



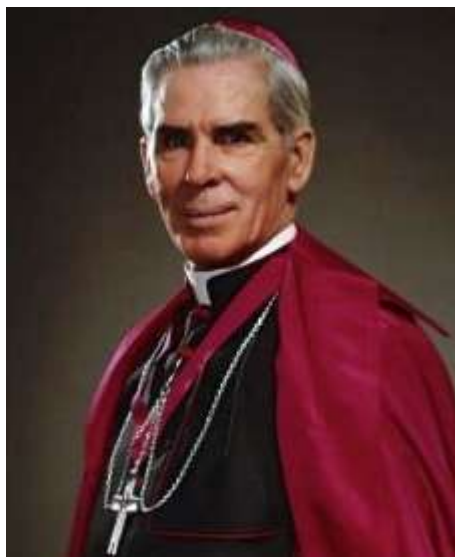
STEPS TO SAINTHOOD

By Pat Waters

On September 24, 2026, tens of thousands of Catholics gathered at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri for the **Beatification** of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. On beatification day, an expo opened at The Dome at 8 a.m., followed by Eucharistic adoration, confession opportunities, and a pre-Mass program featuring speakers and musicians. The beatification Mass began at 2 p.m. with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle presiding.

Born in El Paso, Illinois, in May 1895, Sheen was the oldest of four children. He was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Peoria in 1919. In 1913, Sheen earned his doctorate in Philosophy from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. Returning to the USA Sheen taught philosophy and theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington from 1927 until 1950. Beginning in 1930, Sheen hosted "**The Catholic Hour**" a Sunday night radio program. In 1951 he launched "**Life is Worth Living**", an uns scripted television show that ran until 1957 drawing millions of viewers and awarding Sheen an Emmy in 1953 as Most Outstanding Television Personality. Sheen died in December 1979 at the age of 84 and was interred at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

In 2002, the Diocese of Peoria began its push for beatification and canonization of Archbishop Sheen. Following years of inquiry by the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI bestowed the title of **Venerable** on Archbishop Sheen, the first step on the road to sainthood. This title is granted to those recognized by the pope as showing "heroic virtue".



In July 2019, Pope Francis formally recognized a miracle attributed to Archbishop Sheen. In 2010, Bonnie Engstrom asked for the Archbishop's prayers during her pregnancy. That September, Engstrom gave birth to a boy, James, but the child did not have a pulse. As the child was rushed to the hospital Engstrom continued to pray. Sixty-one minutes after his birth, doctors detected a faint pulse and then heartbeat. James survived and showed no sign of cognitive or developmental deficit. The Engstroms reported the matter to the Sheen Foundation which kickstarted a church investigation. In 2014 the Church ruled that the child's birth and survival was a miracle attributed to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen. After further investigation, Pope Leo XIV approved the **Beatification** this past February.

Once beatified, Sheen received the title "**Blessed**", meaning the Catholic Church recognizes the individual has entered Heaven and can intercede on behalf of those who pray in that person's name. This should not be confused with canonization. To be Blessed is to be revered locally or regionally, whereas sainthood grants universal veneration by the Church. **Canonization** requires a second confirmed post-mortem miracle following beatification. In cases of martyrdom, where a person has suffered death or persecution for their Catholic faith, a miracle is not required for beatification or canonization. Canonization allows for the public veneration by the universal Church and the Blessed acquires the title of Saint.

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque — French nun & mystic (1647 — 1690)

Feast Day: October 20 (in Canada) / October 16 (General Roman Calendar)

Patron Saint of: devotees of the Sacred Heart, those suffering from polio and people who have lost their parents

Margaret was born to an affluent family in Burgundy, France, the fifth of seven children of Claude and Philiberte Alacoque and their only daughter. From a young age, Margaret showed a great love for the Blessed Sacrament. Sadly, her father passed away when Margaret was only eight years old and her mother then sent her to a convent school run by the Poor Clares. Because of her sincere devotion, Margaret was allowed to receive her first Holy Communion at age nine, although church custom was around twelve years of age. During this time, several events occurred. Firstly, upon the death of her father, the family assets were held by her uncle since her oldest brother was not yet of age (he had to be 25 to be granted control) and a widow did not automatically inherit the wealth. However, her uncle refused to hand over the wealth which plunged the family into poverty for several years. Eventually, when Margaret was 17, her brother was able to take control of the estate and their lives improved.

At the age of about eleven, Margaret contracted rheumatic fever which left her quite ill and bed-ridden for four years. During this time, after making a vow to our Blessed Mother that she would consecrate herself to religious life, she was instantly cured. She then added the name, Mary, to her baptismal name. But, her mother wanted Margaret to get married and so encouraged her to attend social gatherings. One night upon returning home from a party, she had a vision of Jesus, scourged and bloody where He gently scolded her for forgetting about Him but also revealed to her that His heart was full of love for her and reminded Margaret of her promise to His Blessed Mother.

Thus, at the age of 24, Margaret Mary entered the Visitation convent, a cloistered order of nuns. The illness, loss of her father and having to move in with her unwelcoming uncle and aunt all contributed to her becoming anxious, nervous, and second guessing every move and decision she made. Yet, it was this timid soul that Jesus chose to be the “Apostle of the



Sacred Heart”. So over the course of thirteen months, starting in 1674, He would appear to her with the mission that she was to spread the devotion to His Sacred Heart. Of course, at first no one believed her, neither fellow sisters nor clergy, believing her to be delusional, until she came under the guidance of Fr. Claude de la Colombière, a Jesuit priest later to be canonized as St. Claude. He believed and verified her visions and served as an advocate for the spreading of this devotion.

St Margaret Mary died at the age of 43 after a brief illness. She was declared Venerable in 1824 by Pope Leo XII, Blessed in 1864 by Pope Pius IX and finally canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV. In the Catholic Church, the feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated on the Friday 19 days after Pentecost. In addition, the Church dedicates the entire month of June to the Sacred Heart.

What exactly does devotion to the Sacred Heart mean? Jesus revealed to St Margaret Mary that His human heart is the symbol of his divine-human love. Thus, the crown of thorns around His heart represents the great sacrifice and suffering Jesus endured for us and for the redemption of all humanity. This devotion reminds us that His heart is open and He is always willing to forgive us of our sins. By loving Jesus, we extend that love to others by acts of kindness, compassion and service. Other ways to observe this devotion include prayers, observing feast days, acts of reparation for offences against Christ’s love and the list goes on.



To read about the twelve promises of the Sacred Heart revealed St Margaret Mary, go to <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/12-promises-of-the-sacred-heart-13683>

By Angela Van Kralingen

“I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus.”

(From St. Margaret Mary of Alacoque as she was receiving the last anointing.)

The Pope's Prayer
Intention for October

For mental health ministry:

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

To read more of the Pope's Prayer Intentions, visit

<https://www.popesprayer.va/>

PRAYER for OCTOBER

**World Mental Health Day -
October 10th**

Loving God, you are close to the brokenhearted and save those who are crushed in spirit.

Please grant peace, comfort, and healing to the mind.

Lift heavy burdens, calm anxious thoughts, and quiet fears.

Give strength for each day, clear guidance toward the right medical and professional support, and the deep assurance of your unfailing presence.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



We welcome the newest members of our parish family who were baptized in September:

Antonella Maria Marchittelli

Lainey Reese Borowski

Linnea Quinn Bruin

Ainsley Devera Bruin

Theodore Brendan Robertson

Prayer for Child's Baptism:

Heavenly Father, surround these children with Your love and protection. Fill Your little ones with the Holy Spirit and receive them into the family of Your church, that they may walk with us in the way of Christ, and grow in the knowledge of Your love. Amen



Matrimony



Prayers and Best Wishes for the following couple who was joined in Holy Matrimony:

Duncan & Corina Spaan

A Nuptial Blessing:

May love and laughter fill your hearts and your home all the days of your lives. May you face every challenge hand-in-hand and side-by-side knowing that with God's grace, you will conquer all obstacles together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In Memoriam

We remember the recently departed faithful of our parish:
Brian Baldoni



Let Us Pray:

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Franciscan Deacon's Bench

*"O praise and bless my Lord, thank Him
and serve Him humbly but grandly!"*

St Francis of Assisi died on the evening of Oct 3, 1226. The days leading up to his death are recorded in detail in the earliest biographies. His poetic song, which we call the "Canticle of the Creatures" was one of three readings he requested as he died. (along with **John 13:1-17**: Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, and **Psalm 142**: "*I cry to the Lord with my voice; to the Lord I make loud supplication...*")

The Canticle is sometimes **misrepresented as praise of creation**. It is not. In it **all of creation, including humanity, praises God**. It begins: "*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, Yours is the praise, the glory and the honour and every blessing...*" and ends: "*O praise and bless my Lord, thank Him and serve Him humbly but grandly!*"

Stanzas 2 through 7 praise God for the beauty of His creation: "***Praised be You, my Lord for all Your creatures, especially Sir Brother Sun... Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and Stars... through Brother Wind, through air and cloud... through Sister Water...through Brother Fire... Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth.***"

Stanzas 8 and 9 - composed when Francis was very weak, nearly blind, and near death - show that every aspect of **human life** can praise God too. Even **forgiving, bearing with sickness, and enduring in peace**, and even our dying should be expressions of praise for God.

Sister Elia Delio adds, "... Francis came to see that all creation gives praise to God. Brother Sun and Sister Moon praise God just by being sun and moon... the entire creation is charged with the goodness of God so that, even in eternal life, creation will offer praise and glory to the Most High..."

For Francis, **the Incarnation** gives insight into the goodness of the created world as the sacrament of God. **Creation and Incarnation are intimately united** in such a way that **we cannot truly grasp our relationship to creation apart from understanding our relationship to Jesus Christ.** ... "

from "A Franciscan View of Creation..." in Volume 2 of The Franciscan Heritage Series. The Franciscan Institute

Canticle of the Creatures

*Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, and the honor, and all blessing,
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no human is worthy to mention Your name.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendor;
and bears a likeness of You, Most High One.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather,
through whom You give sustenance to Your creatures.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night,
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us,
and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.*

*Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,
and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, shall they be crowned.*

*Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.
Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.*

*Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.*

St Francis of Assisi, 1225

Sacred Music — Part of the Liturgical Action



On August 19, 2026 at his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Leo XIV reflected on sacred music in the liturgy, as part of his series of reflections on the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The Pope praised sacred music for giving voice to prayer and expressing the faith, always with the main objective of glorifying God and helping the faithful grow in holiness. He went on to observe that the Constitution states that "the musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater than

that of any other art." The Pope stated that singing and playing sacred music in the liturgy "means to pray, attuning one's heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through active participation in the mystery that is being celebrated." He also cited the English translation of what St. Augustine said, "singing belongs to those who love".

The Holy Father recalled that singing fosters communion, bringing everyone together in praise of God through the symphony of voices.

He went on to say that because of its profound theological significance, certain requirements must be met. The form, especially in its melodic dimension, "must at the same time be noble and simple, of high musical quality and easily performable, particularly when it is intended to be sung by the whole assembly." Pope Leo concluded by recalling that Fathers of the Church held liturgical song in high esteem as a symbol of ecclesial

communion, as he quoted St. Ignatius of Antioch. "Let each of you become a choir" he said, "so that, harmonious in agreement and taking the pitch of God in unity, you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father, so that He may hear you and, from the good works you perform, recognize that you are members of His Son."

So let us use the voices God gave us and sing with the choir or better yet, join the choir. Practices are held each Thursday evening at 6:45pm.

Reported by Wilma Vanderzwaag



Leaves Change and Fall

What are you thankful for this day?

Sometimes I forget that thanksgiving should not only be practiced during the moments that I get what I want, but even when I don't. It can be difficult to give thanks during those moments in our lives when things aren't going according to plan, or we feel cheated. Most people forget to give thanks for the gift of a new day. Each new day is a chance to reach out to those we love. It is a chance to appreciate the good food, great friends, and wonderful family. It is the time to say thank you to Jesus. When you think about what you are thankful for, we fill our minds and hearts with gratitude. When we are filled with gratitude there is no room for worry.

In Autumn as the leaves change and fall, we are reminded that we will change, we will transform, and we will trust in God. We wait for something new and wonderful to happen in our lives. So, use this time preparing our hearts and renewing our spirits. In our longing and waiting we en-



counter God. While watching the colours of Fall, think about what each colour brings. Brown holds stability, protection, endurance and simplicity. Red holds passion, determination, love and adventure. Orange holds balance, warmth and freedom from inner prisons. The new colours of the autumn leaves are a small glimpse into the richness and diversity of the loving life moments God has in store for us.

Let us watch the changing colours and let go like the falling leaves, and let God surprise you.

by Wilma Vanderzwaag



THE AD LUMINA VISITS & BISHOPS, CONSECRATED LIFE, AND ECCLESIAL ASSOCIATIONS

Final Report of Study Groups 6 and 7 (2nd part)

Pope Leo XIV has directed that the Final Reports be made public in order to share with the entire People of God the fruits of the reflection and discernment undertaken, thereby giving concrete expression to one of the essential characteristics of a synodal Church: transparency and accountability (cf. *Final Document*, no. 97). The two texts **set out proposals submitted** to the Holy Father at the conclusion of the work of the respective Groups. **They are therefore not decisions that have already been taken**, but indications which the competent Dicasteries and the General Secretariat of the Synod will be called to translate into operational proposals to be submitted to the Holy Father (cf. *Note of the General Secretariat of the Synod*, 3 March 2026).

For the full reports go to www.synod.va

Shared by Wilma Vanderzwaag



Sundae Sunday

Sunday, September 13,
2026

After 11 a.m. Mass,
parishioners were treated
to ice cream and lemonade
on the church lawn.





Town Hall Meeting -

Reported by Wilma Vanderzwaag

On August 27, I attended a town hall meeting at the Grantham Lions Club, on the private member's bill from Tamara Jansen--Bill C-218, the Right to Recover Act. Tamara, who is the MP for the Cloverdale-Langley City in British Columbia, and Andrew Lawton, MP for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South both spoke about the need for this bill. Both members have a great deal of experience with Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). Tamara is the Vice-Chair of the Special Joint Committee on MAiD and Andrew is a member of the committee. Professionals in the mental health field have said that mental health is not incurable and should not be a consideration for MAiD. A person in the depths of mental illness may genuinely believe things will never get better. Doctors cannot reliably predict when an individual mental illness is irremediable. Our mental-health system has always responded: We're going to help you through this. The Special Joint Committee has also spoken after hearing from the experts and people with lived experience, and recommended keeping the exclusion for mental illness. As Tamara stated, "this (issue) has been kicked down the can twice. Now we face an impending deadline of March 2027. Please make this Bill C-218 go through so that mental health can never be a consideration for MAiD. Everyone deserves the right to recover. Tell your MP to support this bill so that when parliament resumes in September this bill is passed."

Andrew also stated that implementation of safeguards is lacking and there is no accountability, therefore, little protection for someone from falling through the cracks. Andrew experienced mental health issues approximately ten years ago and speaks from firsthand experience. Andrew is a suicide survivor and passionate mental health advocate who volunteers on the board of Suicide Prevention Middlesex-London. Andrew reflects that had MAiD been available at the time of his suicide attempt and mental illness, he may have considered it as an option.

This Bill has a simple goal—to make an indefinite exclusion of mental illness for MAiD requests. What happens next? On October 7th MPs vote on Bill C-218. If MPs vote yes, the bill moves to committee for study, then returns to Parliament for a final decision. Tell our MP, Chris Bittle, that you support Bill C-218 and want him to vote YES!



Star of the Sea CWL Invites you to a

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, October 23 - 7:00 pm

**Armenian Community Centre
156 Martindale Rd.**

\$25 per ticket / \$175 per table of 8

**Tickets available after Masses on
Oct 3/4 and Oct 10/11**

or call Jayne Evans (289-990-2475) or Connie Tracey (905-646-1798)

Munchies / Pizza / 50-50 Draw / Raffle / Prizes / Cash Bar



Mark
Your
Calendar



Saturday, November 28, 2026
10am- 2pm

Cookie Concourse

Self-select our homemade
delights by the half dozen!

Silent Auction

Fantastic items to bid on!
Quilt Raffle

Jams Jellies & Preserves

From our homes to yours to
compliment your celebrations!

Christmas Cards

Sold by our Knights of Columbus

Christmas Extras

Gifts and a selection of
accents for your festive
home!

Emily's Children's Shoppe

A special table for children to shop
for Christmas gifts

Baked Goods

Delights for your Christmas
entertaining

Lunch Café

Sit and enjoy a light lunch and beverage while
you browse!

Star of the Sea Church

34 Elgin St, St Catharines
in Port Dalhousie



This is a Star of the Sea CWL Sponsored Event