

Villanova Preparatory School  
Ojai, California  
94<sup>th</sup> Commencement  
Villanova Grotto



Saturday, May 29, 2021  
4:00 P.M.

Very Reverend Gary E. Sanders, O.S.A.  
Prior Provincial,  
Province of St. Augustine in California  
Presiding

## **Mission Statement**

In the Augustinian tradition, the Mission of Villanova Preparatory School is to graduate mature young adults of diverse backgrounds who reflect the qualities of truth, unity, and love. The school does this by providing a challenging college preparatory curriculum and Catholic environment that promote the development of mind, heart and body. These young adults will think, judge, and act in ways that are sound and in keeping with the teachings of Jesus Christ.



## The Seal of the Order of St. Augustine

The *flaming heart* is the human heart. It symbolizes Augustine's love of God and his fellow brothers and sisters. The Augustinian Heart is passionately alive, with the desire to know God and experience divine love in our lives.

The *open book* represents St. Augustine's own conversion to Christianity and the Scriptures. It also symbolizes Christ, the Word of God, source of light and truth, and the quest for wisdom.

The *arrow* which pierces the heart represents the Spirit of God piercing our hearts, calling us to continued growth in faith, hope and love. This is the basis of that great restlessness, so typical of St. Augustine, which led him to seek God in all things and above all things.

# **O R D E R   O F   E X E R C I S E S**

## **WELCOME**

Mr. Brian Roney, Assistant Head of School for Academics  
Master of Ceremonies

## **PROCESSIONAL**

*Pomp and Circumstance*, Edward Elgar

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Robert J. Kelly  
Senior Class President

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Tom Etchart Jazz Quartet

## **INVOCATION**

Very Rev. Gary E. Sanders, O.S.A.,  
Prior Provincial, Province of St. Augustine in California

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Mr. Brian Grisin, Headmaster

## **STUDENT ADDRESS**

Jakob A. Pinedo  
Salutatorian

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

“A Million Dreams” by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul  
Performed by Yau Ka (Kimberly) Shih and  
Gabriela Magallanes

## **STUDENT ADDRESS**

Zhiwo (Suzy) Xu  
Co-Valedictorian

## **MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

“Never Gonna Let You Down” by Colbie Caillat  
Performed by Julia Annette Reed and  
Keanu G. Ramirez

## **VIRTUAL STUDENT ADDRESS**

Yiwen (Bruce) Zhang  
Co-Valedictorian  
*Posted on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter*

## **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Ms. Laura Eloyan, Class of 2001  
Deputy Branch Chief for Emergencies Response and Recovery,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, Georgia

## **AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS**

Very Rev. Gary E. Sanders, O.S.A., Prior Provincial  
Mr. Brian Grisin, Headmaster  
Fr. Barnaby Johns, O.S.A., Director of Augustinian Mission  
Mr. Brian Roney, Assistant Head of School for Academics

## **BENEDICTION**

Very Rev. Gary E. Sanders, O.S.A.  
Prior Provincial, Province of St. Augustine in California

## **RECESSIONAL**

Villanova Alma Mater  
Dubin and Burke

# **CLASS OF 2021**

**Ali Abay**  
**Almaty, Kazakhstan**

**Michael Loren Bentivolio**  
**Ojai, California**

**Addeson A. Berryman**  
**Ojai, California**

**Kutay Celik**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**

**Cyanne Cueva**  
**Oxnard, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

**Ryan Davitt**  
**Newport Beach, California**

**Ryan Edmonds**  
**Ojai, California**

**Daniella Lynn Escalante Illarraza**  
**La Puente, California**

National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Cum Laude

**Kirsten Ewing**  
**Ojai, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
Clare Boothe Luce Scholar  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
Scholar-Athlete Award  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar

**Yikai (Fred) Fan**  
**Ningbo, Zhejiang, China, P.R.**

Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

*Yikai (Fred) Fan is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*

**Atticus Jordan Fehr**  
**Ojai, California**

National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
2021 Fine Arts Award for Visual Arts

*Atticus Jordan Fehr is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*

**Christian Isaac Garcia**  
**Ojai, California**

National Spanish Honor Society

**Christopher Gutierrez**  
**Los Angeles, California**

National Honor Society

Graduating Summa Cum Laude

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

2021 Fine Arts Award for Performing Arts

**Baihui (Helinda) He**  
**Beijing, China, P.R.**

National Spanish Honor Society

Graduating Summa Cum Laude

*Baihui (Helinda) He is not able to be here to receive her diploma. It will be mailed to her.*

**Mackenzie Rochelle Hicks**  
**Oxnard, California**

Graduating Cum Laude

2021 Athletic Award

**Zoey Hill**  
**Camarillo, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer

National Spanish Honor Society

Graduating Cum Laude

International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate



**Ryoto Kaneda**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

**Robert J. Kelly**  
**Camarillo, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

**Kaitlyn J. King**  
**Ventura, California**  
Graduating Cum Laude

**Zheng (Nelson) Li**  
**Changchun, Jilin, China, P.R.**

National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
2021 Augustinian Award

**Jiaxiao(Shaw) Liu**  
**Beijing, China**

National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

**Joel Nicholas Luna**  
**Oxnard, California**

**Gabriela Magallanes**  
**Redwood City, California**  
National Spanish Honor Society

**Alexander Maida**  
**Oxnard, California**  
Graduating Magna Cum Laude

**Gregorio Alejandro Martinez**  
**Oxnard, California**  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
2021 Villanova Award

**Daniel Bryce McArthur**  
**Ojai, California**  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Agustin Fernando Melgar**  
**Santa Paula, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
Scholar-Athlete Award  
2021 Rev. John F. Glynn Award for Christian Conduct

**David R. Mootz**  
**Ventura, California**

Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
2021 Athletic Award

**Mykyta Mykhailenko**  
**Kyiv, Ukraine**

Graduating Cum Laude

**Dung (Jenna) Nguyen**  
**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar

**Daniel B. Ortiz**  
**Ojai, California**

National Spanish Honor Society

**Jacob Pascua**  
**Oxnard, California**  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Magna Cum Laude

**Jakob A. Pinedo**  
**Oxnard, California**  
California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
Salutatorian  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar  
2021 Naomi Norton Memorial Award  
2021 Headmaster's Award

**Keanu Garcia Ramirez**  
**Camarillo, California**  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Julia Annette Reed**  
**Oxnard, California**  
Clare Boothe Luce Scholar  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Cum Laude  
2021 Los Angeles Archdiocese Award for Christian Service

**Luke Rimkus**  
**Ojai, California**

**Noah William Sezzi**  
**Ventura, California**  
Graduating Magna Cum Laude

**Ruoyu (Vivian) Shen**  
**Shanghai, China, P.R.**  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

*Ruoyu (Vivian) Shen is not able to be here to receive her diploma. It will be mailed to her.*

**Yau Ka (Kimberly) Shih**  
**Kowloon, Hong Kong**  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
2021 Augustinian Award

**Brandon P. Skeens**  
**Camarillo, California**  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar

**Koby Rae Skillern**  
**Ojai, California**  
Graduating Cum Laude

**Errol Sullivan**  
**Summerland, California**  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Elsa Tam**  
**Macau**  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Avery Amaya Tanaka**  
**Camarillo, California**  
National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Ryan Garrett Thurston**  
**Ojai, California**

**Jonathan Axell Tjahjadi**  
**Surabaya, Indonesia**  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Yijun Wang**  
**Osaka, Japan**  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

**Grace Wells**  
**Ojai, California**  
Graduating Cum Laude

**Aiden Dean Wigger**  
**Ojai, California**

**Kyle Patrick Wooldridge**  
**Oxnard, California**

California Scholarship Federation Gold Seal Bearer  
National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

**ZhiQi Wu**  
**Guangzhou, Guangdong, China, P.R.**

*ZhiQi Wu is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*

**Junle (Leo) Xu**  
**Shanghai, China, P.R.**

National Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate

*Junle (Leo) Xu is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*

**Zhiwo (Suzy) Xu**  
**Jiangsu, China**

National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
Co-Valedictorian  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar  
2021 President's Award

**Junhao (Mike) Zhang**  
**Shanghai, China, P.R.**

National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude

*Junhao (Mike) Zhang is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*

**Yiwen (Bruce) Zhang**  
**Harbin, Heilongjiang, China, P.R.**

National Honor Society  
National Spanish Honor Society  
Graduating Summa Cum Laude  
International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidate  
Co-Valedictorian  
2021 St. Augustine Scholar  
2021 President's Award  
2021 Villanova Mission Award

*Yiwen (Bruce) Zhang is not able to be here to receive his diploma. It will be mailed to him.*



## HONORS AND AWARDS

### The Class of 2021

*Awards were presented at the Senior Awards Convocation on May 28, 2021.*

**THE VILLANOVA AWARD** is awarded to **Gregorio Alejandro Marinez** who, in the opinion of the faculty, has exemplified in the past years the true spirit of Villanova by loyalty to the school, by sincere efforts in study, by exemplary deportment, by leadership qualities on campus, and by generous service to the school.

**THE REV. JOHN F. GLYNN AWARD FOR CHRISTIAN CONDUCT** is awarded to **Agustin Fernando Melgar** who, in the opinion of the faculty, embodies the teachings of St. Augustine by building community while promoting charity, Christian service, and justice among the Villanova students, faculty, and staff.

**THE LOS ANGELES ARCHDIOCESE AWARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE** was awarded to **Julia Annette Reed** honoring her commitment to service by the Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

**THE AUGUSTINIAN AWARD** is awarded to **Zheng (Nelson) Li** and **Yau Ka (Kimberly) Shih** who, in the opinion of the resident staff, have best exemplified the Augustinian core values of unity, truth, and love and have made an outstanding contribution to the spirit of Christian charity in the resident community.

**THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD** is awarded to **Zhiwo (Suzy) Xu** and **Yiwen (Bruce) Zhang** who have earned the titles of class Co-Valedictorians by virtue of attaining the highest grade point average representing four years of academic studies at Villanova.

**THE HEADMASTER'S AWARD** is awarded to **Jakob A. Pinedo** who has earned the title of class Salutatorian by virtue of attaining the second highest grade point average representing four years of academic studies at Villanova.

**THE ATHLETIC AWARDS** are awarded to **Mackenzie Rochelle Hicks** and **David R. Mootz** for having displayed excellence in athletics in at least two sports and maintained a 3.0 grade point average and a good citizenship record.

**THE FINE ARTS AWARD FOR PERFORMING ARTS** is presented to **Christopher Gutierrez** for having brought beauty to the world by excelling in at least one of the performing arts.

**THE FINE ARTS AWARD FOR VISUAL ARTS** is presented to **Atticus Jordan Fehr** for having brought beauty to the world by excelling in at least one of the visual arts.

**THE NAOMI NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD** is presented to **Jakob A. Pinedo** for having exemplified the Augustinian core values of love, truth and community while excelling in performing arts.

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**SUMMA CUM LAUDE** (With Highest Praise)

Distinction awarded to a senior whose cumulative grade point average for the first seven semesters of high school is 4.0 or above.

**MAGNA CUM LAUDE** (With Great Praise)

Distinction awarded to a senior whose cumulative grade point average for the first seven semesters of high school is between 3.85 and 3.99.

**CUM LAUDE** (With Praise)

Distinction awarded to a senior whose cumulative grade point average for the first seven semesters of high school is between 3.50 and 3.84.

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Laura Eloyan, Class of 2001**  
**Deputy Branch Chief for Emergencies Response and Recovery,**  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

Laura Eloyan is the Deputy Branch Chief for Emergencies Response and Recovery at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At the CDC, Laura works at the Center for Global Health. Her work involves working with fragile populations who are affected by public health emergencies.

As an immigrant from the former Soviet Republic of Armenia, Ms. Eloyan always felt grateful to be in the United States. The first opportunity that she had to give back was by volunteering at Villanova to organize dinners at a local homeless shelter. After that, she was hooked. She signed up for fundraisers, walk-a-thons, bake sales – anything she could get involved in to make a difference. After graduating from Villanova, she enrolled at Boston University, where she continued her involvement in volunteer activities, becoming president of the school's chapter of Habitat for Humanity and riding a bicycle across the United States to raise money for housing poverty.

With long-distance cycling on her résumé, she qualified for a position teaching fish-farming to Zambian farmers with the Peace Corps. While hitchhiking back to her village from a crocodile farm, she was picked up by the former manager of Dire Straits who was in Zambia doing development work for a European organization. He told her he would hire her on the spot if only she had an MBA, which led her to get an MBA from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Afterwards, she was hired by the CDC.

Ms. Eloyan lives in Atlanta with her husband, Joe, daughter, Valerie, and dog, Bruno. She loves cooking, gardening, and spending as much time as she can with her stepchildren, Alyssa, Nick, and Max.

## Alma Mater

When the twilight shadows gather  
Out upon the campus green,  
When the blue and purple night  
Comes stealing on the scene,  
Loyal heirs of Villanova  
Sing a hymn of praise  
To our dear old Alma Mater  
And our high school days.

Villanova, Villanova  
When we leave your sheltering walls,  
We shall leave an echo ringing  
Through your treasured halls.  
We shall leave an echo ringing  
In the starlight night,  
While our memories are singing  
Of the Blue and White.



## **Seal of the Order of St. Augustine**

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

~St. Augustine of Hippo~