

Fulton John Sheen was born in El Paso, Illinois, on May 8, 1895. As a child, Sheen was known for his intelligence and his love of learning. He was also an active member of his church and embraced his faith at a young age.

In 1913, Sheen enrolled at St. Viator College in Bourbonnais, Illinois, where he studied philosophy and theology. He was ordained a priest in 1919 and began his ministry in Peoria, Illinois. Sheen quickly gained a reputation as an eloquent speaker and an effective evangelist. He easily connected with those he served, and people were drawn to his charisma.

From 1927 until 1950, Sheen served as a professor of theology and philosophy at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He also became a popular Catholic radio personality, hosting a weekly program called "The Catholic Hour." Sheen used his platform to promote Catholic teachings, defend the faith, and encourage others on their faith journey.

He continued to use the media to spread his message and, in 1951 he expanded into the world of television with a TV show he hosted called "Life is Worth Living." The show was a hit and helped to make Sheen a household name. It ran until 1957 making him one of the first televangelists. He also authored more than 70 books. His most famous work is "Life of Christ," a bestselling book that has been translated into multiple languages.

In 1966, Sheen was appointed bishop of Rochester, New York and, in 1969 he was made the archbishop of the titular see of Newport, Wales. During his time as a bishop, he hosted "The Fulton Sheen Program," was featured on the cover of Time Magazine, and won two Emmy Awards for Most Outstanding Television Personality.

Bishop Sheen died in 1979 at the age of 84 after enduring some years of health issues and surgeries. He passed while in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

In 2012, Bishop Sheen's cause for sainthood was opened by the Catholic Church. In 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Sheen's intercession and he was declared Venerable. Pope Leo XIV beatified him on September 24, 2026.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen's life and work continue to inspire people around the world. His emphasis on the power of the media to spread the Gospel and his unwavering commitment to Catholicism have made him a beloved figure in the Church. In addition to his media work and writing, Sheen was known for his humility and his devotion to prayer. He once said, "The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host."