X

SAINTS SCENE



THE CHAMPS. Victorious Saints Varsity Soccer team rushes from the field after defeating Mater Dei High School (Santa Ana) 2-0 in the championship game of the CIF Southern California Regional tournament. That's Saintsman Nico Zarur holding the State Championship Trophy. He and Gus Velez scored the winning goals.

Photo: Bill Hill, Saints Dad.

Saints Soccer Twice as Nice

St. Augustine's vaunted Varsity Soccer team renowned for its stonewall defense ended its season as State Champions for the 2023-24 season (Open division). The energetic Saints team led by coach Brendan Johnston went on to win the State Championship. Because some No, Calif. High school soccer teams play at a different time of year winners of both regions are recognized as State Champions.

Saints fought hard to win the San Diego CIF section trophy in the open division (the toughest league in town) then pulled off a pair of one-goal playoff wins against Mira Costa High (3-2) and Riverside-Arlington (1-0) to advance to the Southern California Regional Finals.



Neighbor Relations and **Traffic**

Dear Parents and Friends,



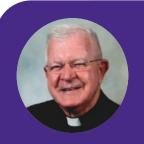
Principal James Horne

St. Augustine High School respects and values its home, the historic North Park district in San Diego. We strive to treat

our friends and neighbors, the citizens of North Park, with respect in everything we do. Over the years we have worked to improve parking and traffic concerns both for the members of the campus community and for the benefit of our neighbors.

Before and after school traffic continues to be a pressing concerns for our neighbors. Some of the neighbors most common frustrations relate to traffic at the start and end of the school day.

Continued on page 18



Farewell, Fr. Bob Rev. Robert William Gavotto O.S.A. February 14, 1939 – March 4, 2024 See Page 2.

God Bless and Good Bye to a Beloved Priest

It is with no small blend of sadness mixed with gratitude and joy that the Augustinian Province of St. Augustine in the West announces the death of our brother, Rev. Robert Gavotto O.S.A. On March 4th of this year, he died at Nazareth House in San Diego after kidney failure.

Bob was born in San Diego, CA on February 14th, 1938 to Carl Gavotto, and Mary Baldo Gavotto. He is survived by his brother, Ed. His brother, Richard, predeceased him.

Fr. Bob attended St. John the Evangelist school in San Diego. His high school years were spent at St. Augustine High School in San Diego. He graduated from there in 1955. At the end of that year, he began studies at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington D.C. After one year he began formation as an Augustinian religious in 1956, studying at the Augustinian Prep Seminary in Staten Island, New York. He entered the Augustinian novitiate in January of 1957, and professed vows in February of 1958. The next two years he studied at Villanova University. The following four years, he studied for the priesthood at St. Monica's International College in Rome. He was ordained a priest in Rome on March 14, 1964. For the next four years he studied for his doctorate in canon law, and received his degree in 1969, while he was a student priest at Assumption Parish in Lawrence, Massachusetts. The next two years he served as a teacher at his alma mater, St. Augustine High School.



Among his many artistic passions was spending time at the easel creating paintings that he turned into postcards of his travels aboard. Fr. Bob stands with an exhibition of his art showcased in the lobby of the school early in 2010.

In 1970, having just begun his associate pastor assignment at Our Mother of Good Counsel in Los Angeles, his talents brought him back to The Augustinian General Curia in Rome, where he was elected Secretary General of the Order. In 1971 he was elected Assistant General of the Order of St. Augustine, under Prior General Ted Tack. Two years later he again served as a teacher at St. Augustine's in San Diego. In 1977 he accepted the invitation of Bishop Leo Maher to be the Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of San Diego, as well as the Director of the Office of Evangelization. From 1980 to 1987, he was the pastor of St. Patrick's parish in San Diego.

The next five years Fr. Bob again served at St. Augustine High School as both a teacher and Director of Recruitment. He served as pastor of Our Lady of Grace parish in Castro Valley from 1992 to 1999. The next three years he served as a canon lawyer for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. From 2002 to 2004 he served as President of Villanova Preparatory School in Ojai. For the next twelve years he served as chaplain of St. Augustine High School. While he retired in 2016 at the St. Augustine monastery in San Diego, he remained the unofficial chaplain for the Saints football, basketball, and volleyball teams until barely more than two weeks ago.

Student Leadership

OLP and Saints ASB students planned, organized, and lead the TACSC (The Association of Catholic Student Councils) leadership conference for local middle school parish students. Over 450 middle school students participated over the three days at St. Rose of Lima, St. Pius, and OLP campuses.





Faith and Friendship Trek



9 MILE TREK. Saints annual Junior Pilgrimage was held last month giving students and faculty time to reflect on faith and friendship while walking the 9-mile journey and learning about the Augustinian Heritage in the city. (L-R) Carlos Castan, Santi Postelthwaite, Madame Allen, Johnny Stone, Ramy Jaibaji, Dillon Tarr, Kirsten Hadzicki, John Lamerato, Jack White and Teo Konyn.



WHOLLY HOLY. Although there are some historic Augustinian Sites on the pilgrimage, the snack stop at Daddy's Hot Dogs is a favorite of the students. (L-R) Sam Ayana, Alex DuBreuil, Jessica Brophy, Owen Sullivan (behind), Joseph Wehbe, Michael Luzi (behind), Andres Behar, Shane Cavanaugh, Chris Black, Thomas Moore, John Putris, Joshue Gross, and Jorge Jimenez.

AP Exam Testing Schedule

The 2024 AP Exams will be administered over two weeks in May: May 6-10 and May 13-17.

Date	8 a.m. Local Time Students report at 7:15 a.m.	12 p.m. Local Time Students report at 11:15 a.m.		
Monday, May 6, 2024	United States Government and Politics	 Chemistry 		
Tuesday, May 7, 2024	 Microeconomics 	SeminarStatistics		
Wednesday, May 8, 2024	 English Literature and Composition 	Computer Science A		
Thursday, May 9, 2024		 Psychology 		
Friday, May 10, 2024	 United States History 	MacroeconomicsSpanish Literature and Culture		
Monday, May 13, 2024	Calculus ABCalculus BC			
Tuesday, May 14, 2024	 English Language and Composition 			
Wednesday, May 15, 2024	French Language and CultureWorld History: Modern	Computer Science PrinciplesMusic Theory		
Thursday, May 16, 2024	Spanish Language and Culture	 Biology 		
Friday, May 17, 2024	 Physics 1: Algebra-Based 	- Latin		



AROUND CAMPUS

Career Day

Junior Career Day presentations continued at a quarterly gathering of the Society of Saints Scholars. Class of 2025 Saintsmen heard about the San Diego Sheriff's office from Deputy Scott Miller ('08) and also from SDGE public relations spokesperson Anthony Wagner ('94).





Printmakers from Art I

This image is a collage of work from the printmaking project in Art 1. The students carved their drawings into a rubber block, rolled the ink with a brayer and pulled prints in a variety of styles and colors.

Students whose work is featured here are: Hudson Taylor, Gavin Lowe, Francisco De La Lama, Kioshi Hina, Mason Bautista, Mau Kuri Bernal, Spirit Soonthornnon, Cruz Guevara, Kelley Gross, Seba Garcia, and Turner Bronson. All of which are Class of 2026, Sophomores.



THE SENIOR CLASS SAINTSMEN CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND



Held in honor of the Mothers' support, encouragement and love at the Bahia Resort Hotel 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 by April 12, 2024 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

\checkmark	Yes, my son and I will attend the Annual Mother and Senio
	Tribute Luncheon

My son's name i	s				
_					
My name is		 			

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

Please submit payment and reservation form by April 12, 2024 or register online at www.sahs.org after March 1, 2024



SPRING SPORTS CAPSULES « By Donovan Faranso ('24)



Baseball

With a great mixture of young and mature talent, the Saints Baseball team has started off with a 7-1 record, along with 4 wins in the GMC tournament. The Saint Mary's signee, Justin Heffler has started off guns blazing hitting .455 along with two home runs. Junior Grayson Boles has been terrific in his pitching and has decided to further his path on the mound at the University of Texas. Juniors Michael Ivanjack and Drake Konja have provided great efforts for the team as well. Coach $Craig\ da\ Luz\ looks\ to\ take\ this\ talented\ team\ deep\ into\ postseason\ play.$



Track and Field

Coming off 4 consecutive Western league titles, Coach Ken Nwadike is looking to create a dynasty in the San Diego Section. Senior Cole Lambeth has been phenomenal in his efforts, especially in the 4x4 garnering offers from 4 year universities. Junior Joseph Sbuttoni set a school record in the pole vault with a height of 15'6". Seniors Ethan Nguyen and Miles Harris lead the team in shot put and discus respectively. At deadline, the team has only had one meet, and finished with a convincing win against San Diego High School.



Golf

The golf team has started their season and are excited to compete at the highest level. They are led by Senior Jack Dougenis and Junior Lucas Younes. Underclassman Austin Lambeth and Julius Salem are eager to prove themselves and climb up the ranks. They are led by longtime Head Coach, Tom Issak. The team is more ready than ever to bring back some silverware to campus.



Lacrosse

The Lacrosse team is looking forward to dominating the field for another year. Standout players like Colin Foley and James Steiner lead the Saintsmen on the pitch. The team has already picked up quality wins against Granite Hills, Point Loma, and Poway. Head Coach Jon Tolla has gained the respect of his players and looks to continue having an amazing pedigree.

Wrapping Up:

Basketball,

Soccer,

& Wrestling

Solid Season for Winter Sports 2023-24

Basketball

The Saints basketball team had a tough and challenging finish to the season, suffering some key injuries down the stretch. Nonetheless, Coach Michael Haupt and his team still managed to put together a 25-6 record against national-level competition. The basketball team won its third-consecutive Western League title and 5th title in the last seven years. Saints has not lost a league game in three years. Looking to repeat as CIF Open champions, Saints took the 2nd seed into the playoffs, eyeing a showdown with top-seeded Carlsbad. Unfortunately, a season-ending knee injury in the quarterfinals to senior and all-CIF player lan De La Rosa and an ankle injury to sharp-shooting Jaden Bailes, left the Saints short-handed in the semifinals. The same was true in the Division 1 SoCal Regional playoffs as the Saints season came to an end with a tough loss to Damien.

- 1st Team All-CIF: Lolo Rudolph, lan de la Rosa, and Jaden Bailes
- Western League Player of the Year: Lolo Rudolph
- 1st Team All-League: Lolo Rudolph, lan de la Rosa, and Jaden Bailes
- 2nd Team All-League: Isaiah Hasten
- Honorable Mention All-League: Manny Cortez



MILESTONE MAN. During the Torrey
Pines Holiday Classic late last year,
Saints Varsity Basketball Coach Mike
Haupt reached the 600-win milestone.
At the end of the season, Coach Haupt
now sits at an overall career record of
614-253, good for 5th place all-time in
San Diego and 2nd place among active
coaches. Congratulations, Coach Haupt.



LOLO OF THE YEAR.
Senior Lolo Randolph
was named First Team
All-CIF along with
Senior lan de la Rosa
and Sophomore Jaden
Bailes. Western League
named Lolo as its Player
of the Year. Kudos to all.

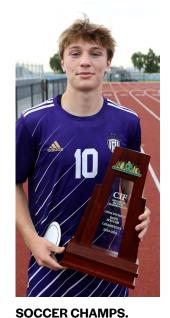
Soccer

The Saints soccer team captured its 3rd SoCal Regional State Championship with a decisive 2-0 win over top-seeded Mater Dei Santa Ana. It was an exciting finish to an impressive season for Coach Brendan Johnston and Co. Expectations were high, as the team returned all-CIF player lain Wagner along with several other key contributors like Octavio Ybarra, Nico Zarur, Alonso Somohano, Griffin Helfand, Emiliano Postlethwaite, and Alex DuBreuil. Those players, with the addition of senior Gus Valez and the team was off and running to an overall 21-2-3 record.

After winning a sixth-consecutive Western League title, Saints headed into the CIF playoffs as the top-seed in the Open Division. In beating Del Norte, 1-0, in the finals, Saints won back-to-back CIF Open titles for the first time in program history. Saints was given the No. 3 seed in the SoCal Regionals where Saints defeated Mira Costa 3-2 in the quarterfinals, Arlington Riverside 1-0 in the semifinals, and the aforementioned 2-0 championship win over Mater Dei. Saints' previous SoCal Regional State Championships came in 2012 and 2021.

Here are some other post-season honors earned by this year's championship soccer team:

- CIF Player of the Year: lain Wagner
- 1st Team All-CIF: Gus Valez
- 2nd Team All-CIF: Nico Zarur
- CIF Scholar Athlete Team Captain: Samuel Velasquez
- Western League Player of the Year: lain Wagner
- 1st Team All-League: Griffin Helfand, Octavio Ybarra, and Nico Zarur
- 2nd Team All-League: Emiliano Postlethwaite, Alexander DuBreuil, and Gus Valez



Senior lain Wagner was named CIF Player of the Year. Read more Soccer success in this article. Way to go, lain.

Continued on next page

Wrestling

The Saints wrestling team had a very successful season, going 9-1 on the year in team-related dual meets and finishing in 2nd place in Western League (4-1). Coach Mike Perez saw the wrestling team take the team-title at the Monte Vista Invitational, finish 2nd place in the City Conference/Willie Jones Tournament, and 3rd place at CIF DIII. At CIF, Saints qualified a school-record 11 wrestlers for the Masters Tournament, which is the State qualifier. Of the 11 wrestlers are Masters, three Saintsmen placed; senior Byron Cunningham took 5th and seniors Bo Grohman and Ethan Nyugen each took 6th place. The top four finishers advanced to the State Championships.

 1st Team All Western-League: Byron Cunningham, Bo Grohman





WRESTLING DUO.

Byron Cunningham (top) and Bo Grohman (right) were named to the first team All-Western League.

School Spirit

The world famous "pit" in action. Saints student body is an all-sports cheering section.

BOYZ NOISE. Award winning Saints student body cheering section goes wild during recent Varsity Basketball game.



2024 Team Previews

Continued from page 7



Swim

Led by Seniors Joseph Nguyen and Andrew Bier the Saints Swim team looks to capture a CIF title. Head Coach Brian Prezlock exemplifies hard work and determination by having the team practice early in the morning in Coronado every day. Bier is looking to build off last year's campaign as he finished top 10 in the CIF Section in breast strokes. The season has already started as the team has attained wins against Mater Dei and San Diego High School.



Tennis

The Saints Tennis Team has had a near perfect campaign throughout the spring season with ten wins. They avenged their only loss to San Diego High School with a 10-8 win. They are led by captains Jacques Allende, Alan Gamiz, and Luke Abrom. The highlight of the season was beating their bitter rivals up north with a convincing 12-6 win. Standouts like Sebastian Careaga and Javier Gulliot have helped the team tremendously. The team looks to cruise by conquering the Western league and is in serious contention for the CIF title.



Volleyball

The Volleyball team has many standout athletes and amazing talents on the roster. Senior Isaiah Hasten showed his hard work by joining the team after playing multiple sports earlier in the year. They picked up key wins early in the season sweeping Grossmont and Madison in 3 sets. Senior Lukas Cerny and Sophomore Nick Boeh have provided tremendous efforts for the Saintsmen.

The Volleyball Team is led by Head Coach Janene Palafox and looks to compete hard throughout the spring season.

ST. AUGUSTINE

Summer Session 2024

Come join our Summer Session
Academic Classes and Sports Camps
Classes for Credit and Enrichment
Sports Camps for Boys and Girs ages 6–15

See our Summer offerings at: www.sahs.org

Moments of Grace

Images from Fr. John Keller's Memorial Mass and Celebration of Life.

Photography by Mr. William Hill *Saints Scene* Chief Photographer and Saints Dad.



Mass and Celebration of Life for Fr. John D. Keller, O.S.A., Class of 1955 was held February 28 on the grounds of St. Augustine High School.



Wreath for Fr. Keller and the Mass Choir.



Opening remarks by Principal James Horne.





First Reading by Zachary Horne. Zac of the Class of 2024 was baptized by Fr. Keller.



Eulogy by School President Edwin Hearn

Fr. Keller with Pope John Paul II.





Mass and Final Blessing by Rev. Maxime Villeneuve, O.S.A., Chaplain.



Luncheon after in Vasey Patio.



Fr. Keller celebrating his first Mass in the Saints Chapel.



Chapel display with 1955 Yearbook.



Incoming Frosh Scholarship Winners

School Welcomes Class of 2028 Parochial Scholars at Entrance

Ten incoming Freshman for the (Class of 2028) received a \$40,000 scholarship at entrance to attend St. Augustine High School beginning the 2024-25 school year. The ten demonstrated the highest scores of the 303 eight graders, who took the entrance exam this past January, said Mr. James Horne, Saints Principal.

"Every year we are amazed at the remarkable number of young men, who wish to attend Saints," said Mr. Horne, "we find it very difficult to limit our enrollment, but for those who are accepted, they represent amazing scholastic and citizenship attributes."



James Botz St. Didacus



Juan Gallego St. Therese



Hugo Amezquita St. Vincent de Paul



Bosco Lujan Sacred Heart



Joseph Quinn St. Didacus



Philip Cesena St. Patrick School



Miguel Covarrubias
Pacific Coast Academy



Luke Deorsola St. Columba



Nathaniel Lee St. Patrick School



Marco Santillan St. Rose of Lima

Augustinian Seal

The emblem or seal of the Augustinian Order represents our Augustinian spirituality.

The **flaming heart** is the human heart. It symbolizes Augustine's love of God and his fellow brothers and sisters. The Augustinian heart is passionately alive, with the desire to know God and experience divine love in our lives.

The **open book** represents St. Augustine's own conversion to Christianity and the Scriptures. It also symbolizes the Word of God, source of light and truth, and the quest for wisdom.

The **arrow** which pierces the heart represents the Spirit of God piercing our hearts, calling us to continued growth in faith, hope and love. This is the basis of that great restlessness, so typical of St. Augustine, which led him to seek God in all things and above all things.



St. Augustine Players Present The 2024 Spring Musical



Opening Night: Friday, April 19 @ 7pm

Book by Joe Tracz Music & Lyrics by Rob Rokicki Adapted from the book *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Performances: April 20 @ 2pm April 25, 26, 27 @ 7pm This dynamic musical adaptation of Rick Riordan's bestselling book opened on Broadway in 2019. When teenager Percy Jackson discovers he's a demigod, he and his friends embark on an epic journey to find Zeus' missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods.

At the Raymond Center on campus.

WINNERS!

Images from impressive Saints Varsity Wrestling season.

Photos by Bill Hill, Saints Parent.

The Varsity Wrestling program had a record year under Coaches Mike Perez, Mo Pacheco and Evan McKirdy with 9 wins and 1 loss.

They finished 2nd place in Western League, 3rd place in CIF Division III, 1st place in the Monte Vista Invitational, and 2nd place in City Conference Tournament.

Individually, the team sent a school-record 11 wrestlers to Masters (the state-qualifying tournament). Masters honors went to senior Byron Cunningham taking 5th place, and fellow seniors Ethan Nguyen and Bo Grohman taking 6th place. The following are various images of victorious Saintsmen from this season.



NEXT! Bo Grohman ('24) led the Saints vs. La Jolla.



BIG WIN. Yabet Gebrelu ('27) won his match vs. Christian HS.



PIN MASTER. Yvan Sevilla ('24) pinned his opponent from Granite Hills.



WINS BIG. Ethan Nguyen ('24) was victorious in his match with Christian HS in the heavyweight division.



WELL COACHED. (L-R) Varsity Wrestling Coaches Mo Pacheco, Evan McKirdy and Mike Perez enthusiastically coach from the Saints sidelines vs. Scripps Ranch.



God Bless and Good Bye to a Beloved Priest

Continued from page 2

In addition to his being an avid fan of Saints athletics, he was also drawn to the of allure of the high seas, having served as a cruise chaplain more than thirty times, and alternating those with long visits to Hawaii during his retirement. In Hawaii, he also proved himself to be an accomplished artist. Fr. Bob seldom made mention of his illness. He went into the hospital on February 18th, and two days later he entered Nazareth House, where he experienced the graces of their residential care.

For many years Fr. Bob was a fixture at All Hallows Church in La Jolla. His relationship with its parishioners was mutually beneficial, spiritual and social. It is appropriate, then, that his funeral mass will be celebrated at that church in La Jolla the morning of March 11th at 10:00 a.m. This will be preceded by a 9:30 a.m. Office for the Dead. All are welcome. A reception in the hall will follow the mass. While your prayers are the most important gift, in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Augustinian Guild or to St. Augustine High School in San Diego. Both of these ministries have benefitted by the dedicated leadership of Fr. Bob Gavotto O.S.A. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing!

The 5th Annual TASTE of SAINTS will come to life on Saturday, May 18, 2024 on the rooftop of St. Augustine Commons. We can't wait to celebrate.



Add the date to your calendar today!

We promise a great evening of entertainment, local craft beer, wineries and tasteful bites. You won't want to miss our live auction, silent auction, world of wine and much more. Ticket sales go on sale soon!

Bookmark our Taste of Saints website too! sahs.org/tasteofsaints

Join us for our largest fundraiser of the year.

Saints Soccer Twice as Nice

Continued from page 1

There St. Augustine was crown state champion by beating top-ranked Santa Ana Mater-Dei, 2-0. The winning goals were struck by Saintsmen Gus Velez (rebound) and Nico Zarur (corner kick).

Emiliano Postlethwaite was featured as one of the Union-Tribune's Athletes of the Month. The center back was the leader of a stingy defense that included goalies Owen Johnston and Archie Gonzalez. The Defense overall allowed zero points its clutch matches to emerge once again as State and local Open Division divisions.

Neighbor Relations and Traffic

Continued from page 1

As a result we are sharing some valuable tips with you regarding traffic near campus. Saints asks all parents and students to consider these guidelines in an effort to continue our pattern of responsiveness to neighborhood issues and general traffic safety.

- Do not block driveways of our neighbors.
- Consider arranging a drop-off / pick-up location a few blocks from campus with your son to avoid the congestion on Palm and Nutmeg in the 15 minutes before and after school.
- Organize carpools with neighboring students or members of your same team/activity in an effort to help us reduce traffic.
- Do not make U-turns on Palm, nutmeg, 32nd or 33rd streets. It violates posted signage and creates dangerous situations on already narrow streets.
- Do not cross the center medians to pass traffic on narrow neighborhood streets.
- Please obey posted speed limits and stop signs.
- Always greet neighbors courteously and respond to their concerns politely.

In the spirit of Catholic Education and neighborly cooperation,

James W. Home

James Horne Principal





Please join us for a Saints Parent Social

> Saturday April 20, 2024 5:30 - 8:30pm St. Augustine High School Commons \$15 per person Register at www.sahs.org

Augustine's Life in Hippo 391 A.D.

Continued from page 20

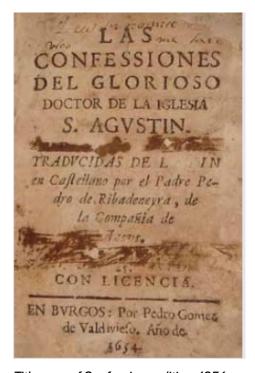
Valerius also had Augustine participate in the Plenary Council of Africa, held at Hippo in October 393 A.D. At the request of the bishops, Augustine delivered the most difficult talk, that on Faith and the Creed. For a priest to be lecturing bishops on any theological topic was itself amazing in the contemporary context. Another exception was made in the case of Augustine when, for fear of "losing" him to some other region, Valerius obtained permission to make Augustine his coadjutor bishop. In this way in 395 A.D. at the age of forty two, Augustine received episcopal ordination and took charge when Valerius died a year later. Be-ing bishop of Hippo was not a light task, for the town was second only to Carthage in ecclesiastical importance in North Africa.

Lest the many visitors he received as bishop should disturb the life of the monastery, Augustine moved into the bishop's house. He then invited the cathedral clergy to form a community, the forerunner of cathedral chapters and the Augustinian Order of today. As with the laymen in his earlier monasteries,

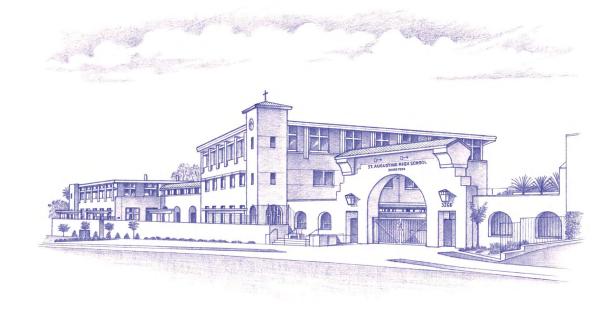
the participants had to give away their possessions and to pledge celibacy in an era when there were married clergy. It was a novel blending of the life of lay monkswith the pastoral responsibility of the priestly life.

Some senior Christians initially doubted that Augustine's conversion was complete. Now that Augustine had the responsibility of leadership, he countered these doubts by writing the "Confessions," his best-known work. Of yet greater importance in its composition was Augustine's wish to unburden his heart more so than his mind, admitting his weakness and his corresponding need for a gracious and loving God. Because of the "Confessions", van der Meer, the author of the classic biography of Augustine, called him the greatest poet of Christian Antiquity without his ever having written any poetry worth mentioning. After a life time of writing, Augustine at the age of seventy four singled out his "Confessions" to reveal: Reading them even now moves me as they did when I was writing them. The "Confessions" has an admission

straight from the heart, Slow have I been in coming to You, Beauty ever ancient yet always new. You are unchangeable and yet change all things. They contrast the then of a wanton youth with the now of a God-filled spiritual maturity.

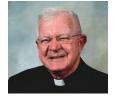


Title page of Confessions edition, 1654.



Augustine's Life in Hippo 391 A.D.

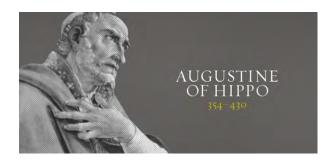
By Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A. ('55), Saints Chaplain Emeritus.



Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A.

So that the very capable Augustine would not "escape", Bishop Valerius offered him a house near the Hippo church and told him to invite Augustine's [hometown] Tagaste community to it. This he did, and the principles developed at Cassiciacum and Tagaste became the basis for the first Hippo community. There had to be some adaptations however, because some of the contemplation at Tagaste had to give way to apostolic activity in Hippo, and not all local applicants were educated men. Even former slaves, who had to be taught to read and write, were accepted. Property was once more held in common, clothing was kept plain and simple, and each monk was assigned a suitable balance between work and study. Augustine instructed his monks in the Faith, and actively led the community.

Common ownership in moderation rather than poverty became the practice of the community. Possidius indicated this by revealing that, although dishes in the refectory were of wood, earthenware or stone, nothing was seen amiss in having spoons of silver. The staple fare was vegetables, with meat provided for sick brethren and for the sake of hospitality when guests were present. Wine was placed on the table in limited quantity. Use of bad language at table resulted in a monk's being fined cups of wine - Augustine's regulations were quite practical! In the dining room Augustine had a notice that anyone speaking uncharitably should either change his conversation or leave the table. The Hippo monastery became a recruiting centre and a training ground for church leaders. The first seven newcomers to the Hippo community all became bishops in North Africa.



Augustine was ordained a priest about the year 391 A.D. So began a fiveyear period during which Valerius shed more and more of his responsibilities upon the capable Augustine. Contrary to custom for one not a bishop, Valerius permitted him to preach, and the practice was soon taken up in other districts. Augustine was victorious in public debate against the Manichaeans, whose teachings he knew literally from the inside out.

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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

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 $\textbf{Circulation Director:} \ \textbf{Casey Callery, Director of Community Relations and Special Events}$

Editor Emeritus: John D. Keller, O.S.A. ('55) **Staff Photographer:** Bill Hill, Saints Parent

Correction Policy: While every effort is made to be accurate, we occasionally err.
We do apologize to those impacted and kindly ask that you notify Saints Coordinator:
Thomas.Shess@gmail.com for any corrections.

*Awards: Saints Scene has been voted by the San Diego Press Club as the best Community Newsletter in 2011, 2019 and 2021.

