



ST. BERNARD'S

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
AND MINISTRY

The Life, Thought, and Holiness of Fulton J. Sheen: Proclaiming Christ and the Wisdom of the Cross

October 23rd – October 25th

Call for Papers

In *The Seven Last Words*, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen wrote: “*I want only to know the length, the breadth, and the height and the depth of Thy redeeming Love on the Cross, Sweet Savior of Men. I want to be ignorant of everything in the world – everything but You, dear Jesus. And then, by the strangest of strange paradoxes, I shall be wise!*” These words give voice to Archbishop Sheen’s spirituality: from this fundamental prayer came the beauty and the persuasiveness of his talks, radio addresses, television programs, books, and academic works.

As the moment of Archbishop Sheen’s beatification approaches, this academic and popular conference will reflect upon his total witness: his life, his thought, and his holiness. Presentations will be interdisciplinary in nature, ranging from theology to history, from spirituality to philosophy, and from biographical episodes to the current reception of his legacy. All who know and love Archbishop Sheen are welcome to attend; a special invitation is extended to those who seek to learn more about him.

All are welcome to join from wherever they are across the United States and world: in-person attendance is available for those who wish to travel to Rochester, NY, and Zoom attendance is also available for those unable to make the trip. Just as Archbishop Sheen drew upon new media and forms of social communication to proclaim the Gospel, may we take up this opportunity to come together and witness the Lord working in his servant, Fulton Sheen.

*St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry is honored and uniquely placed to host this conference: St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry is the successor institution to the St. Bernard’s Seminary, to which Archbishop Sheen was ardently devoted during his time as Bishop of Rochester from 1966-1969. Archbishop Sheen bequeathed his personal library to the Seminary, as well as the rights to his famous television series, *A Life is Worth Living*; the School retains these treasures to this day. Most importantly, the School carries on the vision of Sheen’s leadership,*

especially in the School's service of lay men and women, its utilization of communication technology, and its formation of men preparing for the permanent diaconate.

We invite papers that will explore the life, thought, and holiness of Fulton J. Sheen from various perspectives. Specific topics might include:

- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's sanctity and lived witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's spirituality and spiritual writings;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's role in evangelization and catechesis;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen and the Second Vatican Council;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen and the Catholic Church in America during the 20th century;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen as a pioneer in preaching the Gospel via new forms of media and technology;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's theological and philosophical work;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's early life, formation, and teaching legacy;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's legacy as Auxiliary Archbishop of New York;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's legacy as Bishop of Rochester;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's spirituality and spiritual writings;
- ❖ Fulton J. Sheen's relationship to cultural challenges (such as atheism, Communism, racism, the Vietnam War, etc.);
- ❖ The application of Fulton J. Sheen's thought and writings to contemporary challenges and concerns.

Please submit a title and 300-word abstract by July 15, 2026 [here](#).