



The Catholic Light

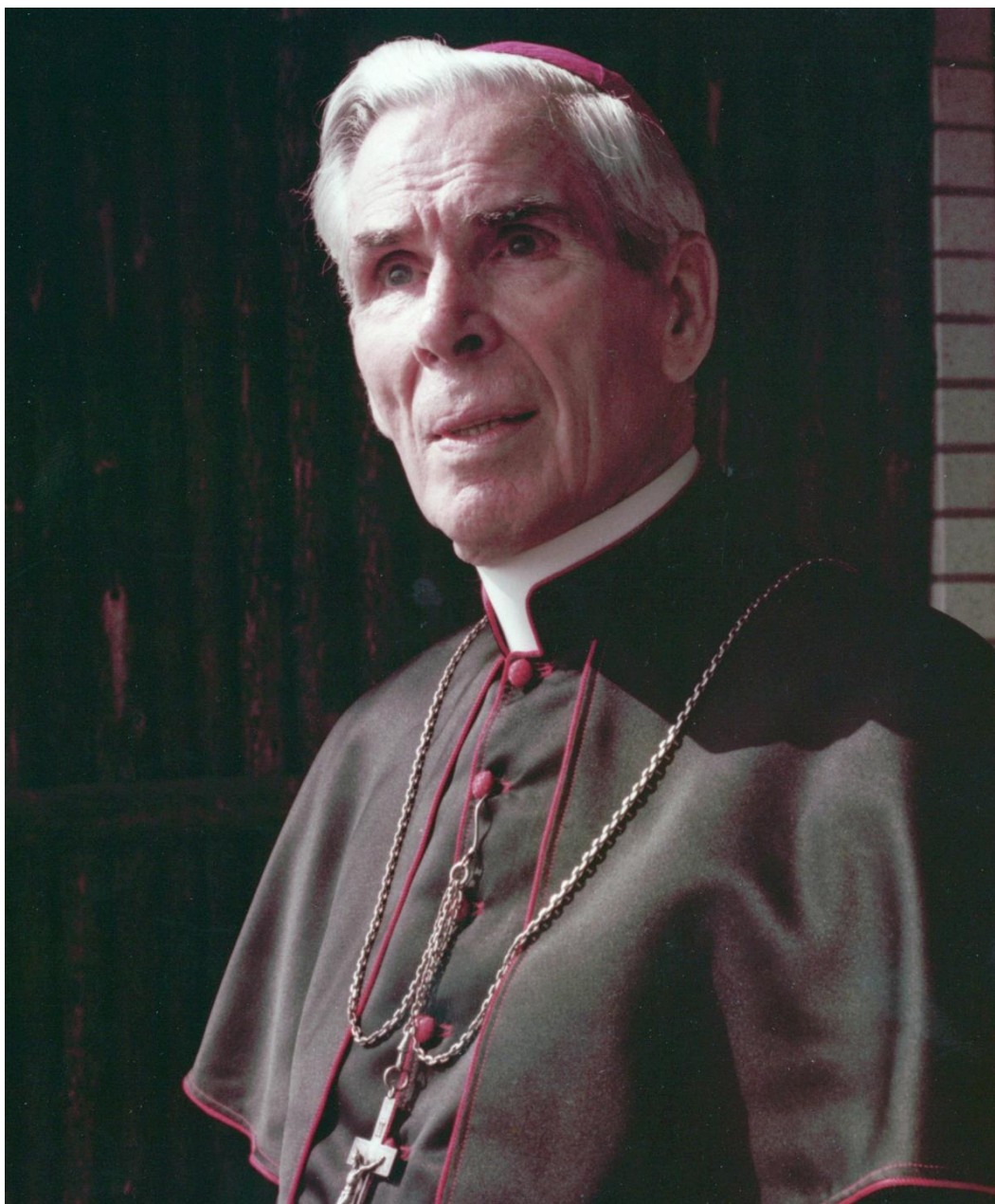
DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Weekly E-Newsletter

September 24, 2026

***Special Edition: Beatification of
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen***

**Beatification Mass of
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
takes place today in St. Louis**



The historic Mass of Beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will take place Thursday afternoon in Missouri.

A priest, bishop, teacher, missionary, and one of the most influential Catholic communicators of the 20th century, Sheen spent his life bringing the Gospel to millions through radio and

television. Pope Leo XIV recently described him as a "light of faith, hope and love."

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle will celebrate the Mass as the representative of Pope Leo XIV. More than 83 Bishops, 870 priests and 45,000 pilgrims have registered to attend today's celebration.

CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton and EWTN will bring you complete coverage from St. Louis.

10:00 a.m.

Archbishop Sheen Beatification Pre-Show

At 10 a.m. in the Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, speakers and musicians will pay tribute to Archbishop Sheen with the "Celebrate Sheen Show." The event will feature Katie Prejean McGrady, host of The Catholic Channel on SiriusXM; Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop emeritus of New York; and speaker and author Sister Josephine Garrett, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Catholic musicians Matt Maher and Dave and Lauren Moore of the Catholic Music Initiative will also participate in the show.

Participants will together pray the rosary with World Mission Rosaries handcrafted in preparation of this event and modeled on the rosary Archbishop Sheen designed for his work with what is now known as the Pontifical Mission Societies.

2:30 p.m.

Beatification Mass

At 2:30 p.m., the procession for the beatification Mass will begin.

The Mass will include the rite of beatification, during which a brief biography of Archbishop Sheen will be read. Cardinal Tagle will also read an apostolic letter from Pope Leo XIV in Latin, which is repeated in English. This letter declares that Archbishop

Sheen now has the title "blessed." An image of Archbishop Sheen with a halo will be revealed, and then his relic will be presented for veneration and incensed. Copies of the pope's letter will be distributed to Church officials, and the congregation will sing a hymn of thanksgiving before the Mass continues.

[Click Here to Watch the Beatification Festivities Livestream](#)

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen: A Timeline

Blessed Fulton J. Sheen

A Timeline



1895

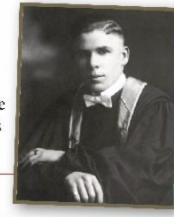
Born; El Paso, Illinois, May 8

1900

Moved to Peoria, Illinois; enrolled at St. Mary's Cathedral School

1909

Enrolled at Spalding Institute in Peoria, Illinois



1913

Enrolled at St. Viator's College in Bourbonnais, Illinois

1917

Enrolled at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota

1919

Ordained a priest, Sept. 20, St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria

1920

Began period of graduate studies at 'The Catholic University of America, Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, the Sorbonne in Paris and the Angelicum in Rome

1923

Obtained *agregé* doctorate in philosophy from Catholic University of Louvain



1925

Spent nine months working at St. Patrick Parish in Peoria

1926

Began teaching theology, then philosophy and religion at Catholic University in Washington; remained until 1950

1930

Began "The Catholic Hour" national radio broadcast

1950

Appointed national director of the Society for the Propagation of Faith; remained until 1966

1951

Ordained a bishop by Adeodato Giovanni Cardinal Piazza at Sts. John and Paul Basilica in Rome, June 11; appointed auxiliary bishop of New York. Began "Life is Worth Living" television series



1953

Won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality

1966

Appointed bishop of Rochester, New York, by Pope Paul VI, Oct. 21

1966

Elected Chairman of Committee for the Propagation of the Faith; Elected to Administrative Board of the National Council of Catholic Bishops

1969

Appointed to the Papal Commission for Non-believers by Pope Paul VI

1969

Resignation as bishop of Rochester accepted by Pope Paul VI, Oct. 6. Appointed Titular Archbishop of Newport



1979

Died, New York City, Dec. 9

2002

Cause for beatification and canonization opened, Sept. 14



2012

Declared venerable by Pope Benedict XVI, June 28

2026

Beatified in St. Louis, Sept. 24

[Click Here to Enlarge the Fulton J. Sheen Timeline](#)

'Pivotal' Archbishop Sheen 'opened the door to the evangelization of the world,' says Bishop Barron



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen – the 20th-century theologian, evangelizer and Catholic communications pioneer – “opened the door to the evangelization of the world,” said Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota.

The bishop shared his thoughts on Archbishop Sheen in a Sept. 23 homily at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, where hundreds gathered for vespers a day before the archbishop’s beatification in that city.

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski of St. Louis presided over Evening Prayer, part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the Church's continuous cycle of daily prayer at set times.

Although Archbishop Sheen's canonization cause was introduced in 2002 by his home Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, organizers selected St. Louis as the beatification site in order to better accommodate the thousands in attendance.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Cardinal Tagle encourages faithful to adopt Archbishop Sheen's virtues as beatification nears



The grace of the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen comes with corresponding responsibility for Catholics in his home diocese of Peoria, Illinois, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle told Catholics there during Mass Sept. 22.

“This is a grace for all of us here, but also a heavy responsibility,” he said in his homily in Peoria’s Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, where Archbishop Sheen’s remains are entombed. “From now on, when people learn that you are from Peoria, they will say, ‘Oh, are you as missionary-oriented as Bishop Fulton Sheen? Are you deeply entrenched in the Word of God, like the Blessed Fulton Sheen?’”

He said, with a laugh, that he hoped that they would not deny being from Peoria, but rather answer, “Yes, I am from Peoria, and this is a blessing from the Lord.”

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

What happens during a Beatification?



Beatifications are a tremendous milestone in the process of canonization. The Latin word “beatus,” a title bestowed on the individual in question at a beatification, means “blessed” or “happy.” This word also lends its name to the Eight Beatitudes, which lay at the heart of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, described by St. Augustine as “the perfect charter for the Christian life,” or roadmap to holiness.

A beatification is a papal act that declares it is worthy of belief that those who are beatified enjoy the beatific vision; that is to say, they are in heaven because they were killed “in odium fidei” (in hatred of the faith) as a martyr, lived a life of heroic virtue, or offered their life selflessly to preserve the life of others.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Sheen beatification offers U.S. Bishops a model of holiness and mission



The much-anticipated beatification of Venerable Fulton J. Sheen is set for this afternoon in St. Louis, marking a historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States. Not only is Sheen the first television host to be formally recognized by the Church as “blessed,” but he also will become the first American-born bishop to be beatified.

For many of the nation’s bishops, however, Sheen’s beatification is about more than historical firsts. In interviews with OSV News, several bishops described a man whose influence as an evangelist and communicator flowed from a deeply rooted life of prayer and sacrifice — and whose example remains relevant to the Church’s mission today.

An auxiliary bishop of New York from 1951 to 1966, Sheen left an indelible mark on the Church in the United States and beyond. Yet when he arrived in New York, he was no stranger to the city.

For two decades, while teaching at The Catholic University of America in Washington, he had traveled regularly to NBC studios to broadcast his popular weekly radio program. As an auxiliary bishop in New York, he also directed the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (one of The Pontifical Mission Societies), connecting American Catholics to the Church's missionary work throughout the world.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

**Ahead of Beatification, the women
behind Archbishop Sheen's
missionary work remember hidden
labor**



When Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is beatified this afternoon in St. Louis, attention will rightly fall on the celebrated television preacher whose broadcasts brought Catholic teaching into millions of American homes.

But for almost two decades, behind Archbishop Sheen's extraordinary reach stood a largely unknown group of women who opened thousands of letters, recorded donations, thanked contributors, and helped transform his words into material support for missionaries and young churches around the world.

Archbishop Sheen served from 1950 to 1966 as the national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, one of the four Pontifical Mission Societies. The society coordinates World Mission Sunday, the annual worldwide day of giving that supports the Church's work in more than 1,100 mission territories.

It was a responsibility central to Archbishop Sheen's priesthood and public ministry. Alongside his radio and television work, he traveled, preached missionary appeals and served as editor of MISSION Magazine, which began being published by the national office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1951.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Archbishop Sheen: How the philosophy professor became 'God's microphone'



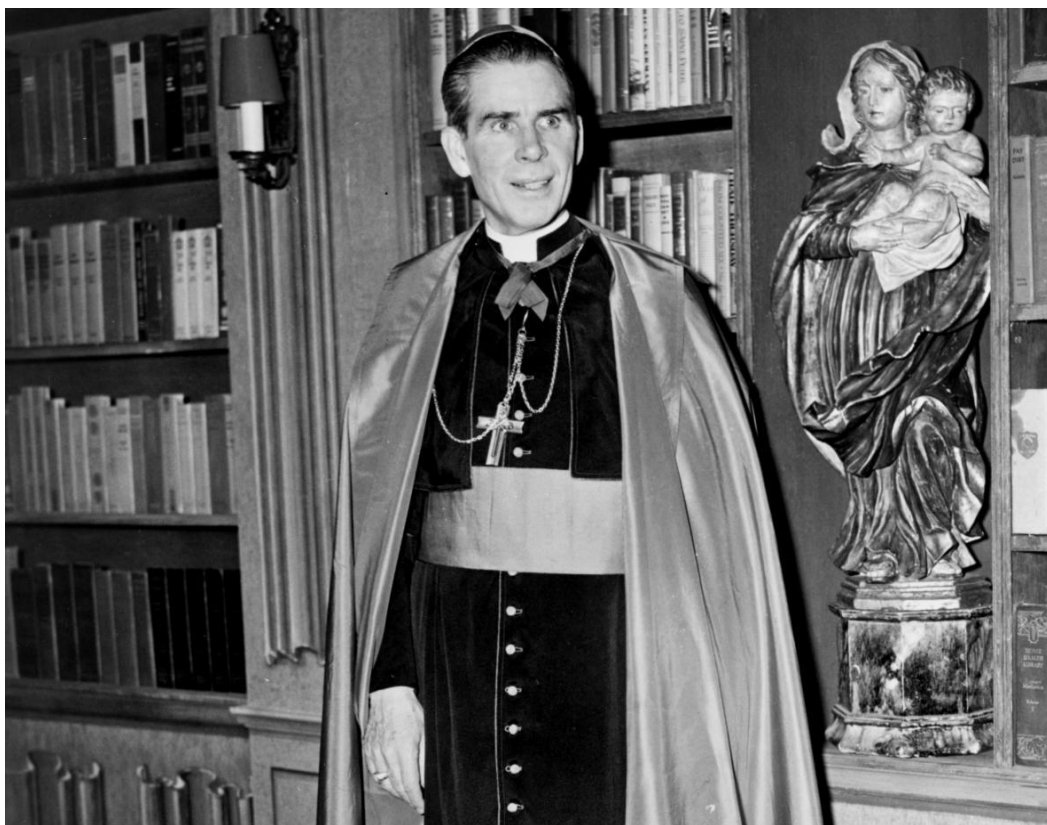
It was while a professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington that Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen began to use radio as a powerful tool for evangelization. It was a medium that soon garnered him a national audience and reputation.

After completing his doctoral studies at the University of Louvain in Belgium, then-Father Sheen was awarded the highly prestigious agrégé honor after further postdoctoral work, including the publication of a book. In 1926, he returned to CUA, where he had previously begun his graduate studies in philosophy.

Now a faculty member, Archbishop Sheen took on a demanding teaching load and began writing prolifically, leading to the publication of his book “Religion without God” in 1928, a sequel of sorts to his dissertation, “God and Intelligence.” The young priest-scholar also became well-known and popular on campus for his frequent lectures to clubs and groups, as well as his involvement in the newly-founded American Catholic Philosophical Association.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

How Archbishop Sheen embodied the 7 key virtues



With his beatification scheduled for this afternoon, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be memorialized in the Church for reasons far beyond his contributions to the Church's intellectual life or his evangelical zeal, incredible and legendary though they are.

As the Church prepares to acknowledge the reasonable hope that he is in heaven, Sheen's life of heroic virtue now belongs to the ages – and indeed, what better could be remembered about his or any life?

Sheen is a model for those striving for holiness. Through his practice of the theological and cardinal virtues, which comprise the primary characteristics of candidates for sainthood, Sheen's life gives a glimpse of what ours could and should resemble.

[Click Here to Read the Full Story from Our Sunday Visitor](#)

Hispanic Heritage Mass and celebration draws large crowd to Monroe County



More than 1,200 people gathered to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brodheadsville last weekend.

The Diocese of Scranton held its sixth annual Hispanic Heritage Mass and celebration at the Monroe County church.

The celebration began with a noon Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton. A celebration followed the Mass, which featured food, music, dancing, cultural activities and a youth soccer tournament.

[Click Here to Watch a Video from CTV: Catholic Television from the Hispanic Heritage Mass and Celebration](#)

**Muncy parish to hold fall festival
this weekend**



2026 Fall FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

*Friday stop for something to eat
before you go to a football game.*



4:00PM – 7:00PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

1:30PM – 7:30PM

Saturday food service will continue until dusk.
Festival activities continue in the church until 7:30PM.

Something for people of all ages to enjoy.

— Delicious Food! —



- Hot Dog
- Hamburgers
- Mild/Hot Sausage
- Kielbasa
- Pulled Pork
- Stuffed Cabbage (Halupki)
- Pierogies
- Haluski
- French Fries



Ice Cream



Water



Soda

RAFFLES AND AUCTION

- ★ Prize Raffle
- ★ Quilt Raffle
- ★ Cooler of Cheer Raffle
- ★ Basket Raffle
- ★ 50/50
- ★ Silent Auction

*Great Items
to Bid on!*



GAMES AND MORE

- ★ Candy Wheel
- ★ Ring Toss
- ★ Golden Goose
- ★ Adult Ring Toss
- ★ Kid Zone

... And more!



LIVE MUSIC

Friday:

Rich Ahearn and
Rick Kerstetter – 4:00PM



Saturday:

Catawissa Military Band – 4:00PM



Rain or Shine!

Now that autumn has officially arrived, parishes have transitioned into holding fall festivals for the coming month.

This weekend, Resurrection Parish in Muncy welcomes everyone to join them for delicious food, raffles, games and live music!

[Click Here for the Full Listing of 2026 Parish Festivals, Picnics and Bazaars](#)

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Diocese of Scranton
300 Wyoming Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503-1279
(570) 207-2238
www.dioceseofscranton.org