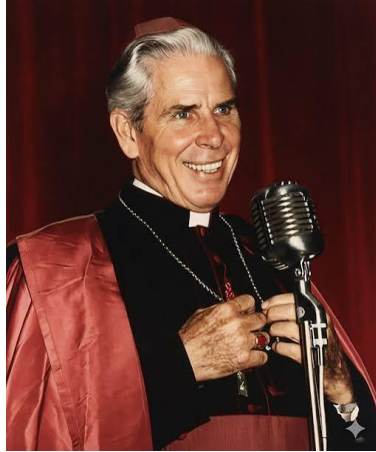


St. John's Newsletter



Catholic Voice of 20th Century America

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen of the United States is set to be beatified on Thursday, September 24, 2026, in St. Louis, Missouri. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, will preside at the beatification Mass, representing Pope Leo XIV. After his heroic virtue was recognized, Fulton Sheen was declared Venerable in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2019, Pope Francis authorized a decree recognizing a miracle through his intercession. This recognition cleared Archbishop Sheen for beatification, after which he will have the title "Blessed." The future Blessed Fulton Sheen was known for his dynamic preaching, especially on television and radio.

Born in Peoria, Illinois in 1895, Sheen attended Saint Paul Seminary in Minnesota before his ordination to the priesthood on September 20, 1919. In 1920, he continued his studies at The Catholic University of America and later at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He returned to The Catholic University of America to teach for 23 years.

His first experience in broadcasting was in 1926 when he was invited to record a series of Sunday evening Lenten sermons on a New York radio station. From 1930 to 1950, his weekly talks on **The Catholic Hour** presented Catholic teaching in a way that had never been done before. Drawing from the deep well of his faith and scholarship, Professor Sheen addressed topics ranging from devotion to the Blessed Mother to the dangers of Communism.

He was consecrated a bishop on June 11, 1951, and later that year, he began hosting a weekly television series, **"Life is Worth Living,"** on matters of faith. It was a tremendous success, eventually reaching an estimated 30 million viewers each week, which would make it the most widely-viewed religious series in the history of television. He won an Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Television Personality, was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and became one of the most influential Catholics of the 20th century. While accepting the Emmy he thanked his writers: "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." Many of his shows are available online.

For 16 years, he supported Catholic missions through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 129 dioceses throughout the United States and influenced the lives of tens of millions of people all over the world. He also was known to have led numerous people to convert to Catholicism. Between 1962 and 1965, Bishop Sheen attended all the sessions of the Second Vatican Council, working closely with then Father Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI. In 1966, Sheen was named Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, and, in 1969, Pope Paul VI named him Archbishop of the Titular See of Newport, Wales. Archbishop Sheen remained active, spending the last years of his life chiefly in writing and preaching.

Rev. Sheen wrote over **60 books** during his ministry. In addition, transcripts of his weekly radio talks were published in dozens of booklets by the show's sponsor the National Council of Catholic Men. Many of his other talks and sermons were published as pamphlets. He also was a syndicated columnist in the secular press.

A consistent theme in Archbishop Sheen's preaching throughout his life, especially in his later years, was the benefits of making a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He died in New York at the age of 84, on December 9, 1979.

Sources:

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Volume 17 - September 2026- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters

