THE CENTURION TRIBUNE

The News in the Spirit of the Good News

VOLUME I, NUMBER 1 A PUBLICATION OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY • RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIF. OCTOBER 2026

TGSA Leadership Meets With Vicar General

Meeting is cordial but still no decision concerning Mass on campus



Autumn Planting: Mrs. Read (partially obscured) and Miss Macias lead TGSA gardening program. (Story on page 3.)

On the morning of October 1, TGSA Board President and Principal Daniel Mansueto and Board Member Judy Gutierrez met by Zoom with Monsignor Gerard Lopez, the Vicar General of the Diocese of San Bernardino. Msgr. Lopez had asked for the meeting in order to report on a meeting he attended the previous week with Bishop Alberto Rojas and Diocesan officials.

The first topic was TGSA's request to have Mass on campus. Msgr. Lopez reported that Bishop Rojas, while not saying no, is not yet ready to say yes. Msgr. Lopez explained that the Diocese does not currently have a policy that provides for celebrating Mass outside a customary setting, and Diocesan officials wish to give the question further study. Msgr. Lopez made clear that the matter remains open.

The meeting also addressed two other matters of importance to the school: the process by which the Diocese would accredit and formally recognize The Good Shepherd Academy, and authorization for the school to provide instruction in the sacraments. Msgr. Lopez is arranging a further meeting at which Mr. Mansueto and Mrs. Gutierrez will address those subjects with Diocesan staff.

During the meeting Mr. Mansueto asked that TGSA representatives be given the opportunity to meet with Bishop Rojas to present in person the school's request to have Mass on campus, and he proposed that such a meeting take place after the Diocese has recognized the school. He also noted that Mass at the school could give the residents of Merrill Gardens, the assisted-living community next to the campus, access to the Mass. Msgr. Lopez appeared receptive to both items.

Before the meeting closed, Mrs. Gutierrez invited Msgr. Lopez to visit the campus, and he said that an on-site visit is something he would like to work toward. Msgr. Lopez ended the meeting with a blessing.

"I am grateful to Msgr. Lopez for his courtesy and attention to TGSA's requests," said Mr. Mansueto.

News Analysis

For TGSA families who long for Mass to be celebrated on campus, "not yet" may be hard to hear. Still, there is reason for optimism. The Diocese is engaged, its officials are giving TGSA's requests attention, and there is a path forward: recognition first, and then a presentation to the Bishop. Things are moving in a positive direction.

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Marred by Sister's Absence But Still Joyful

Mr. Mansueto and Miss Collins step in at last minute

On the morning of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7), students at The Good Shepherd Academy honored the Blessed Mother with a special Rosary celebration prepared by Sister Francis Mary. Sister herself, however, was not there. That very morning, shortly before she was to be picked up at Santa Teresita by Miss Collins, she had fallen and hit her face. She had to go to the hospital for observation rather than to school.

The injury to Sister Francis Mary's face was not very great, thankfully. Great, however, was her disappointment in missing the celebration. Acting upon

Continued on page 3.

INSIDE

From the Editor 2
Parent Guild Meets. 2
Calendar 2
Gardening Begins. 3
Popcorn Fundraiser 3
Popcorn Flyer. 4

From the Editor

By Daniel Mansueto, Editor-in-Chief

This is the inaugural edition of The Centurion Tribune. Going forward, it will be a collaborative effort. Although I did most of the work on this first issue, I have had offers of help from two students. Gemma Miranda, an 8th grader, and Alfredo Reyna, a 7th grader, are the Tribune's first staff writers. I am grateful to both of them for their enthusiasm and help.

I started The Centurion Tribune for three reasons. First, it adds to the extracurricular activities that The Good Shepherd Academy offers. Second, it is part of my plan to heighten the school's social media presence. I will be seeking to integrate the Tribune's articles and photographs into the school's Facebook and Instagram pages. Third, I thought it would be fun. And, so far, it has been.

I hope to involve a wide range of members of the TGSA community in the paper. I invite all faculty, staff, parents and students to submit articles. I will be asking adults on campus to take photographs. Parents who own businesses are invited to advertise — at a competitive rate! — in the paper. Any students in grades 7–12 who are not now participating are welcome to join. It is my hope that, in the future, student involvement in the production of the paper will increase and my involvement will decrease.

The Centurion Tribune has an antecedent in the Centurion Circular, a weekly newsletter that my predecessor as principal, Jourdain Renteria, distributed to parents by email. The Circular was an effective means of keeping parents informed of school-related events on a timely basis. The Tribune will also keep parents informed, but unlike the Circular, it will not be the school administration's primary means of doing so. For important and time-sensitive matters, I will keep parents informed by email on an as-needed basis.

May God bless this effort to bring you "The News in the Spirit of the Good News"!

New Parent Guild Board Begins Its Work

The Good Shepherd Academy's Parent Guild has a new leadership team for the 2026–2027 school year. Mrs. Michelle Reyes, a new TGSA parent, has taken the helm as Parent Guild President. In a message to families, Mrs. Reyes said she is grateful for the opportunity to serve and looks forward to working alongside families, teachers, and school leadership to make this a meaningful and memorable year for the students.

Joining Mrs. Reyes on the Parent Guild Board are Mrs. Julyanna Rios, Vice President and Events Coordinator; Mrs. Melissa Villegas, Treasurer; Mrs. Patricia Camberos, Secretary; and Mr. Kim Mitchell, Fundraising Liaison. Mr. Mansueto serves on the board as an executive member and advisor, helping to ensure that the Guild's activities support the school's mission. In a note to her fellow board members, Mrs. Reyes stressed that while each has a designated role, the board is "one team working toward a common goal."

The board held its first meeting on October 8 and began planning for the months ahead. Families can mark their calendars for two celebrations. On Tuesday, November 24, the school will hold a Thanksgiving celebration meal beginning at 1:45 p.m. on the pavilion, weather permitting. Parents will provide the food and refreshments, signing up for particular items through a SignUpGenius form, and students will need to bring only a snack for lunch that day. On Wednesday, December 16, a Christmas reception on the pavilion will begin at 3:30 p.m., ahead of the Christmas concert at 5:00 p.m.

The board also discussed the Double Good popcorn fundraiser. To spur participation, the board agreed to offer a prize to the first class in which every student has set up a Double Good pop-up store. It has since been decided that for Kindergarten-4th grades the prize will be an extra five minutes for two recesses, and that for grades 5-12 the prize will be excuse from an assignment.

The Guild's first general meeting, open to all parents, will be held Friday, October 30, at 11:00 a.m. in the school's Multipurpose Room. Parents will have the chance to meet the board and learn about upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. Mrs. Reyes emphasized that every contribution counts: whether parents have a lot of time to volunteer or can help only occasionally, their participation is appreciated.

Parents who would like to serve as Room Parents can sign up through SignUpGenius, using the link in Mrs. Reyes's October 9 email to families or the QR code on the meeting flyer. Room Parents support classroom activities, help with communication, and assist with school events throughout the year. Each teacher will select a Room Parent for his or her classroom.

Mr. Mansueto expressed gratitude for the Parent Guild's present and past efforts. "As board president, I always appreciated the Parent Guild's support. As principal, I now see how essential it is."



Get involved!

Join the Parent Guild!

Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Oct. 28
CLT testing, grades 11 and 12
All Saints presentations, 1:45–3:15 p.m.

Fri., Oct. 30
Parent Guild meeting, 11 a.m.

Mon., Nov. 2
Popcorn fundraiser begins

Thurs., Nov. 5
CLT testing, grades 9 and 10

Thurs., Nov. 12
Minimum day, 12:15 p.m. dismissal
Parent-teacher conferences, 1–4 p.m.

Fri., Nov. 13
Parent-teacher conferences, 1–3 p.m.

Tues., Nov. 24
Thanksgiving luncheon, 1:45–3:45 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 8
Feast of the Immaculate Conception, no school

Wed., Dec. 16
Christmas reception, 3:30–5 p.m.
Christmas concert, 5–6 p.m.

Rosary Celebration

(cont'd from p. 1)

her fervent devotion to Our Lady, she had gone to great lengths to prepare the celebration. She asked Mr. Mansueto for permission to begin the Rosary before attendance instead of after, as is usually done, so there would be time for students to sing hymns between each decade. She prepared a pamphlet with prayers, a Marian hymn with verses to be sung between decades, and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She made a trip to Trader Joe's to buy fresh flowers to place beside the statue of Mary. And to make the day a day of celebration, she planned a contest: any student who could correctly name a decade of the Rosary would earn a biscotti. In the late afternoon, she drafted an email for Mr. Mansueto to send to parents informing them of the planned celebration and the need to be on time. By the evening of October 6, the stage was set. The hymn pamphlets were printed and waiting on every student's chair, the statue of Mary was moved to the center of the sanctuary, the flowers were placed near the statue, and the biscotti prizes were tucked away in a cupboard. However, due to her fall the next morning, Sister would not enjoy any of the fruits of her labors.

Not knowing in advance the details of Sister's plans, Mr. Mansueto had to scramble to execute them as best he could on the morning of October 7 while finding a substitute for Sister's classes. Making things even more hectic, a full-time teacher unexpectedly called in sick that morning and a third teacher was also out. Fortunately, the TGSA community went above and beyond to help. Mrs. Reyes came right away to school to substitute, Mrs. Valdez volunteered to substitute, Miss Collins calmly and ably stepped forward to help with the Rosary and with substituting, and the students cooperated with admirable maturity. Mr. Mansueto had only a couple of stumbles in leading the recitation and Litany. The singing, led by Miss Collins, was beautiful. All in all, it was as Sister Francis Mary would have wanted. Surely God was pleased.

News Analysis

This year the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was a lesson in how inscrutable God's will can be. After Sister Francis Mary had gone to such great lengths to prepare a celebration to honor Our Lady, God willed, at least permissively, that she miss the celebration. How, one might ask, could God allow such a thing? How could He allow a fall to prevent Sister Francis Mary from completing such a holy and beautiful tribute to the mother of His Son? His ways are not our ways. Perhaps what happened was His way of reminding us of how unfathomable He is.

Gardening Program Takes Root

This fall, students at The Good Shepherd Academy are at work bringing to life the box garden that is adjacent to the school.

Under the direction of Mrs. Lisette Read, the school's Gardening Program Director, with Miss Lauren Macias as faculty advisor (both pictured here and on page 1), TGSA's gardening program has students at work in the school garden three days a week. On Mondays, kindergarten through second grade students garden in place of their sixth-period physical education class. On Wednesdays, the Gardening Club, which is open to students in every grade from kindergarten through 12th, meets after school from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. On Fridays, gardening is part of Miss Macias's kindergarten through second grade science class, where it serves as a hands-on extension of the Life Sciences curriculum.

The work takes place in six raised garden beds. The garden belongs to the school's landlord, the Highland Avenue Community Church, but the church's pastor, Phil Hamner, has graciously allowed TGSA to tend it.

Members of the Gardening Club began the season by learning how to prepare the beds for planting, and they have since planted cabbage, broccoli, beets, strawberries, and onions. Miss Macias's kindergarten, first, and second grade students, who have been learning about seeds and how plants grow, have sown snap peas, garlic, and carrots. The sixth bed holds established blueberry bushes, which students will tend to keep the plants healthy and productive.

More is on the way. The fall plan also calls for Swiss chard; the flowers calendula, violas, and nasturtiums; and the herbs cilantro and chives.

The younger students study the science behind the work: the parts of a plant, what plants need to grow, life cycles, pollination, and the role of soil and water. They keep garden journals, sketching and recording what they see, a practice that builds habits of careful observation.

Students will also create and maintain the Garden of the Good Shepherd, on the lawn beside the school's main entrance. The garden will honor Christ the Good Shepherd.



Gardening Program Director Mrs. Lisette Read (back right, in hat), and Faculty Advisor Miss Macias (back left), with Gardening Club members

Popcorn Fundraiser Pops Nov. 2

TGSA's Double Good popcorn fundraiser runs from Monday, Nov. 2, at 10 a.m., through Monday, Nov. 9, at 10 a.m. Families can take part by downloading the Double Good app, entering the event code HCW UDZ, and creating a pop-up store.

The first class in which every student sets up a store wins a prize. Families can also earn awards, and schoolwide sales milestones bring treats for everyone. At the morning assembly on Oct. 13, Mr. Mansueto announced the prizes for the first classes to have 100% pop-up store set up: an extra 5 minutes for two recesses for the first K-4 class and an assignment pass for the first 5-12 class.

Mr. Mansueto and Mr. Mitchell both stressed the need for participation of as many families as possible. "Let us join together in this mutual effort to support TGSA's mission," said Mr. Mansueto.


The Good Shepherd Academy
Know Love Serve God
DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER
Double Good
Popcorn With a Purpose!
The Good Shepherd Academy is excited to kick off our first fundraiser for the 2026–2027 school year with Double Good Popcorn!
Your support helps provide additional opportunities and resources for our students and strengthens our TGSA community.
THE FUNDRAISER IS ACTIVE FROM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026 @ 10:00 AM
If you would like to participate and support The Good Shepherd Academy,
please use the link below to our principal's (Dan Mansueto) Pop-Up Store!
https://dgvf.co/LRDp8G
or reach out to any TGSA family or faculty.
Thank you for supporting The Good Shepherd Academy!