

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

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HABEMUS PAPAM!

Conclave selects first American, Augustinian pope



By Jonah Villafaña ('25)
EDITOR EMERITUS



By Enzo Simon ('27)
EDITOR

Habemus Papam!

On May 8, 2025, after just two days in conclave, the College of Cardinals reached a consensus on the new head of the Catholic Church: Cardinal Robert Prevost, O.S.A.

Elected as the 267th pope, Pope Leo XIV emerged from the velvet curtains of the papal balcony, greeting millions of faithful below in Rome and throughout the world.

A Chicago native, Robert Francis Prevost was the previous Prior General of the Augustinians — the highest rank in the order — becoming the first Bishop of Rome from the United States as well as the first from the Order of St. Augustine.

Several people in the Saints community have actually met the man who was to become the new Vicar of Peter, ranging from brief interactions to sharing gelato while strolling down the streets of Italy.

In the fall of 2012, the Saints commu-



Fr. Prevost celebrating Mass at Saints for the school's 90th anniversary.

nity was graced to have him as the main celebrant at Mass in the gym on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of St. Augustine High School.

One of his most prominent characteristics is his down-to-earth nature, with Fr. Max immediately remembering how the

Supreme Pontiff never tried to be “somebody else.” Instead, he embraced the person God made him to be — a reserved but confident leader who served others and listened. It was this authentic humility that struck those who met him and knew him.

“He was a very thoughtful, quiet man.

Saints Yearbook 2012-2013

He was more a listener than a talker,” Mr. Horne said.

“He’s very humble, he’s very approachable, he’s very personable,” Mrs. Crachy said.

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Mrs. Oliwa, Fr. Max say goodbye

Beloved registrar of 19 years retires



Mrs. Oliwa's kindness will be dearly missed. Jameson Grohman ('26)



By Benjamin Nault ('26)
MANAGING EDITOR

With the school year winding down, not only are we saying farewell to the class of 2025, but also to Mrs. Oliwa.

Mrs. Oliwa has been Saints’ registrar for 19 years. As registrar, Mrs. Oliwa handles all of the student and academic files, posts all the grades, and prints all the transcripts. If there’s a piece of official paperwork issued on campus, odds are Mrs. Oliwa has already looked it over or generated it.

Before Saints, Mrs. Oliwa worked for the diocese and then in healthcare. After a while, she had a desire to return to working for a Catholic organization.

Dr. Rey, the best man at Mrs. Oliwa’s wedding, told her about the position opening, and Mr. Cudal and Mr. Horne hired her in 2007.

“I knew from the beginning that she was the right hire because... you look for peo-

SEE OLIWA, pg. 3

Fr. Max's future and his mark on Saints



Fr. Max celebrating Mass with his beloved chair. Austin Lambeth ('26)



By Michael Luzi ('25)
EDITOR EMERITUS

After seven years at Saints, six serving as the school chaplain, Father Maxime Villeneuve is being relocated by the Order of St. Augustine to serve as a parish priest in Los Angeles. A beloved member of the Saints community, Fr. Max will leave behind a strong legacy.

After attending seminary in Chicago, where the newly-elected Pope Leo XIV was his seminary director, Fr. Max’s first assignment was to do a pastoral year at Saints while finishing up as a seminarian. He taught two blocks of religion, worked in campus ministry, and served as a brother.

Unlike other Augustinian brothers, Fr. Max didn’t leave his first assignment. He quickly eased into the Saints experience and enjoyed living on the campus. He loved seeing all there was to do on campus, from the lunch events to the games

SEE FR. MAX, pg. 2

Steve Smith: the Saints grad who never left

 **By Ben Bayona ('27)**
STAFF WRITER

From the stands of Mesa College to the bleachers of the gym, and even at the graduations of his fellow Saintsmen, Steven Smith '66 is a familiar face to most across campus. Often seen among the student body on Mass days, he brilliantly stands out, proudly sporting his Saints-emblazoned gear accumulated throughout the years.

Growing up in North Park, Steve had been able to observe Saints since he was six months old. Even from afar, he recognized its luster and its magic.

"I always looked up to the school and what was going on," Steve said. "I wasn't sure what was going on, but I knew it was good."

His own time at Saints took place in a simple era — a time with no electronics and a school split by Bancroft Street. Vasey Hall, the one familiar facet from his past, contained classes in which lifelong friends were made. Steve established Saints as a foundation upon which his life was built.

"Every time I'm here, I'm learning something," Steve said. "What I learned in school here was how to learn."

After his time at Saints, Steve went to City College and Miramar College to pursue a degree in fire science, eventually becoming a fireman. He carried an open mindset of always learning and used it throughout his life experiences. For the next 34 years, Steve served the public, learning and selflessly working to keep San Diego safe from fires that plagued it.

During his career, Steve was always just a brief motorcycle ride away from the school, living a house away from the one where he grew up. After finishing his duties as a fireman, he found time to attend Mass in Dougherty Gym — now the Raymond Center — or in the chapel in Vasey



Steve Smith '66 standing proudly in his letterman before Mass.

Jameson Grohman ('26)

Hall. Steve always kept Saints as a constant in his life.

"I never left," he proudly proclaimed.

Steve dedicated his free time to showing up at Saints events. He is always present to support the teams, to praise the acclaims of Saintsmen, and to partake in Saints life. Part of his weekly routine is scanning the schedule in the front office to ensure he never misses a thing. From Holy Bowls to major ceremonies to the miscellaneous offerings of Saints, Steve is guaranteed to make an appearance.

Steve loves giving to the school, and its related organizations, especially Hogar Infantil La Gloria. In 2022, for the annual No Shave November contest, Steve donated \$50,000 towards Hogar Infantil, which had the side effect of getting Mr.

Cudal to shave his head. Mr. Cudal '72, who is a good friend of Steve's, said, "He is just a man who has the biggest heart in the world."

Steve's contributions to the school are celebrated in a variety of ways. He is allowed to come into Saints any time. He was given a lifetime pass to all Saints games, ensuring his abiding support. Last year, he was honored with a personal letterman to "follow the dress code" when attending Mass, a constant that he has kept for all this time.

"Up until I got [to Saints], I didn't know what being a Christian or a Catholic was," Steve said. "I learned how to be a Christian Catholic, and it helped me get on the path to the service in the chapel and in the gym."

With Saints as his foundation, Steve built himself to be a compassionate, faith-filled man. Through his relationships created with Saintsmen, with the alumni from his time, with the faculty, and with the fledgling students, Steve's passion is visible across Saints. His staunch support for Saints and its community is a glowing example of the longevity of the Brotherhood, a title absent in Steve's time but nonetheless present.

"I find that term invigorating," Steve said. "I see it all around the school."

Turning 77 this past April, Steve intends to stick around. His unfeigned love for the school will never leave, and will always be immortalized among the Saints community.

Chesser's new single and what's to come

 **By Michael Luzi ('25)**
EDITOR EMERITUS

Over spring break, Mr. Chesser released a new single titled "Sense of Renewal" for streaming on Spotify and Apple Music. This is the first of several singles that he plans on releasing over the next few months.

"Sense of Renewal" is Mr. Chesser's second released work for streaming with *Exploring Roots* being his debut album. The most notable difference between these two works is that "Sense of Renewal" has a higher quality sound compared to the first album. For *Exploring Roots*, Mr. Chesser mixed his own music after having it professionally recorded by Roy Silverstein, owner of Rarefied Recording in North Park.

Not only did Mr. Chesser have his single professionally mixed, but he also hired both a bassist and a drummer to add in their own tune to accompany his rhythm and lead guitar.

The creation of "Sense of Renewal" started when Mr. Chesser was still teaching in Tokyo, Japan. He knew that he was leaving Japan to move back to the States, and he wrote the first two verses of the song based on his feelings of starting over and embracing change.

"That's where I got this 'Sense of Renewal' idea. The impetus was probably subconsciously working through that, but consciously, I just sat down on the guitar and started playing," Mr. Chesser said.

Last year, having kept those two verses locked in a vault, he decided to write



another verse and a half for it. He was pleased with the length and decided that it felt like a proper song. Along with this single, Mr. Chesser brought twelve songs to Roy Silverstein to see which ones he should have mastered and released for streaming. Silverstein really loved "Sense of Renewal," along with two other songs, so Mr. Chesser decided to have it professionally recorded and mixed.

Mr. Chesser is working on releasing the rest of his new singles this summer, which he plans on compiling into one EP, which will be named "Outside Spring," once they are all released. The first of these new singles, titled "Parking Lots," is scheduled for release in June, and it features guest artist and Saints music director Ms. Au.

Mr. Chesser's music career is in full swing, with many new releases coming in the near future. Make sure to check out "Parking Lots" this summer and the long anticipated EP "Outside Spring," set to be available for streaming on Spotify and Apple Music.

FR. MAX
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on the field.

"There's always something happening here. Sometimes, it's going out in the back deck of the monastery and seeing that there's a game happening on the field and walking up and checking it out. It's always a lot of fun," Fr. Max said.

Fr. Max obviously leads in the many sacramental work that is needed here on campus. These include the weekly Mass and the Advent and Lenten penance services.

"I can always count on Fr. Max to make his homily relatable, entertaining, and powerful. It's a delicate balance that not many priests can accomplish, and outside of Mass, he is still that same, charismatic person," junior Kris Bautista said.

Along with the large amount of sacramental work that he did here on campus, like celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, Fr. Max also assisted in ministry work outside of Saints. He helped increase the number of visits to the Hogar Infantil La Gloria orphanage in Tijuana by encouraging many Saintsmen to attend these events. Practicing what he preaches, he also visits the orphanage many times for different events, including a recent celebration for one of the kids' quinceañeras.

He also led all of the trips to World Youth Day that Saints students have attended during his time here. These have been some of Fr. Max's favorite experiences during his time at Saints, as he enjoyed seeing the pope with his Saintsmen many times.

"Fr. Max revolutionized how Saints-

men see the chaplain," Mr. Horne said. "He, of course, did the traditional things we'd expect to see: Mass, retreat support, and penance services — but he did so much more that endeared him to students. He strengthened our relationship with OLP, moderated the Pit at basketball games, played softball during PE, and even body slammed people at rallies. We are going to miss Fr. Max greatly — he has been a tremendously valuable part of the Brotherhood."


Inside of the monastery, the brothers view him as very caring and supportive of everyone in the house. He always puts his community ahead of him, and is ready and available to help solve all the problems that his people struggle with.

"Even if he isn't available, he makes himself available to others and the needs of others. And so, I think that, in itself, is something that we're going to miss," Br. Mauricio said.

Fr. Max's new assignment will have him serve as the new parish priest for Our Mother of Good Counsel, the Augustinian church in Los Angeles. He grew up in that area, so he will be much closer to his family for the first time in 25 years. This will also be his first time working in a parish, but his experience as school chaplain will help him ease into this new chapter of his life.

"It has been fantastic. It has been fun. So it has been a blessing to be here at Saints. I've loved every minute," Fr. Max said.

Standout Saintsmen raise the bar

**By George Burrell ('26)**
EDITOR

St. Augustine High School is well-known for its exceptional athletics program and athletes. This year specifically has been a paramount year for Saints, with multiple league and state titles being won. When it comes to athletes, however, three stood out: Emiliano Postlethwaite, Owen Sullivan, and Georgie Daniel.



Bill Hill

Emiliano Postlethwaite

The Saints soccer team had an exceptional season this year, due in part to senior Emiliano Postlethwaite. Just this winter, Emiliano and the Saints soccer team clinched their third CIF title in a row.

Emiliano’s affection for soccer began long before he arrived at Saints, in fact, he has loved the sport since he was six.

“It was a sport where I was able to have fun with my friends... and [learn] new skills together,” Emiliano said. “Over time, what began as just a fun game with friends quickly grew into a real passion for me.”

The coaching staff and the unity of the Saints team helped him and his teammates sharpen their skills and become better players.

“Practices at Saints were always tough. Chief was always able to maintain discipline in the team,” Emiliano said. “It became an expectation to work hard and always give 100%.”

Saints is not the only team Emiliano

is a part of. He also plays for Club Tijuana Xoloitzcuintles de Caliente, a professional football team in Mexico. Although the Xolos provide a different level of intensity, Emiliano sees it as a taste of what a future in collegiate or semi-pro football looks like.



Courtesy of Owen Sullivan

Owen Sullivan

Last year, St. Augustine’s own Owen Sullivan competed at the USA Gymnastics 2024 Men’s National Championships. This event was part of his becoming a three-time all-American academic gymnast and a two-time national qualifier.

Inspired by the athletes at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, Owen joined the Seawind Gymnastics team in Carlsbad. He remained committed even when his family moved to Colorado, and upon returning to San Diego in his sophomore year, he rejoined Seawind, where he practices for twenty hours a week.

“I have learned physical and mental maturity, how to work well and efficiently, physical strength, and teamwork,” Owen said.

He hopes to continue gymnastics at the College of William & Mary.

Georgie Daniel

You may have recently heard about junior Georgie Daniel — a member of



Bill Hill

the Saints wrestling team defeating a nationally-ranked competitor.

Georgie began wrestling just two and a half years ago, and his skills have enhanced greatly since then.

“As a freshman, I never thought I’d be an example to others as a sophomore and junior. A lot of hard work in-season and off-season has put me in the position to not only start to do better in my sport but to lead it,” Georgie said.

According to Georgie, stamina and determination were key. While improving his techniques was important, building himself mentally and physically was just as crucial.

“Wrestling showed me that through hard work you can make yourself something you feel like you’re not,” Georgie said. “I had to sculpt myself into this version of me through countless hours of drilling, weight cuts where I didn’t know if I could make it, and a bunch of love and laughs from my coaches and teammates.”

Looking toward college, Georgie hopes to pursue a degree in English or engineering while continuing to wrestle.

“Wrestling-wise, I’m looking forward to taking it to the college level. I’ve had college coaches come up to me and say I’m on their radar, and hopefully, my hard work one day pays off in that sense,” Georgie said.

OLIWA
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ple who exude confidence, which is what Mrs. Oliwa had,” Mr. Cudal said.

Mrs. Oliwa’s confidence translates to her dedication and diligence.

“She is committed to what we do here at St. Augustine High School, which is serving the kids... she serves the kids in a fashion that just doesn’t come by anybody else,” Mr. O’Beirne said.

Mrs. Oliwa’s job requires her to work closely with every student on campus with scheduling issues. Anyone who’s interacted with her will attribute to how kind and warm she is to students and staff alike.

“I’ve noticed... just how professional she is, how nice she is to everybody when they come in and... [how she] takes care of them,” Mr. Hearn said.

Mrs. Oliwa enjoys community events at Saints, namely attending weekly Mass, senior graduations, and supporting our team competitions. She loves seeing the Saintsmen develop physically and mentally.

She has also enjoyed working with various people on campus, specifically our Augustinian brothers and priests.

She reflected upon several of the Augustinians who have been at Saints during her tenure, including Fr. Davis, Fr. Alvin, Deacon Hardick, and Fr. Keller. She enjoyed growing her relationships with them, personally and professionally.

“I’ve really enjoyed [the] Augustinians, getting to know those priests... a little bit better and a little differently. So that’s been a special thing here at Saints for me,” she said.

After departing Saints, Mrs. Oliwa wants to do more volunteer and ministry-oriented work. Though she doesn’t know what specifically this may involve, she plans to take a couple of weeks’ hiatus from any work to discern her future vocation and to enjoy her time after 19 years of hard, dedicated work for us here at Saints.

“Working here at Saints, if you engage in it, it’s a wonderful community,” she said. “[Saints] obviously is a real hub in my life, so I wouldn’t trade it for anything. Working with young people gives you life, gives you hope for the future. So I will definitely miss that. I appreciate being... involved into a school that has a mission.”

Barnes and Poisset return to Saints



Mr. Barnes looking tough.
Jameson Grohman ('26)

**By Henry Barwick ('26)**
EDITOR

In March, the Saints community welcomed back two graduates to our substitute teaching staff: Mr. Joseph Barnes ‘13, and Mr. Bennett Poisset ‘16.

After attending Saints, Mr. Barnes went to Saint Edward’s University in Austin, Texas. He moved back to San Diego, where he founded and led an event space business.

Mr. Barnes is a baseball coach, first coaching at Valhalla High School in El Cajon and currently coaching at Canyon Hills High School in Tierrasanta. Coaching baseball is actually what inspired him to become a substitute teacher.

“Seeing how much of an impact coaches and teachers have on young people’s lives and the connection I was able to make with student athletes was so big to me. That’s what got me into wanting to check out the in-classroom setting of teaching,” he said.

Mr. Barnes taught at Pacific Ridge School in Carlsbad for a year before coming here in March. He decided to teach at Saints because, as an alumnus, he said that he has “such an appreciation for what this place is and the people that are here.”

Mr. Barnes has loved being back at Saints as, to him, “It feels like home.” He has also enjoyed connecting with students and reconnecting with his former

teachers.

Our second new substitute teacher, Mr. Poisset, studied clinical psychology at the University of San Diego, and for the past four years, has been taking PhD-level courses at Alliant International University in order to receive his master’s degree in clinical psychology this month.

While studying to be a clinical psychologist, Mr. Poisset found that he really enjoyed psychoeducation, which is, as he defines it, the practice of “taking psychological concepts that relate to people in their lives and teaching it to them.”

Since he specifically enjoyed the education part of clinical psychology, Mr. Poisset decided that he wanted to pursue teaching. This led him to return to Saints, primarily because of how special this school is to him.

The main quality Mr. Poisset loves about Saints is the focus the school community has on “helping students [to] become well-rounded people through a particular set of values.”

In his free time, Mr. Poisset enjoys working out and spending time with his dog. He is also a big fan of Star Wars and Marvel, and enjoys watching the movies and reading the comics for those particular franchises.

As substitute teachers, Mr. Barnes and Mr. Poisset perform an important function in the Saints community, so let’s give them both a warm welcome!



Mr. Poisset looking nonchalant.
Jameson Grohman ('26)

Lewis & Clark College

Jonah DePerro

University of Idaho

Teo Kony

Montana State University

Charlie Berkeley

St. Ambrose University

Elias O'Hollaren

Loyola

San

University of Oregon

Noah Heuring
Mateo Minford
Henry Payne
Tyler Wick

University of Utah

Anthony Bravence
Stephen Cota
Gabriel Estrada
Dash Frazee
Luke Graulich
Mason Higgins
Michael Ivanjack
Joshua Padilla

Regis University

Kapono Carriedo Nakanelua

Embry-Riddle

Aeronautical

University, Prescott

Christopher Black

Grand Canyon University

Caelyb Aguirre
Jacob Valdez

University of Arizona

Adam Camarena
William Gault
Alexander Kemp
Nicolas Martin Ruvalcaba
Eugene McKenna
Max Miller
Derek Weber

International

Rome City Institute

Owen Adams

Tecnologico de Monterrey

Carlos Castan
Emilio Gallego
Andres Graniello Mogollan
Santiago Postlethwaite

Universidad Panamericana

Juan Pablo Torres Molina

University of Oklahoma

Charles Wiese

Texas Christian University

Jonathan Chavez
Nicolas DeSouza
Michael Morton

The University of Texas at Austin

Grayson Boles

San Diego County

California State University.

San Marcos

Victor Angeles
Ezekiel Musni-Davis
Joseph Sbuttoni
Maximiliano Yee

Cuyamaca College

Isaac Mansour

Grossmont College

Fabian Castillo
Declan Mullins
Marcus Stokely

John Paul the Great

Catholic University

Oscar Plasencia

MiraCosta College

Stephen Berggren
Spencer Taylor

Point Loma Nazarene

University

Oliver Fendley
Luke Friesenhahn

San Diego City College

Riley Anderson
Manuel Cortez Ramirez
Joe Rascon

San Diego Mesa College

Jacques Allende
Gino Attisha
Fernando Delgado
Elias Guerrero
Ernesto Gutierrez
Reid Harrison
Jacobo Hermann
Juan Marco Kruer
Nicholas Lupinacci
Marcelo Mier y Teran Leon
Jack Parada

Emiliano Serrano

Anthony Tompkins
Kendrick Vazquez-Diaz
Wyatt Weldon

San Diego Miramar

College

Wilford Anderson
Tanner Kamencik

San Diego State University

Sean Abrom
Miguel Chaquica
Milan Flores
Matthew Horne
Drake Konja
Ryan Popkins
Cameron Bonanno
Preston Lavarez
Marco Mouritzen
Johnathan Putrus
Diego Ruiz

Ryan Sablan
Jose Velasco Celaya
Lucas Younes
Enrique Zamudio

Southwestern College

Andres Behar

University of California.

San Diego

Raphael Dunne
Kelvin Vu
Javier Guillot Reyes Retana

University of San Diego

Levi Clair
Alexander Clem
Pablo Cosio
Carlos Delgado
Emiliano Postlethwaite



California (Excluding San Diego)

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Luke Duong

California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
Nathan Brosnan
Jackson Pawl
Alexander Samo

California State University, Fullerton
Deryk Ronin Guillermo

California State University, Long Beach
William Fitzpatrick

California State University, Northridge
Aaron Morgan

Chapman University
Braeden Steele

Loyola Marymount University
Marcelo Hank Canavati
Diego Turner
Francisco Uribe

Orange Coast College
Jose Alvarez Vidal

San Jose State University
Ian Woods

Edward Wakefield

University of California, Berkeley
Emilio Aizpuru
Luke Weinpel

University of California, Irvine
Ramy Jaibaji

University of California, Los Angeles
Jorge Jimenez

University of California, Merced
Aaron Simmons
Antonio Tamayo

University of California, Riverside
Noah Magat

University of California, Santa Barbara
Michael Luzi
Parker Wickstrand

University of California, Santa Cruz
Jon-Matthew Oliveros
Evan Perez
Clayton Staylor

Disclaimer

Further updates will be reflected in the digital edition at sahs.org

Admission tips: the key to college

 **By Jose Manuel Prado Gonzalez ('27)**
STAFF WRITER

There is no avoiding it: sooner or later, all Saintsmen eventually face the daunting task of applying to colleges. Some begin to worry about it even before their junior year.

Lucky for us, Saints has a fleet of well-informed counselors, ready to offer sage advice at the drop of a hat. Mr. Bronson, Mr. Golden, Dr. Rey, and Mr. Sullivan are very qualified to help any student in need.

“What I think the best admission tips are to take care of business in the classroom now. So if you handle your business now, doing what you're supposed to do, grinding, getting good grades, that's gonna set you up,” Mr. Bronson said.

While this seems like common knowledge, it's important to remember that although athletics and other extra-curriculars are very important in college admissions, grades are really what get you through the door.

If you're having questions about what GPA you should have for any specific college, all the counselors recommended the same thing: use Scoir.

The college admissions process involves many specific details, and Scoir provides a lot of helpful information to help students know exactly what they need to do to get accepted. Tools such as the “scattergram” function present admission data compiled from the previous Saintsmen who were once in your shoes.

One strongly recommended service that our counselors provide is the summer college workshop at Saints. According to Mr. Bronson, the college workshop helps juniors in “getting started on your common app, your UC app, and getting ready to do your Cal State app.”

If you are wondering about extracurriculars, Mr. Bronson and Mr. Golden had similar suggestions. They both stressed the importance of meaningful involvement in a few extracurriculars rather than just joining many different clubs.

“Quality extracurriculars over quantity,” Mr. Golden said. “Say you were a Boy Scout — growing into Eagle Scout helps. Growing into a leadership position in a club on campus versus you being just a regular part of ten clubs.”

Another huge factor for colleges is your involvement in school leadership activities.

“You'd have to think of it from the perspective of a college,” Mr. Golden said. “Colleges want to enroll somebody that's going to participate in their community, and so if they look and they say ‘you got good grades but you didn't do anything at your school,’ are you really going to be that high up in their list?”

Unfortunately, many top colleges are becoming increasingly selective in their admissions processes. Although this may be a little dismaying for students, it's important not to overreact.

“It's really hard to get into those [highly competitive] schools — they turn down thousands of qualified students who could be successful there every year,” Mr. Golden said. “It's okay to apply to those schools and go for it, but you gotta look for schools that are more likely to say ‘yes’ but still have really good things to offer.”

He also emphasized how there are plenty of schools that could be a great fit for you, even if they're not as highly competitive.

“Our job is to get you to look beyond the ‘top ten ranking’ lists that are published by magazines and actually learn about what's the right fit for you — where you are going to be more successful and most happy,” Mr. Golden said.

Another important tip is to build strong relationships with your teachers. Making these personal connections will make it easier to find the motivation and resources to succeed in school, as teachers will be more likely to reach out to help you if you're struggling. And when it's time for them to write letters of recommendation, they can be more personal, making you stand out among your peers.

Even with all that's involved in the college admissions process, Mr. Golden advised against worrying about it too much early on, saying that Saintsmen should really only start hammering the admissions process in their junior year. Instead, students should focus on getting to know their surroundings, finding friends, and exploring possibilities here at Saints, setting themselves up for success when they do start applying to colleges.

U.S. Gov. puts education on the backburner



Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education. Connecticut Public

 **By Paddy Ward ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

Ever since President Donald Trump's election, the Department of Education (ED) has been in a state of constant purgatory. As part of Trump's dogma of government efficiency, the department has come under fire from the get-go. More recently, there have been bills and executive orders put forward attempting to diminish or eradicate the ED.

The ED's goal, since its inception, has been to aid and foster the growth of the American public. The department does this in several ways: funding school and sports programs, sponsoring grants to all levels of education, alleviating student loans, and more.

President Trump has made very serious threats towards the department and its future. He made several attempts via executive orders to diminish and even fully dismantle it. Trump's hopes to end the ED come from a desire to make the federal government less powerful and to lessen costs. According to the official White House website, the goal of these threats is to “[return] education to the parents and communities.”

According to the Treasury Department, the Department of Education made up 4% of all federal spending in 2024, constituting \$268 billion. Over half of the budget, about \$160 billion, goes to the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA).

The FSA plays an incredibly vital role for millions of American students, spending just over \$120 billion in the form of grants, work-study, and loan funds, to assist college students across the country. This aid from the government provides access to higher education that many Americans may never have had access to before.

However, Trump seems to have put his threats against the department on the backburner. There have been no efforts by him or his administration to dismantle it in the last month.

Linda McMahon, Trump's Secretary of Education, has announced that the department will start collecting on loans that have defaulted, a process which has been on pause for the past five years.

This restart in loan collection will affect around five million Americans. This collection, according to McMahon, is about taking pressure off taxpayers. However, the way the department plans on recovering these loans is seen by many as harmful towards borrowers.

Since the 2023 SAVE plan was introduced, a cap was placed allowing monthly loans to be paid at 5% instead of 10% (CNN). But now the ED is doing away with this plan, removing any protections that the debtors may have.

Trump's reforms have also extended to the funding of universities. One of the most prominent reforms was the halting of funding to Harvard University. Trump claims that the reason for this decision is because of what he perceived as “unchecked antisemitism” among its pro-Palestine protesters.

Critics point out that the withholding of funding does not come from a place of concern about antisemitism in colleges, but rather about furthering his political agenda and putting pressure on those who oppose it.

The colleges that have been targeted by the ED include Brown, Cornell, Princeton, and more. These colleges are accused of teaching things like “Critical Race Theory” and “inappropriate political and sexual content,” according to Trump.

Since President Trump's return to office in 2025, the Department of Education has undergone significant restructuring. Efforts to dismantle the department have disrupted the management of federal student loans and special education programs. Concurrently, the administration has withheld critical funding from major universities and reinstated loan collections, affecting the financial stability of many borrowers.

A Saintsman's guide to summer jobs

 **By Peter Thorne ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

As school comes to a close and summer peeks around the corner, you wouldn't be the first to ask yourself: “What will I do with myself for the next two and a half months?”

Ignoring this question for too long runs the risk of an unproductive summer. This, my friend, is where summer jobs come in. They're a great way to keep you busy all summer long, and of course you can earn a decent chunk of change, too.

1. Start your search immediately

Start your search right after you read this article, as seasonal jobs often disappear quickly because other high schoolers pounce on them quickly. I have waited too long in the past only to find out that my top option was no longer available because someone else had beat me to it.

2. Try for jobs you'd gladly put on your resume

Once you get searching, try to look for jobs that you think you'll enjoy doing, but will also give you valuable experience in fields that you may not have really been involved in before. Good summer jobs could potentially double as something you can show to colleges, so try to pick something that you'll be proud to say you did. Last summer, I chose to be a life-guard, knowing that it would hopefully show colleges that I could handle both responsibility and leadership.

3. If not, work is work

If you find yourself dragging your feet on this whole process, you'll start to notice that all the jobs you have a real interest in doing are starting to vanish. If you find yourself in this spot, don't panic — there's still hope.

You might have to expand your search, possibly to other jobs that, in your eyes, are less desirable. This isn't to say you should go work at the dump, but you

might have to turn your focus towards jobs that pay as well and that don't get you excited about going to work every day. Personally, I try to find work outdoors because that's how I like to enjoy my summer.

Some examples of these jobs might be working at a fast food restaurant or a retail store. While such jobs would be less intriguing, you would still get paid a decent wage.

4. Make sure it's seasonal

Throughout all this, make sure that you're actually applying for jobs marked “seasonal,” as the last thing you want is to get all excited that your application was accepted only to find out they're expecting you to work full-time *all year*.

5. Decide: part-time or full-time?

As you look through these jobs, start to decide how much you actually want to work, as there are both part-time and full-time summer jobs available.

If this will be your first summer working, a part-time job might be the way to go. This will let you get some experience in a work environment while also letting you preserve some of your free time.

If this is your second or third time getting a summer job, try and look for something more full-time. While you will spend more of your time working, you will be guaranteed more pay over the course of the summer and also get a more realistic idea of what working in the real world is like.

While I am not going to be holding a full-time job this summer, I will have multiple part time jobs to make up the difference. This is also an option if you're struggling to find a job with the exact specifications you need.

Getting a summer job is a great way to keep yourself busy, stay competitive for colleges, and line your pockets a little bit, too.

Remembering Pope Francis: a legacy of humility and love



Pope Francis passed away at 88 years old after a life radiating compassion and humility.

 **By Jonah Villafaña ('25)**
EDITOR EMERITUS

After twelve years of leading the Catholic Church, Pope Francis passed away on April 21, 2025. Even after his death, he leaves behind a legacy of compassion for all, forever changing the way that the Church interacts with the modern world.

Pope Francis was born Jorge Bergoglio in 1936 to Italian immigrants in Argentina. He initially pursued studies in chemistry before discerning a calling to the priesthood. He was ordained a priest within the Jesuit order in 1969 and quickly rose through the ranks of the Church. He became a bishop and eventually a cardinal during the pontificate of Saint John Paul II.

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI in 2013, Jorge Bergoglio was elected as the new Supreme Pontiff, becoming the first pope from the Americas and the first non-European pope in over a thousand years. He chose the name Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Like the great saint, Pope Francis placed a great emphasis on kindness, peace, and stewardship, especially in regards to the poor and the environment.

Pope Francis’s compassion was one of his defining features throughout his life, as he emphasized a pastoral approach in leading the Church. A large component of this was to focus on better serving those who have been marginalized by society or by the Church, including women, migrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and people of different faiths. Despite criticism for his lenience and progressiveness in this regard, he has remained steadfast in this approach, reinforcing the importance of being caring and welcoming towards all.

He also took after St. Francis of Assisi by prioritizing care for God’s Creation. Early in his papacy, he wrote the encyclical *Laudate Si*, subtitled “On Care for Our Common Home.” He urged people to pay

greater attention to the dangers of climate change as well as care for the poor who are affected by natural disasters.

His care for the poor and lowly was reflected through his humility, as he spurned many Vatican traditions in favor of more modest conditions. For example, he chose to live in the Vatican guest room rather than the papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace, and he rode around in simpler vehicles — including Fiats and Jeeps — instead of limousines.

He also traveled extensively to serve the Church around the world. During his pontificate, he visited South America, Asia, Africa, the United States, and the Middle East. He often spent much of his time visiting those who are sick or in poverty, hoping to spread his compassion with those who are in need. He also became the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula in an attempt to foster deeper relations with other religions.

Before his passing, Pope Francis had been suffering from major health problems. In 2022, he began to use a wheelchair more regularly, and he endured an extended hospitalization for double pneumonia in February, exacerbated by the effects of the lung surgery he received when he was 21. About a month after being released from the hospital, he passed away from a stroke and irreversible heart failure.

His last full day on earth was Easter Sunday, the greatest Christian feast day. He strained to utter his last public words to the masses gathered in St. Peter’s Square: “Brothers and sisters, Happy Easter!” He died early Monday morning.

Pope Francis left behind a powerful legacy as an outspoken advocate for those who are outcasts and marginalized in society. He was a role model for how to care for the needs of others on a meaningful and greater scale. May he receive his reward for his service to others in God’s heavenly kingdom. Rest in peace, Pope Francis.



2014 group photo of the formation community led by Fr. Robert Prevost. Find Fr. Max!
Courtesy of Fr. Max

POPE LEO XIV
continued from page 1

Mr. Bachynsky had a brief but memorable encounter with him at a SAVI conference in 2010 in Chicago.

“I sat right across from him during lunch. Despite the fact that he was the Prior General, he had no airs about him. He was calm, friendly, and pleasant,” Mr. Bachynsky said. “He finished his lunch a bit earlier than me, stood up and asked if he could get me something. I told him a Coke would be great, and he brought it to me. Little did I know that retroactively, it was Pope Coke.”

His modesty was on full display on a recent pilgrimage to Rome with several of our Augustinian brothers, including Br. Mauricio and Br. Arturo. Together, he invited them to tour his office, enjoy a simple dinner, and go out for some gelato.

“He’s not trying to impress you... he wants to know about your life and things like that. He’s a very good listener,” Br. Mauricio said.

Alongside his humility is his strong focus on Unitas, often demonstrated through his determined care for the needy. These reflect the core values of his order and pave the way for a more Augustinian approach to the papacy.

Pope Leo XIV served for eight years as Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru, also serving as a missionary for over 20 years in total, “working with the people in need, with the people who don’t have food, people that immigrate looking for a better life,” Br. Arturo said.

His emphasis in caring for the poor

parallels the mission of the late Pope Francis, who worked to improve the lives of those in poverty or suffering. Br. Arturo said, “Pope Leo will be a continuation of what Pope Francis has started to do.”

While quiet on the surface, he is a very thoughtful person, thinking before speaking and being remembered by Mr. Horne as “very deliberate in his speech.” This pairs well with his patience and willingness to listen, two invaluable aspects of his charismatic leadership style.

In addition to his prudent nature, Pope Leo XIV also possesses an inner spirit of peace, illuminating the path for many others to find similar joy. In his opening “Urbi et Orbi” address from the papal balcony, he stressed the importance of building bridges and promoting unity in our communities.

Br. Mauricio found it significant and noteworthy that he began his papal address by saying, “Peace be with you.”

“He brings a lot of peace with himself. He does not look like somebody who is struggling in his own with inner conflicts or anything like that. There is a peace within him that he brings to people whom he meets,” Br. Mauricio said.

As leader of the Church, he will be a model of peace to the billions of Catholics across the world, serving as a pillar for others to imitate.

May God bless Pope Leo XIV with a long and fruitful pontificate, and may he prayerfully guide the Church through his strong leadership, humble nature, and peaceful spirit.

Chaplain's Corner

Farewell, dear Saints!



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

Dear Reader,

It’s been a joy to write in my little “corner” for these past six years at Saints as your chaplain (in my first year, I was the Christian Service Director). From time to time the kind editors of this paper have sent me requests, and while doing so they’ve often gently reminded me that their deadline was looming and imminent. In some sense, I think it made the column better. They need an article NOW, so I had to address what was happening in the school NOW!

Sometimes the message is clear and seasonal, sometimes it was a moral exhortation, and sometimes it was simply: until next year! As you now know, at least for me, I will not be back at Saints next year. As many of you have thanked me, it is now my turn to thank you.

Thank you, Saintsmen, for many things. For your exuberant joy, your playful tricks, your occasional obli-


ousness, your inquisitive questions, and your witness to the faith. Being a chaplain is a privilege, and to accompany you as Saintsmen growing in your faith was, and is, an absolute honor.

Life as an Augustinian is much like life at Saints, it is full of adventure, and it is never boring. While my next steps to our parish in Los Angeles comes with a lot of new unknowns for me, I know that if I stay true to myself, and continually pursue *unitas*, *veritas*, and *caritas* in all things, that I will be just where I need to be, and doing what God wants me to be doing.

Special blessings to all of you dear Saintsmen, and blessings to the class of 2025.

*When the last big game is over
and the last roll call is heard.
When the oldest pedagogue
Has had his final word
We shall come to Alma Mater
In our dream again
With a prayer to St. Augustine
and a strong Amen.*

How to speak Saints: a dictionary

**By Enzo Simon ('27)**
EDITOR

Center. Hub. Breeding ground. Melting pot. Nexus.

Comb through your dictionary (or a thesaurus — as I did for this introduction) and call it what you will, but most can agree that Saints definitely fits comfortably as one of these lofty labels vis-à-vis its quirky and unique vernacular.

Buried within the confines of our campus, these scintillating treasures are consistently unearthed in colloquial dialogue, lingering far more indelibly than any subject matter could in the hippocampi of our myriad of unsuspecting students.

If by sore luck, you’ve never encountered such serendipity, worry not, for we at *The Augustinian* have compiled an almanac to translate the obscure, abstruse, and esoteric patois exclusive to your, dear Saintsmen, educational institution.

(And if this seems familiar, teachers, it’s because it is, as Caden Webster ‘23, whom we would like to credit, composed an excellent, similar article, which can be found under “*The Augustinian*, April 2022” on sahs.org).

“Ohhhh?”
Origin: Mr. Cudal
Definition: In the ostensible guise of an innocuous expression of curiosity, this interjection of covert definition, upon closer analysis, is, in reality, a tool of motivation, expertly (and solely) utilized by the rabbit-describing, cannibal-identifying Master of English himself. The mustachioed menace uses the guttural *umph* to boost the morale of any Saintsman in the pursuit of his own Juliet or alternatively engage uninterested Saintsmen during *lovely, intimate* passages of literature, and always accompanied by a suggestive raising of the eyebrows.

Those enlightened enough to divulge and apply its true meaning have success-

fully carried out their duty of being a *Man of Literature*: reading between the lines and engaging with women.

Example: “George knows Lennie because he used to ‘engage in promiscuous activities.’ **Ohhhh?**”

“Big Guy”
Origin: Mr. Johnston (Chief)
Definition: A universal descriptor, notably, regardless of size, used to address any student.
Example: “Off for a smoke on the bridge, **big guy?**”

“Are you with me or no?”
Origin: Mr. Chesser
Definition: A simple, yet powerful closing remark used to assert Mr. Chesser’s utter dominance after a thorough, effortless investigation to find *literally* every single *literary* aspect and interpretation to any book that is lucky enough to be glorified and enhanced by his mighty pen...and that’s no hyperbole.

Alternatively, a spell used to awaken any daydreaming or sleeping student.
Example: “Perhaps Capote, through his repeated asyndeton... oh hello, simile!... is the purpose to simply belittle or completely vilify?... metonymy or synecdoche?... toiling the seed of doubt in Othello’s mind? **Are you with me or no?**”

“You don’t have to reinvent the wheel”
Origin: Mr. Sipper
Definition: Mr. Sipper’s perennial reminder to all sophomoreic “word-vomiters” that, like that historical Occam once said: the simplest answer is, indeed, most likely the correct answer.

Trust him, the man knows his history (at least... regarding past CollegeBoard questions).
Example: “C’mon, guys, **you don’t**

have to reinvent the wheel. If the SAQ asks about Ancient China, ALWAYS cite Confucianism and just get the damn point!”

“Just take it easy”
Origin: Mr. Lamerato (Daddy)
Definition: One of many of Mr. Lamerato’s famous quotes, it is a direct command that is useful in any situation. From keeping students locked in during a quiz to calming down an audience during one of his Love Loss Volumes, this simple quote comes in handy many times in Daddy’s class.
Example: “Ok, **just take it easy.**”

“Grades don’t matter”
Origin: Mr. Davis (Coacher)
Definition: Grades don’t matter. It’s as simple as that. Coacher’s chief philosophy is sure to get you into any Ivy League school that you apply to. You know what does matter? Going to college, not to learn or get good grades (as you’ll remember, those don’t matter), but to meet chicas de mas calidad. Chicas>grades.
Example: “Ehhhh, chico, stop bothering me about that assignment, that was ages ago. No late work on D-Day, bro. **Grades don’t matter.**”

“Petunia Slapper”
Origin: Sra. Gormly
Definition: A threatening weapon used to control any smart-talking students or dissidents of Senora’s “completely democratic” country via Machiavellian fear.
Example: “Ay, chico! If I catch you talking to girls again, I’ll hit you with my **petunia slapper** then send you to O’Beirne’s!”

“Buddy...”
Origin: Mr. Isaak
Definition: Dripping with disappoint-

ment, there’s a high probability that this form of address precedes a lengthy explanation on any Algebra concept, no matter its complexity. To Mr. Isaak, any topic in Algebra is as simple and easy as marbles... even including the marbles unit itself.
Example: “**Buddy...** for inverse problems, you swap the ‘x’ and ‘y.’”

“God’s too nice”
Origin: Br. Mauricio
Definition: Much like “The Flood,” it’s a humbling reminder cast down upon any unruly student who fails to recognize that his wayward, sinful behavior of incessant chatting will result in a fate worse than hell: a zero on his monthly assessment.

After all, if God can strike down babbling, tower-building chatters, why can’t Bromo?

Example: “**God’s too nice.** Eh, just because He didn’t punish the Israelites doesn’t mean I won’t punish you for forgetting your Bible.”

“Angelus!”
Origin: Mr. Segura
Definition: Invoking a spirit quite contrary to what it should, this terrifying interjection seals silence and stillness to all near Room 435, and any sinners caught acquiescing to their *concupiscence*, that is, moving during this holy prayer: “better start praying.”
Example: “Hey, shut it! **Angelus!**”

“Amen”
Origin: Fr. Max
Definition: This mystical prayer of sorts elusively evades understanding among many, but our brightest scholars here at *The Augustinian* came to the conclusion that it is, in fact, multi-purposed, and thus, undefinable. We tried our best!
Example: “And thanks to the Lord, I was able to deadlift 500 pounds and bodyslam Mr. Bier into a table. **Amen.**”

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Crossword puzzle

By George Burrell ('26)

ACROSS

- Coach Sweat’s summer boot camp (abbreviated)
- Angers, with “up”
- Flying machine designed by Moulton Taylor in 1949
- Liam ____, editor-in-chief of *The Augustinian*
- Aunts, in Argentina
- “Oh my goodness!”
- Exciting, per 2010s slang
- ____ Pill, Cage the Elephant hit from 2024
- Producer of speakers and The Smurfs
- University of Oklahoma alums
- Dogs of the biggest breed
- Female fowl

DOWN

- Madams’ opposite
- Hometown of Cal Poly, nicknamed
- Division of a religion
- Tree of the biggest type
- The ____ Creed, oath taken by US Navy officers
- Succulents found in skin cream
- “When it ____, it pours”
- Possess
- Pig’s pen
- ____ Lyles, gold medalist at the 2024 Summer Olympic Games
- Witnessed
- Opposite of SSW

