THE CENTURION TRIBUNE

The News in the Spirit of the Good News

VOLUME I, NUMBER 2 A PUBLICATION OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ACADEMY • RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CALIF. NOVEMBER 2026

Late Surges Put Popcorn Sales Over the Top

Fischer family leads the way in two-day extended period; $30,000 goal met with just 4 minutes remaining



The Bishop's left-hand man: Bishop Alberto Rojas with the altar servers after the Centennial Pontifical Mass at San Secondo d'Asti Catholic Church, October 10, 2026. TGSA eighth grader Daniel Palafox stands at the Bishop's immediate left.

The TGSA Double Good Popcorn nine-day fundraiser met its $30,000 goal in a dramatic photo finish, crossing the $30,000 mark with just four minutes left before the deadline. The fundraiser began on the morning of All Souls' Day and concluded on the morning of Veterans Day. The fundraiser was preceded by a spirited student pep rally at dismissal on Friday, October 30.

The fundraiser began with a goal of $25,000 in sales and a seven-day deadline for completion. It had a jackrabbit start. By Wednesday, the third of the seven days, sales were on a trajectory to reach $15,000 by the midway point of the initial seven-day sales period. Mr. Mansueto then unilaterally announced at dismissal on Thursday that he was raising the goal to $30,000. He also announced several sales incentives. The incentives included a $500 donation if 20 families each sold $500 or more, a $1,000 donation for meeting the $30,000 goal, $50 prizes for four selected family match-ups, and a $1,000 donation for any family who "beat the Mitchells." At the time, the Mitchells had a seemingly insurmountable lead.

However, despite the incentives, sales slowed on Friday and into the weekend. As of Sunday afternoon — less than 24 hours before the deadline — sales were at $22,617. It appeared that TGSA might not make even the $25,000 goal. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Fischer conferred about what measures might be taken. Mr. Mitchell related that Double Good allows a two-day extension. After communicating about the matter with Mr. Mansueto, on Sunday afternoon Mr. Mitchell invoked the extension and announced it to TGSA parents by email.

Many in the TGSA community went to bed Sunday night thinking that TGSA had failed to meet the original $25,000 goal within the seven-day deadline. However, a surge in sales late Sunday put TGSA over the top with room to spare. By the time school started on Monday morning, sales had exceeded $25,000 and, according to Double Good records, had reached $27,007 as of the 10 a.m. Monday deadline. The mood at school that morning was celebratory.

It remained to be seen, however, whether TGSA could surpass the $30,000 goal with the extra two days. On the morning of the last day — Veterans Day — TGSA was $512 short with just two and one-half hours remaining. Mr. Mitchell sent an email to all parents urging them to make up the gap. Approximately 20 minutes before the deadline, a $95 shortfall re-

Continued on page 4

San Secondo d'Asti Marks 100 Years with Pontifical Mass

TGSA students and families join Bishop Rojas at the parish where TGSA began

GUASTI — On Saturday, October 10, 2026, the Most Reverend Alberto Rojas, Bishop of San Bernardino, celebrated a Centennial Pontifical Mass at San Secondo d'Asti Catholic Church in Ontario's historic Guasti district, marking the parish's 100th anniversary. The San Secondo parish is of special significance to TGSA: several of its founding and current families regularly attend Mass there and the San Secondo Parish Hall served as TGSA's school facility for the first year of the school's operation.

Several members of the TGSA community were present at the Pontifical Mass. TGSA eighth grader Daniel Palafox served at the altar. In attendance were TGSA Principal Daniel Mansueto; TGSA teacher and parent Angie Almaguer, her husband, and their TGSA students Ana, Mary, Jose, and Jesus; TGSA

Continued on page 3

INSIDE

Faculty Spotlight: Miss Emily Hutt
Page 2

Pro-Life Club Bake Sale
Page 3

News in Brief
Page 3

Science Club Gears Up
Page 4

Faculty Spotlight: An Interview With Miss Emily Hutt

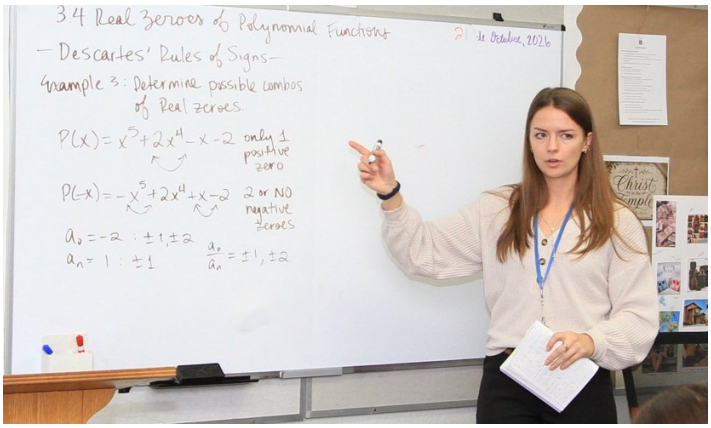
In July 2023, The Good Shepherd Academy received a charmingly enthusiastic email from a recent Cal Poly Pomona graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics. "Greetings!" it began, "My name is Emily Hutt, and I am interested in a teaching position at The Good Shepherd Academy!" Miss Hutt said in the email that when she heard about The Good Shepherd Academy she "knew that it would be a perfect fit for me. The small, devout Catholic environment sounds like the kind of school I wish I was able to attend." Miss Hutt continued: "My preference would be to teach high school mathematics ... but I am flexible and would be willing to teach any grade!" Her resume revealed that she was local and accomplished: A resident of Alta Loma and graduate of Pomona Catholic High School, she received the President's Award for Educational Excellence in Mathematics, and was named to the Dean's List at Cal Poly Pomona.

It is not every day that the school learns of such a promising job candidate. Miss Hutt was quickly hired, and has been a member of The Good Shepherd Academy's faculty ever since. Now in her fourth year she is teaching Pre-Calculus, 5th-6th grade Math, Algebra, 5th-6th grade History, Latin, and 7th-8th grade History. She also serves as the Faculty Advisor to the TGSA Student Council.

In the interview that follows, Miss Hutt reflects on the beauty of mathematics, the value of a classical education, and the harmony of faith and reason.

Tell us about how you came to study math at college. Did you always like math? Did you ever consider studying something else at college?

I did not always like math. As a child, I really struggled with basic arithmetic. I was always the slowest in my class, always finishing last if I finished at all! That changed, however, when I met my high school math teacher. Mr. Wallace completely changed my impression of math and my impression of myself. He saw potential in me and taught me to be a better mathematician and student in general. He challenged me like never before and forced me to grow through adversity. After *many* late nights studying (through tears), I was soon several math classes ahead of my peers and, to my own surprise, found myself enjoying the material! I always like to say Mr. Wallace "tricked me" into liking math! I owe my career and love of math to him.



God's language. Miss Hutt walks her Pre-Calculus class through Descartes' Rule of Signs.

How did you go from studying mathematics to teaching it?

I always knew that I was called to be a teacher. In high school, I would tutor very frequently. Students responded well to the way I explained problems. Even as I tutored, I would try to impart my love of math to them. "You don't hate math. You just don't understand it!" It became a part of my mission to show people that math is fun. It is also a beautiful way to understand God and His universe. Jesus told us He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. One way Jesus shows us He is the Truth is in mathematics. There is something very definite and comforting about it. While mathematics is a human invention, at least according to Pope Benedict, I like to think that mathematics always existed from the moment God created the universe. So I would argue, math is more of a human discovery. It was always God's language. We merely translated it. Math is full of reason, calculations, and irrefutable truths which is very similar to our Catholic church. For someone who is pragmatic and reasoned, I am drawn to both! God blessed me with this love and enthusiasm, and now He calls me to share it in my profession.

What in a nutshell is your spiritual biography? Have you always been Catholic? Was there a moment in your life when you decided to commit yourself to being Catholic?

I am very blessed to be a cradle Catholic! My father and mother both came from very Catholic families, so there was never any question about what faith I would be raised in. I would say my faith became my own in college. While I was always very devoted to the faith throughout my childhood and high school years, college was my first experience in a secular school. I was challenged in my beliefs, so I turned to apologetics. This research made me fall deeply in love with my faith. Despite spending thirteen years in Catholic school, I learned more about the church in my own research than in my formative years. The most pivotal moment for me was falling in love with the Mass. Learning that every single moment in the Mass correlates to a moment in scripture changed the way that I viewed my faith. As a person who is always searching for a "why", the Catholic church has the answer to every "why" I have ever asked.

Tell us what Catholicism means to you.

Catholicism is the truth. In a world where the truth is under attack and morality is subjective, Catholicism is unchanging. I know that no matter what changes in the secular world, it cannot combat what the church stands for, nor can it change her doctrine. I know that I cannot lose because Christ told us the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church, and I find immense comfort in that. It is the one thing in this life we can depend on with unwavering certainty. It is beautiful. I could not leave the faith even if I wanted to. Like Saint Peter says, "Lord, to whom would we go?" Catholicism is the fullness of Christ's church. There is nothing else on this earth like it.

Is there a saint, prayer, or devotion that is especially meaningful to you?

Where do I begin? The Sacred Heart, the Divine Mercy image, Saint Faustina, Saint Joan of Arc, are all devotions that have touched me since I was a very young girl. However, I have been invoking Saint Joseph's intercession quite a lot lately. As someone who has always held the family unit of the utmost importance, Saint Joseph's role in the Holy Family has been on my mind. The students have heard me sing Saint Joseph's praises on numerous occasions. Imagine being the only member of your family that sins. How trying of a position

Continued on page 3

Pro-Life Club Bake Sale Sweetens Mondays for a Good Cause

High school students bake weekly treats to benefit a Fontana pregnancy center



No change for your dollar this time! Despite a price increase from 50 cents, Jackie Mora-DeLeon gladly hands over a dollar bill to Annemarie Davila for a cupcake at the October 13 bake sale.

On the first school day of each week, TGSA students have a new reason to bring a dollar to school. Under the direction of faculty advisor Sister Francis Mary, the high school students of the Pro-Life Club hold a bake sale at lunch the first day of the week to support Assure Pregnancy Center, a pro-life pregnancy help clinic in Fontana. The students bake the cupcakes and cookies at home, and charge $1 for each (or for two smaller ones). All proceeds go to the Assure Pregnancy Center. The students earn service hours for their contributions.

The first sale was on October 5. For the sale, ninth grader Annemarie Davila baked velvet cupcakes and ninth grader Maia Camberos baked sugar cookies. The club charged 50 cents for a cupcake or a cookie and raked in $26, plus a few generous donations. After some business-savvy members of the TGSA community remarked that the treats were priced too low, the club raised the price to $1 for the second sale on October 13. This resulted in a 42% surge in revenue from the second sale, to $37. Total sales to date are over $200.

High school students have already signed up to provide baked goods every week through Christmas, and the club plans to continue the sale for the rest of the school year. When a Monday holiday falls during a given week, the sale moves to the next school day.

Students who would like to buy a treat are encouraged to bring exact change, since the sellers may not be able to break larger bills.

In her messages to parents, Sister Francis Mary thanked TGSA families for their generosity and their support of this very worthy cause.

To learn more about Assure Pregnancy Center, visit assurepregnancy.org.



Worth every penny. Nico Miranda savors his cupcake purchased at the October 13 bake sale.

Emily Hutt Interview

Continued from page 2

that must have been! And still, he was the leader of his household. How beautiful is it that God asked this man to raise His Son. Saint Joseph was an incredibly special man for God to have asked this of him. And to top it all off, he bears the title "Terror of Demons." How can you fear the evils of this world when you have Saint Joseph's intercession? He is a saint I speak to often. Jesus was very blessed to be raised by him!

Tell us what teaching at The Good Shepherd Academy has been like for you.

Teaching here has been one of the biggest blessings of my life. God's presence is so tangible at this school. I see Him in every single one of my students and each of them inspires me to be a better teacher and Catholic. I also see Christ in my colleagues, the faculty. I feel spoiled to be surrounded by such hardworking and faithful people who I am blessed to call my friends. The graces I have received from daily Mass have been nothing short of miraculous! It has even changed the life of my family. I honestly believe that I have learned more here at The Good Shepherd Academy than the students have. I am a better Catholic for it, and I hope the students can call themselves better Catholics by studying here.

San Secondo Marks 100 Years

Continued from page 1

parents Kim and Irene Mitchell and their TGSA students Noah and Sarah; and TGSA student Luke Fahrenhorst.

Before Mass, Vicar General Monsignor Lopez greeted Mr. Mansueto and the TGSA parents and students with him.

The Pontifical Mass had several traditional elements. The Kyrie was sung in its original Greek, and the rest of the Ordinary of the Mass was in Latin. Bishop Rojas used the First Eucharistic Prayer, which is based on the traditional Roman Canon. The faithful received Holy Communion kneeling and on the tongue.

News in Brief

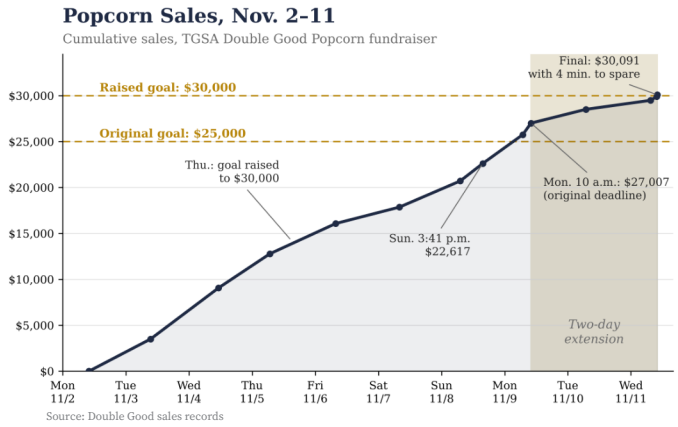
- Student Council campaigning starts Monday, November 16
- October Virtue Awards: Paul Huch, Sean Reyes, Bartolome Miranda, Thomas Fahrenhorst and Jose Almaguer recognized for demonstrating the virtue of fortitude
- Reyes family wins All-Saints "Trunk or Treat" contest, Rios family takes second
- Upper and Lower Scholas to sing Christmas concert at Merrill Gardens Tuesday, December 15



Is it really Fr. Damien or is it Sean? A placard and seventh grader Sean Reyes in his All Saints' Day costume accompanied the Reyes family's winning "Trunk or Treat" display.

Late Surges Put Popcorn Sales Over the Top

Continued from page 1



Down to the wire: Cumulative sales over the nine-day popcorn fundraiser, including the two-day extension.

mained. Mr. Mansueto sought to send a text to all parents to prompt them to action. However, Gradelink was down for maintenance. So instead of texting, Mr. Mansueto sent an email to parents informing them that, with just 14 minutes remaining, there was a $95 shortfall. The email urged parents to make up the shortfall by buying for themselves or from each other. Apparently that is what happened. At 9:56 a.m., four minutes before the Double Good app automatically shut down, sales crossed the $30,000 threshold and unlocked the associated $1,000 incentive. The final total was $30,091.

The Fischer family led the extended-window charge, and in the process unlocked the $1,000 "beat the Mitchells" incentive. The Fischer family's performance leading up to and during the extended-window period was remarkable. For much of the original seven-day period, the Mitchell family had approximately double the amount of the second-place family. However, over the weekend, the Fischer family began to mount a charge. By the time the seven-day period ended, the Fischer family had made $2,645 in sales — just $522 off the Mitchell family's $3,167 in sales. The Fischer family then went into overdrive, selling a whopping $1,462 in the extended-window period. The Fischer family ended up with a TGSA Double Good Popcorn record total of $4,107 in sales.

The fundraiser sales were also broad and deep. Twenty-three of the school's 24 full-time families participated. Twenty of the 23 families had sales of $500 or more. More than half — 13 of 23 — sold more than $1,000. The breadth of the sales unlocked the $500 "20 families at $500 or more" incentive.

Mr. Mansueto praised the TGSA community's effort. "The TGSA community's effort on the popcorn fundraiser surpassed even its extraordinary effort in the move from Pomona over the summer. I hope that families experienced this fundraiser the way that I did: It was an act of love. That is why it is called charity."

Match-ups and Prizes

The four selected family match-ups that Mr. Mansueto announced on the Thursday of the sales period were Fischer vs. Torres, Saldana vs. Carroll, Palafox vs. Reyna, and Huch vs. Davila. When the Fischer vs. Torres match-up was announced, the Torres family led $1,999 to $1,334. It was not long, however, before it was overtaken by the Fischer family. It became no contest once the Fischer family made its charge to overtake the Mitchell family.

The Carroll family also made an impressive charge toward the end of the sales period. It took third place overall. In the process it bested the Saldana family in the match-up between those two families. The Carroll family was one of only three families to total over $2,000 in sales.

The Palafox vs. Reyna match-up was close until the end. The Palafox family had the lead throughout, but at one point the Reyna family pulled to within $4 of it. The Palafox family then widened its lead to over $200. The Reyna family came back to close the gap to $48. At the end, however, the Palafox family pulled away, winning $1,415 to $1,222.

The Huch family won the intra-family Huch vs. Davila rivalry, $1,045 to $720.

The fundraiser sales also resulted in additional prizes, including a free-dress day for $10,000 in sales, the snow-cone truck for $17,500 in sales, and a pizza party for $25,000 in sales.

Science Club Gears Up

By Ana Almaguer

How many significant figures are in the number 0.00750? What was the first form of spectacular electric discharge seen by humans? Which of the following is closest to the meaning of the suffix 'lith': outside, stone, side, surface? (Answers: 3, lightning and stone.)

These questions are arising because the Science Club is starting up! Its first order of business is preparing for the U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl, which begins in January 2027. The Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science and mathematics. Middle and high school student teams are comprised of four students, one alternate, and a teacher who serves as an advisor and coach. TGSA's advisor and coach is Mrs. Almaguer. The tentative participants are Paul Huch, Julian Villegas, Noah Mitchell, and Elias Miranda. The club meets during Thursday's 6th period 7th–12th grade study hall.

Mrs. Almaguer plans for the Science Club to engage in other science-related activities after the Science Bowl.

Mrs. Almaguer and Mr. Mansueto contributed to this story.



Watch this! Science Club advisor Mrs. Almaguer leads students through an experiment in a Science class.