that he excelled in nearly everything. Fr. Barry was a class leader, the creator of “Tradition,” the editor of the Augustinian, a publication still being produced by present day students, an artist, musician, actor, scholar, and usher. The 1963 yearbook states, “Barry will be remembered for his performance in OLP’s operetta.” As a member of the Pep Club, Drama Club, and California Scholarship Federation, he won the highest honor bestowed on a graduating senior, the highly coveted “Augustinian Medal.”

Fr. Barry answered the question, “How will I use the gifts that God has given me for the good?” It was in his vocation, in a deep place in his heart, where he and his brother chose to follow the Cross to change the world. They gave to others in the hope others would see their happiness in living counter-cultural lives—in their case

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## Augustinian Heritage

a forgotten people. After joining the Jesuits, Fr. Barry learned Chinese and discerned he would become a missionary in Taiwan.

In his lifetime, Fr. Barry has written over a dozen books, he paints, and runs a stained glass factory which offers employment to the people he serves. He founded an elementary school where he teaches English once a week. In his spare time Fr. Barry has rehabbed two churches and created a hostel on church property for travelers which also offers employment to the locals.

In a larger sense he has become an ombudsman for his community advocating for road improvement, better flood control, employment, and funds for teaching computer skills to the youth. Fr. Barry remarked, "I think Jerry, my brother, was made for great things and I was made for little things. Happily, some of those little things have really turned out great, and I could not be more thankful."

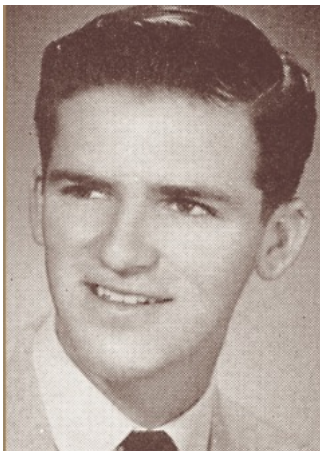
Although there have been days when Fr. Barry did not know where his next meal would come from, he is fond of saying, "God will provide."

Fr. Barry unlike the servant in the Bible did not bury his talents but has used his life well. Through his life the Gospel values of Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas have been a blessing to the people Fr. Barry serves. Fr. Barry's life has provided a vivid model of what it means to live a Catholic life. He has made a faithful journey that has affected generations of people and has brought us together this evening to celebrate a "life well lived."

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In a larger sense he has become an ombudsman for his community advocating for road improvement, better flood control, employment, and funds for teaching computer skills to the youth.

## 3 Hon. Thomas John Whelan ('57)



Federal Judge Thomas Whelan graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1957. Although most people retire by their 80th year, Judge Whelan continues to happily work as a Federal Judge. His contribution and impact on our society is immeasurable.

In June 1963, Tom and his wife Catherine married. She is a graduate of Rosary High School and became a Catholic school teacher at Stella Maris prior to their children arriving. By my calculation they have been married for over 60 years. It has been their Catholic faith that has sustained

them. Their son attended Saints and their three daughters are graduates of Our Lady of Peace. Their faith set the foundation and has always been the center of their lives.

At Saints Tom was not only a scholar but was an athlete and musician as well. As a football tight end on offense and a defensive end on defense, he rarely came off the field. In track and field, Tom was a distance runner.

1957 was the last year Saints had to freelance in athletics. In the fall after Tom's graduation Saints was placed in a public-school league. Tom remembers Fr. Aherne announcing at a pep rally prior to the Point Loma game his senior year that Point Loma was the only school not to vote for Saints being included in the re-leaguing. He remembered the spirit was sky-high and a victory that night.

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If he was not busy enough, Tom also played in the band. As a member of the marching band, Tom played the snare drum, and in the concert-band played the French Horn. The 1957 yearbook states Tom was also involved in intramural for four years, loved to hunt, and kept his car running like a Swiss watch.

In 1990, Governor Deukmejian appointed Tom to the Superior Court bench. During his time serving on the Superior Court, an Augustinian Achievement Award winner Alan Preckel ('64) apprenticed with him. Judge Whelan served the court as the Presiding Judge. He cites the Betty Broderick murder case as his most high-profile case on his docket. It was the first case shown on television gavel to gavel and the case was made into movies and books.

During President Clinton's presidency, Senator Diane Feinstein in 1998 nominated Tom for the Federal Bench. He was unanimously confirmed by the Senate. To date Judge Whelan is the only Saintsman to serve the United States as a Federal Judge. While presiding over many high-profile cases, Judge Whelan cites the Duncan Hunter misuse of campaign funds case as one of his most important trials.

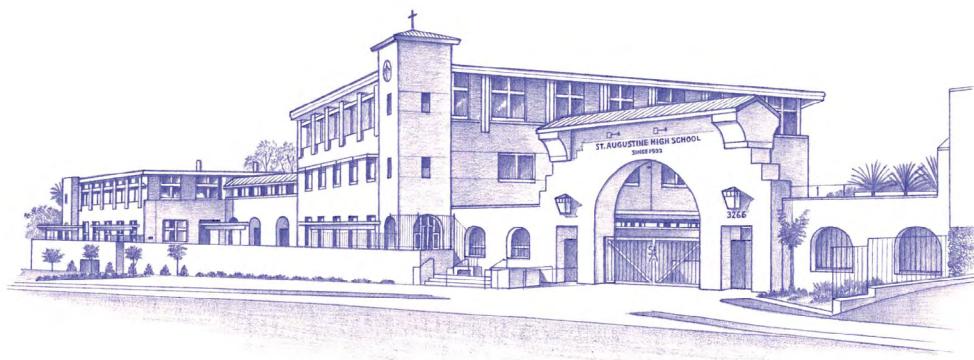
If Judge Whelan was invited to the Distinguished Student Award, both he and Catherine would make the effort to attend. They were part of the Saints family and they attended to support the boys being honored.

With six grandsons, and two granddaughters, Judge Whelan and Catherine sent three of their grandsons to Saints.

When asked to identify Saints primary gift to him, Judge Whelan stated, "Saints provided me with an excellent academic education in the atmosphere of teaching me the core principles of integrity and morality. It has given me a great foundation for my life and profession, while giving me life-long friends."

In 1999 after becoming a Federal Judge, Judge Whelan was asked to give the keynote address at Graduation downtown at Golden Hall. When he concluded his remarks, he unzipped his gown and showed the crowd his lettermen's jacket and said much to the delight to our guests, "Uni was alright for my girls, but real men go to Saints."

Judge Whelan you have lived the Saints values of Unity, Truth, and Love. In your family, and work life you have exceeded all expectations for a graduate of St. Augustine High School. We are honored you have walked with us.



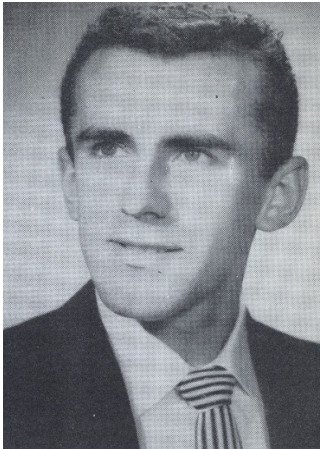
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[Saints] has given me a great foundation for my life and profession, while giving me life-long friends.

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## 4 Larry Manzer ('53)



Larry Manzer graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1953. He earned the title “the Beard” for being a 4-year man from St. Joseph’s. He was a leader at Saints which became a theme for his entire life. Although a member of the Varsity Cross Country team, Larry was more interested in writing a monthly column for The Augustinian or serving the student-body as an Altar Server.

As a leader he was popular and a supporter of all activities. His major interests were cars and sailboats. These have been defining elements to this day. While the yearbook that year states he “can’t stand squares” it goes on to say, “he was last seen getting a ticket for having loud pipes on his car.”

When asked for his favorite memory while attending Saints Larry states, “Presiding as ASB President of the school. It was a great year—we had a new gymnasium and we got it up and running. After every game, we hosted a jukebox dance. We invited girls from all over San Diego, public and Catholic. We made \$1000 for the school that year just for the dances.” There was only one incident when they had to turn the jukebox off and Larry’s dad had to throw out 3 non-Saints boys for misbehaving.

That year at the senior awards assembly, the St. Augustine Award was not given to Larry as had occurred for the previous 3 ASB Presidents. In those days, it was almost a given, the award was given to the ASB President. It was a major disappointment but did not dim his love for Saints. As he said, “The Augustinians gave me a Christian-Catholic example of how to live my life.” It was a roadmap that serves Larry to this day. He has been a role-model for his family and a voice that sometimes challenges conventional thinking.

By Larry’s own admission, he was not an exceptional student. It was his social-emotional ability that was the key for him becoming a highly successful businessman. At various times, he has owned several different businesses. At one time he was a business partner with Dennis Conner of America Cup Fame and to this day a fellow member of the San Diego Yacht Club. Larry was a go-getter who knew how to create value, personally and professionally.

In 1979, Larry’s family was awarded the National Sailing Family award. They opened the New York boat show, the largest boat show in the world and were interviewed by Walter Cronkite.

While highly successful in life and business, Larry was nominated for the Augustinian Achievement Award by members of his class. As the single force that united his class, he made sure everyone in the class of 1953 always felt included. Larry is a connector and was able to keep his class organized through their 65th reunion. He loved his classmates, and they loved him.

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In 1979, Larry’s family was awarded the National Sailing Family award. They opened the New York boat show, the largest boat show in the world and were interviewed by Walter Cronkite.

Larry will be 90 years old in May. In can be said he has not missed a beat. When his first wife died, he found Sandy Smelik whose husband had also died. They were married on the Fourth of July 25 years ago. Their combined families—five girls and a boy from Larry’s first marriage and two girls and a boy from Sandy’s marriage have become united in their love for each other. The seven girls all attended OLP and the boys went to Saints. Their combined family rivals the Brady Bunch. They now have seventeen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Based on their faith and their love for each other, the family has thrived.

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There is a quote in the movie, Top Gun that sums up how Larry lives his life. Maverick says to Goose as they are walking on the tarmac loaded with fighter planes, "I feel the need for speed." Larry drives a red Corvette that is in mint condition. He is known to drive with the pedal to the metal up Washington Street just east of the 5 freeway. As he explained, it is a perfect place to feel the power of his car as there

are no side streets and no police officers. In Ed Hearn's initial introduction to Larry, in a surprise move, Larry hit it and Ed is still trying to find his lunch.

Larry, you have always lived your life in a way that has made the people around you feel comfortable. You are the ultimate connector, and it is clear you especially love your family and your classmates. It

is amazing you have stayed connected to nuns on a monthly basis who taught you 70 years ago.

You have honored St. Augustine High School by your life of service to your alma mater, parish, and the community. Thank you for all you have done to build a more loving Saints.

## 2024 Dinner Photos



School President Edwin Hearn (left) presents Judge Tom Whelan ('57) his Augustine Achievement Award.



Faculty member Mr. Tom Cudal introduces Achievement Awardee Larry Manzer.



Halvor "Hal" Rover holds his Saints Annual Achievement Award.



Fr. Barry Martinson ('63) offers his thanks to the audience for his Achievement Award.



## Fresh Starts

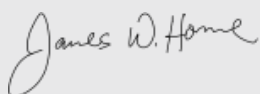
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The journey in education, like that of life, provides us transitory moments where we can reflect a bit before getting a fresh start on what's next. The end of one semester or school year really just signifies the beginning of another. But it is these "fresh starts" that give students, teachers, and administrators alike a chance to seize a window of opportunity to make improvements as a new semester or year begins.

The WCEA/WASC self-study is over, but the progress toward our new vision and goals is just beginning.

We thank the entire school community for their unwavering commitment to the school's improvement over the past several years. And now, looking to the future, we are excited to have the community share in the continued development of the school and its programs as we strive to educate the minds and hearts of the young men we serve.

Yours in the Spirit of Catholic Education,



James Horne  
Principal



*WCEA – Western Catholic Education Association*

*WASC – Western Association of Schools and Colleges*

## A Safe Harbor for Boys

*Continued from page 1*

Principal for Auxiliary Services, communicate the reasons for attending Saints, but there are Saints parents who extoll the many virtues of the school to their friends and acquaintances.

Parents have been and are the very best advocates for Saints. They see the difference in their sons almost right from the beginning of fall classes. While a few boys might take a while to find a group, most already know a bunch of boys from other Catholic schools, who have gone to Saints Summer School, which makes them feel comfortable almost from the opening day of school.

This positive buzz meets reality with the tuition Saints must charge. Although some might have sticker shock, it is important to note that Saints gave out \$4.645 million last fall for financial assistance and the school is committed to growing the Endowment Fund which directly impacts this commitment. While some families will pay the full amount of tuition, 53% last year received an average of \$13,000 in financial assistance. When considering a discount of this magnitude for the average family seeking aid, the tuition is massively reduced.

Recently, the Augustinian Secondary Educational Association met at Austin Catholic High School in Detroit. This is a group of ten Augustinian schools from North America who meet annually to discuss the health of our schools and projects we wish to push forward during the next calendar year. Ron Algeo, the Associate Head of School for Malvern Preparatory School is the current chairperson. Malvern the oldest Augustinian secondary school dates back to 1842, the same year Villanova University was founded. At this particular meeting, we were working on a Strategic Plan for Augustinian secondary education. In the middle of the discussion, Algeo leaned towards me as I was sitting to his right and whispered, "Augustinian education is the best answer for a boys' education in today's world."

Now that is quite a statement, but as I was weighing its validity, it easily rang true to me in the post-Covid world. As Algeo's comment rolled around in my head, I came to the same conclusion. The current environment is full of social anxiety, and stress that blankets all we do.

While many young men were shuttered in their homes during 2020, Saintsmen were at school. While instruction was different during that year, learning continued with masks and boys seated 6 feet apart from each other. Given the emphasis placed on Augustinian educators to build relationships and friendships with their students among the boys, positive social interaction has always been of the highest priority. Augustinian education by its very nature fosters strong relationships which aids the learning process.

We know young boys feel their best when they are connected to social groups, with people who care about them and want to see them succeed. When boys are happy, they are generally thriving.

*Continued on next page.*

One of my fall activities is placing a phone call to each new family. It is important to understand Saints from the parents' perspective and to discuss potential problems. As the president, it is my privilege to hear over and over the happiness their sons are experiencing through the many activities taking place on campus.

In one phone call in the third month of his son's Saints Experience, a gentleman answered the phone and after we exchanged pleasantries, he went on to say his son's grandfather had graduated from Saints, and from the moment his son could reason and think, the grandfather talked about Saints in the most glowing terms. The dad went on to say, he talked his way out of going to Saints and went to the local public high school. When he looks back it was one the big mistakes of his life. His wife had graduated from Uni and for years has advocated her son must attend Saints.

By the time the decision had to be made for high school, the die had been cast and the son began his Saints Experience this past fall. At the time the dad recalled, our expectations were

sky-high. As he recalled, "When I look back on the experience thus far, I feel Saints has exceeded everything we thought a high school could be."

Saints is the safe harbor. It is a place for young boys to grow up and prepare themselves for college and their life to come. To be able to be a boy in the truest sense without the judgment of others is a blessing for a high school-age boy. Imagine boats latched together in the safety of a harbor with an impending tempest on the horizon, just as our boys find that safe harbor in their friendships with each other. A place that allows them to learn from self-discovery and our relationship with God—a task that is our most difficult journey.

When we evaluate a Saintsmen in his senior year, we know that they are grounded by a budding faith in God with a self-confident attitude, an intellectual curiosity, and a toughness for anything the world has to offer. While the open sea might be more dangerous, their values and ability to persist toward a goal make them leaders and decision-makers who are uncommon in today's world.

## Stops Along the Way



**Learn to be Brothers**



**Blink of an Eye: Frosh to Seniors**



**Trusting in God and Each Other**



**Charting New Courses**



**Together We Win**



## Saints Grad to Coach National Cross Country Team

*Continued from page 4*

Team USA athletes were selected from the USA Cross Country Championships on Saturday, January 20th in Richmond, Virginia.

Paul Greer was there at Team Processing to meet his Men's U20 who will represent our nation at this biggest and most elite level of Cross Country in the entire world.

While at Saints, Greer was coached by then coach Dan Schaitel, who credited Paul Greer for possessing "unbridled determination." Greer ran the seventh fastest mile in the nation by the time he graduated from Saints.

While at San Diego State College, Greer set the 1,500-meter track record, a record that still stands.

In 1989 at the age of 24, Greer ran a mile under four minutes at UCLA's Drake Stadium. In 1992, Greer competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials' 1,500-meter event.

To date, he is one of four track competitors in San Diego County to have recorded a time under four minutes at any level.

Greer for more than 25 years has been men's cross country coach at San Diego City College, where he teaches classes in exercise science there.

Retired from competitive running at age 57 but is still part of the running scene by authoring books on exercise and volunteering at events like San Diego's annual Rock N' Roll Marathon race.

Recently asked by a local media outlet about his enduring faith he added, "I

believe through possessing faith in your own abilities and persevering through hard times, there are amazing things that happen in your life. I am 57 years of age so naturally there has been great times and challenging moments in my life but I believe we are called to love and serve in this lifetime and I have been given wonderful opportunities to share my gifts with others and hopefully make a wonderful difference in people's lives..."

Now, he returns to the world stage as a coach by leading Team USA, the 2024 Men's U20 National squad at next month's world championships.





# AUDITIONS AHEAD FOR SPRING MUSICAL

**Coming Soon!**

**Acting Auditions and Tech Crew Interviews**  
for the Saints Drama 2023-2024 Spring Musical.

Crew Interviews will be held the week of February 12, 2024

**The Spring Musical dates and times are:**

April 19, 25, 26, 27 @ 7pm

April 20 @ 2pm

in the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts

**For more information:**

Contact Saints Drama Director,  
Mr. Travis Blumer: [tblumer@sahs.org](mailto:tblumer@sahs.org)





SAVE THE DATE  
32ND ANNUAL

Grandparents  
Day

MARCH 22, 2024

11:00 AM

FR. SANDERS GYM

ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL  
3266 NUTMEG STREET, SAN DIEGO, CA 92104



**SAINTS SCENE**

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

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- Senior Editor:** Kevin DeRieux, Finances & Facilities Director
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- Saints Scene Coordinator:** Thomas Shess, Alum Parent ('05): Thomas.Shess@gmail.com
- Art Director:** Kristin Hardy, OLP ('05), Kristin Hardy Design: kristinhardydesign.com
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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.



**Mission of St. Augustine High School – Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition. By helping to form loving disciples of Jesus Christ we communicate to the world the gospel values of community, truth and love.**