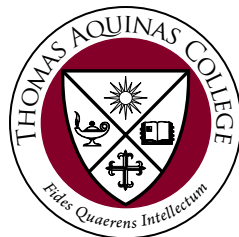


Send Forth Thy Spirit . . . and Renew the Face of the Earth

Psalm 104:30



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
2023 Annual Report

Dear Friends of Thomas Aquinas College,

In this season of gratitude, we at Thomas Aquinas College are mindful of the many gifts we have received, not the least of which is the faithful partnership of our friends and benefactors. Your generosity, even in difficult times, makes our work possible, and on behalf of all of us at the College, I extend my profound thanks.

During Fiscal Year 2023, I had the opportunity to spend time on both campuses, and I can report to you that things are going extremely well: The students are thoroughly engaged in our program, as is our faculty. Both communities have a vibrant spiritual life. And students in California and New England alike enjoy a high degree of camaraderie and wholesome recreation.

The year was not without its challenges, however. Over the past 100 years, charitable giving in the United States has declined only four times:

- during the Great Depression of 1929;
- following Black Monday in 1987;
- during the Great Recession of 2008;
- after the inflation spike of 2022.

Regrettably, the College was not immune from the fallout of historically high inflation and turbulent financial markets that caused a marked decrease in charitable giving nationwide. Although we succeeded in several areas, we did not raise in gifts the amount needed to cover all our needs. Thankfully, we were able to draw on our surplus from prior years. And, God willing, the financial landscape will soon improve.

In the pages that follow, you will find some of the achievements of the College and its alumni in Fiscal Year 2023. The **attached financial statements** will give you a more thorough account of our financial position, detailing our budget, cash flow, and fundraising efforts.

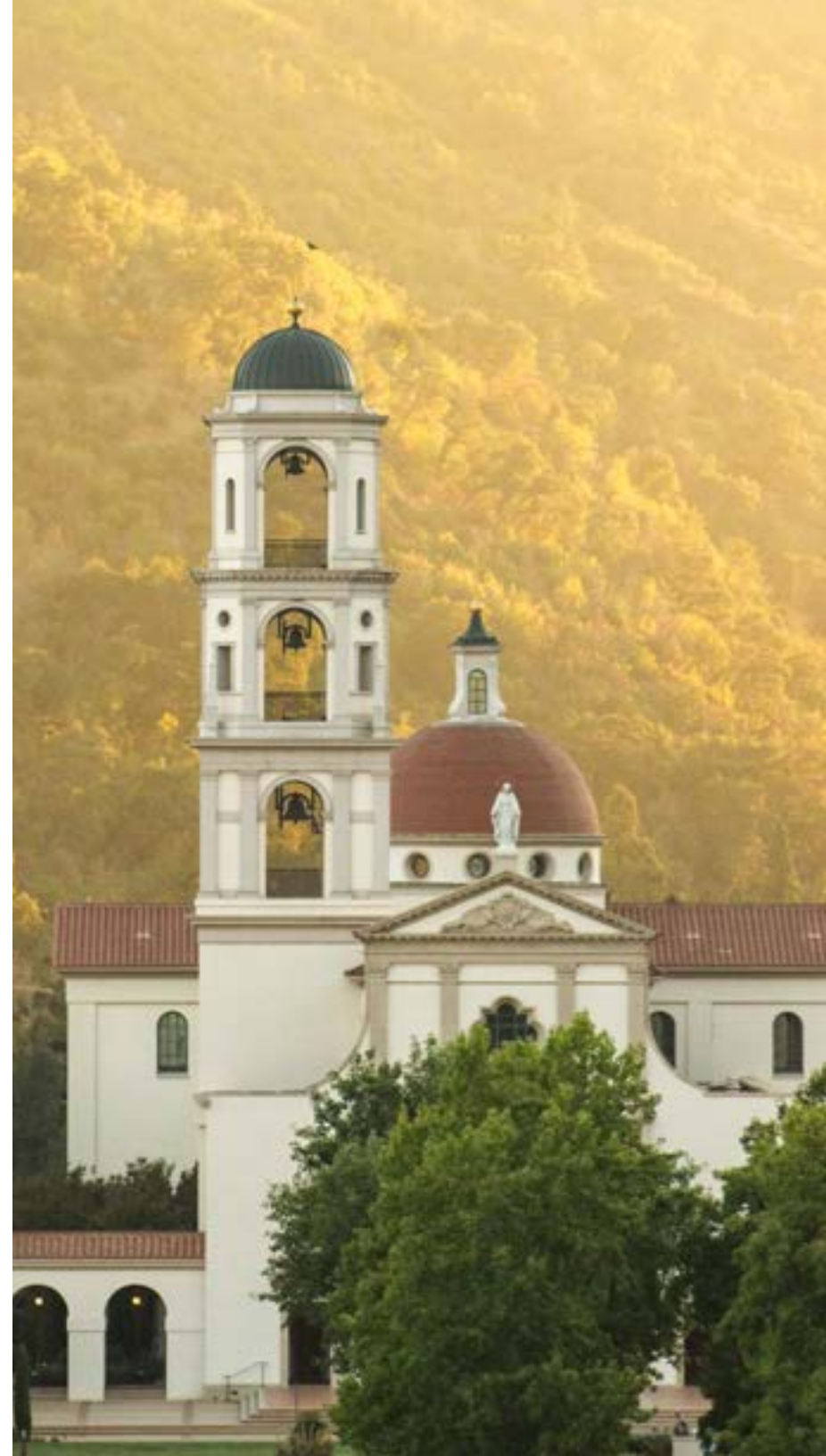
Since our inception, we have begun every class with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, in which we ask God to “send forth Thy Spirit” to “renew the face of the earth.” Our hope has always been that our graduates would go forth from the College and in all walks of life do their part to help renew all things in Christ. Through His grace, they are indeed doing so, serving Him at the altar and in religious life; bearing witness to the truth with joy in their families; and taking up positions of leadership in their professions and communities.

Having so generously contributed to the College, you have a share in this good fruit. Our daily prayer is that God will reward you abundantly. Thank you for all you do for Thomas Aquinas College and our students.

All God’s blessings,



Paul J. O’Reilly, Ph.D.
President



Admissions

Thomas Aquinas College's California campus reached full enrollment in 2007. To meet a growing demand for our unique program of liberal education under the light of faith, the College opened a second campus in New England in 2019. TAC-New England held its first commencement in May 2022.

To help ensure a steady flow of applicants, the College hosts Open Houses and High School Summer Great Books programs on both campuses, during which prospective students are introduced to the academic, spiritual, and community life of the College. Of the 164 students who participated in the 2021 summer programs, more than half matriculated in the fall of 2022.



1310

average SAT score for incoming freshmen

.....
national average:

1050

92%

freshman retention rate

.....
national average:

74%

94%

graduation rate

.....
national average:

53%



What the College Guides Say



- **Top 15** percent of American four-year colleges
- **#2** on the list of **Top 25 Colleges with Great Financial Aid**
- Out of a possible 99, TAC ranked:
 - 91** for academics
 - 93** for quality of life
 - 98** for tutors' accessibility
- In **"Top 20" Categories:**
 - #1** Most Religious Students
 - #4** Best Classroom Experience
 - #7** Great Financial Aid
 - #8** Happiest Students



- **#1 "Best Value in Private Colleges" among all colleges and universities nationwide**
- Ranking based on outstanding academics and affordable cost
- Only Catholic school to be named to the **Top 20**



"An impressive intellectual rigor that is matched by a commitment to orthodox Catholicism"



- **Top 100** national liberal arts schools
- **Top 25** in the United States for social mobility
- **#2** for **alumni satisfaction** as measured by annual giving
- **#1** for the highest proportion of classes under 20 students (100 percent) and the lowest proportion of classes with more than 50 students (0 percent)



One of the Best 10 Colleges for the Money

- "Devoted to providing a strong education while being rooted in the Roman Catholic faith"
- "Great student to faculty ratio"
- "Excellent graduation and freshman retention rates"
- "Diverse student body that comes from states all across the nation"

The College in the News



July 13, 2022

Duncan Stroik: The Chapel of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity



September 2022

Perfect Score for Thomas Aquinas College in 2022



October 13, 2022

Thomas Aquinas College Receives "A" for Substantive Teaching



October 13, 2022

Canadian Link to Noted U.S. Catholic College Just Got Stronger



October 21, 2022

Encountering the Eucharist

ANGELUS

October 24, 2022

New TAC President Promises to 'Re-dedicate' School's Mission



October 28, 2022

This Small Catholic College Produces Priests, Nuns, and Other Religious Vocations



December 1, 2022

Advent and Mother Teresa



January 1, 2023

Return to the Classics



January 9, 2023

Fr. Sebastian Walshe, O.Praem. ('94), Former Lutheran



March 9, 2023

The Story Behind the Transformation of Thomas Aquinas College's Chapel Dedicated to Our Mother



January 21, 2023

EWTN Features TAC Students at Walk for Life



April 13, 2023

An Easter Miracle?



Mid-April 2023

Sophomore Shares Conversion Story



May 2023

The Princeton Review names TAC a "Best Value"

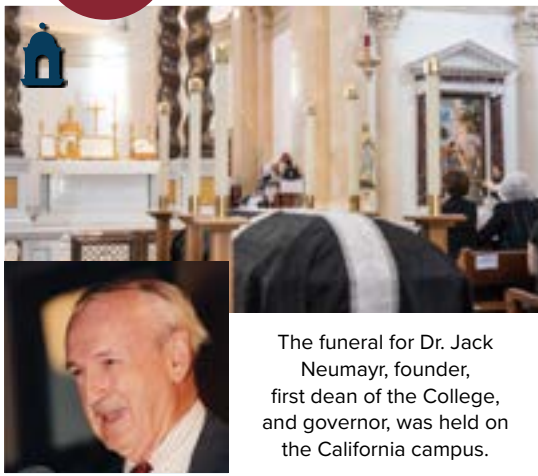


May 31, 2023

Report Lists TAC Among Top 30 Colleges with Lowest Student Debt

The Year in Pictures

JULY
2022



The funeral for Dr. Jack Neumayr, founder, first dean of the College, and governor, was held on the California campus.



One hundred and sixty-four rising seniors from around the country attended the High School Summer Programs held in California and New England.



New England campus holds its annual River Day on the Connecticut River.



Alumni-Parent Day

SEPT
2022



Summer Seminar Weekend in California

OCT
2022



Fall Seminar Weekend on the New England campus



A dinner to thank former president Dr. Mike McLean and his wife, Lynda



Inauguration of Dr. Paul O'Reilly as the fifth president of the College

OCT
2022



Archbishop José H. Gomez blesses the Pope St. John Paul II Athletic Center, a gift of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation.



California campus holds first-ever Career Day featuring alumni mentors.



Open House for prospective students in California

FEB
2023



New England students usher in the fall with an Oktoberfest.



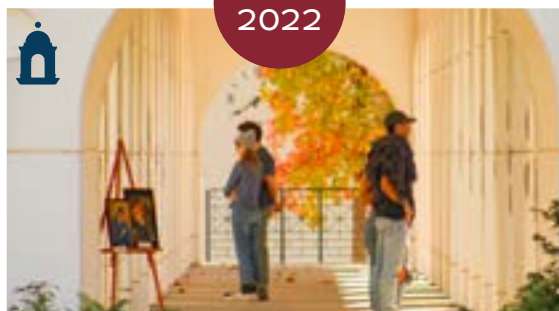
Advent Lessons and Carols in New England

MAR
2023



California campus holds semi-annual Blood Drive.

NOV
2022



Art Club hosts campus exhibition on the California campus.



The New England Admissions Office hosts an Open House weekend for prospective students.

DEC
2022

MAR
2023



New England students perform Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.



Dan Flatley, Trustee of the Flatley Foundation, gives the Commencement address on the New England campus.



Bishop Conley of Lincoln, Nebraska, Commencement Speaker on the California campus



The College Choir entertains guests at the President's Dinner for graduating seniors.

MAY
2023



California's St. Genesius Players put on Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost*.



New England tutor families host California tutor families for a weekend of fellowship and formation.

APR
2023



Award-winning radio journalist Mike Demetriou offers professional advice to students on the California campus.



Second Annual Thomistic Summer Conference: "A Glimpse of the Heavenly Banquet"

Alumni Achievements

On February 26, 2023, **Daina Adries ('09)**, **Jane (Neumayr '98) Nemcova**, and **Jonathan Doylend ('96)** took part in a panel discussion featuring alumni, parents, and faculty of the College. It was the capstone event of a four-day campus Open House for high school students on the New England campus. These three graduates, and many of their fellow alumni working in diverse technical fields, including programming, data analytics, digital animation, and cybersecurity, are demonstrating the versatility of a liberal education.

Daina Andries ('09) planned to pursue a major in English literature at a large university until she attended Thomas Aquinas College's High School Summer Program. It was that experience that led her to devote four years to the College's program of Catholic liberal education, opening new doors for her. Much to her surprise, her liberal education led to a career in data science. After completing a master's degree in information sciences at the University of Michigan and working as a metadata technician at the U.S. Library of Congress, Miss Andries founded her own company, **Epidaurus**, which utilizes information technology to streamline the reimbursement of prescription-drug purchases.

"My TAC education has helped me in ways beyond words," she remarks. "Instead of mastering a single subject, you take on a variety of subjects in a program that actively encourages you to ponder how they work together: What about math helps you appreciate music; or what about philosophy helps you to get ahead in science." Thomas Aquinas College alumni, she contends, are a natural response to the market's growing demand for workers in multidisciplinary fields such as data science.

.....

Studying philosophy at Thomas Aquinas College has proved a boon for **Jane (Neumayr '98) Nemcova**, who was appointed chief operating officer of Veuu Incorporated in 2020. Prior to her engagement with Veuu, she served for six years as the managing

director of Artificial Intelligence at Lionbridge Technologies where, working at the intersection of AI and linguistics, she led the team that pioneered automated translation.

In addition to her work for Veuu, Mrs. Nemcova is an adjunct professor of AI for graduate students in language at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey, California, where, after graduating from the College, she studied French before entering the technology field. Mrs. Nemcova now works to persuade budding linguists that they, like her, have much to offer the technical fields.

.....



Dr. Jonathan Doylend ('96) intended to go into the STEM field after high school, but his parents persuaded him to try Thomas Aquinas College. Choosing to pursue a Catholic liberal education did not foreclose his dream of rising to the heights of science and technology. After graduating from the College, he went on to earn a doctorate in engineering physics from University of California, Santa Barbara, specializing in photonics, the physical sci-

ence of light waves. Dr. Doylend has held senior positions as an optical physicist at Intel, working on self-driving cars, lasers, quantum mechanics, photonics, and integrated optics. He was appointed senior network engineer at Meta this past spring.

Despite his many contributions to engineering marvels, Dr. Doylend remains far more impressed by the marvel of light itself. "Studying Maxwell, Hertz, Huygens, and Einstein at the College, alongside Aristotle, awakened in me a lifelong desire to delve deeply into the nature of light, which still seems to me to lie at the root of all our understanding of natural science." This sense of wonder is what propelled him to Silicon Valley and sustains him in his work now.



Rev. Jeffrey Hanley ('13) has recently returned from Rome to his home diocese of Kalamazoo, having obtained a degree in canon law at the request of his bishop, the Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley. Now a canon lawyer, Fr. Hanley spends a good deal of his time working at the diocesan tribunal, directing inquiries into the validity of marriages. But he also has a number of additional duties: Not only is he the director of the diocese's Office of Worship but he also serves as Master of Ceremonies for Bishop Bradley. When his workday is done, Fr. Hanley returns to St. Joseph Parish, a bilingual parish, where he serves as parochial vicar, assisting the pastor where he can. Reflecting on all that God has called on him to do, Fr. Hanley says, "From the outside, my responsibilities and duties might look 'impressive,' but at the end of the day, I am a priest who has laid my life down for Jesus Christ and for the salvation of souls, and I'm happy to be poured out in these ways that Christ may be glorified."

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Appointed as investigative counsel for the United States Senate Budget Committee in January of 2023, attorney **James Layne ('08)** is a truth-seeker, making sure that the hard-earned money citizens entrust to the government is used as intended. "Truth matters when you're pursuing philosophy," he says, "but also in more practical arts such as politics." Mr. Layne's new role is one of oversight, ensuring that there is "no fraud, no major conflicts of interest or self-dealing." According to him, Capitol Hill could use more TAC graduates: "I encourage students at the College to think about entering government service. We need people who are committed to following the path to truth, wherever that path leads."



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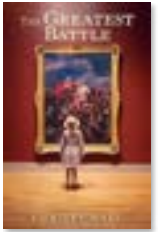


A graduate of the College's first class, **Laura (Steichen '75) Berquist** was recently **profiled** by the Cardinal Newman Society for her leadership in Catholic homeschooling. She is the founder of **Mother of Divine Grace School**, which offers a classical curriculum from kindergarten through 12th grade. The profile ends by noting that "there is no measuring the impact and value of a faithful Catholic education, which is meant to be shared, as Berquist has done for so many families around the world. From these seeds, comes the renewal of Catholic

education and the Church in America." The widow of late College founder Mark Berquist, Laura is the mother of six graduates of the College.

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In her newly published book ***The Greatest Battle, Christy (Tittmann '89) Wall*** shares the hard-won spiritual fruit of coming to terms with a child's suffering. Her son Franz Wall ('16) was **severely injured** in a skiing accident in November 2020. "For eight months I sat beside my son as he fought not only for life, but for a meaning to his new life," recounts Mrs. Wall. Eventually his condition stabilized enough for him to go home and "when life grew quieter, Our Lord began to write this book in my head," Mrs. Wall recalls. The work, however, is more than a memoir of those days and nights spent at Franz's hospital bed. For Mrs. Wall realized, reflecting on her life, that Providence had prepared her to shoulder this cross. Her alma mater looms especially large in those memories. "It changed my life eternally. Without TAC I would have been lost."



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Architect **Erik Bootsma ('01)** has received a 2022 Design Exploration Award from the **Urban Guild** — a group of professional architects animated by a love for the time-tested principles of design — for his work on St. Aubin Village in Detroit, Michigan. The project aims to build a home for the parishioners of the **St. Joseph Shrine**. Many drive upwards of an hour to attend Mass, leaving them little continuity between their daily and sacramental lives. Mr. Bootsma hopes St. Aubin Village will help remedy the situation. The church stands at the heart of his design, flanking the village green alongside the community market and extensive, inexpensive housing where families and friendships can flourish. "A mix of uses and incomes are planned so that a true Catholic community can be formed in the neighborhood of the church," he says. "The goal is to transform the existing commuter community of worshipers into a community every day of the week."



Student Life

Although students are serious about their studies, they also enjoy a lively camaraderie and engage in numerous extracurricular and recreational activities. Winter hiking and playing pool are favorites in New England, while in California students enjoy volleyball and trips to the nearby beaches. This past spring, choir members on the Northfield campus put on a production of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, while their counterparts on the Santa Paula campus delighted the community with Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*.

The students also take seriously their faith and their duties as citizens. A large majority attend daily Mass and participate in other devotions. And as they have in years past, students took to the streets to give witness to the dignity of the unborn on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*.



Benefactors

When Thomas Aquinas College opened its doors in 1971, there were only a handful of benefactors providing support for the school. Since then, their number has multiplied exponentially, making it possible for the College to build out its California campus, expand to a second campus in New England, and provide financial aid funds to the steady 70 percent of students who could not otherwise attend.

We at the College are mindful of the many friends and alumni who share with us the desire to participate in God's work to renew the face of the earth through faithful Catholic liberal education — and who give so generously to make that goal a reality. Each day, at the five Masses offered on our two campuses, we pray with deep gratitude for all our benefactors, for their loved ones, and for their intentions.

Below is a summary of fundraising activities during the past three years. Included are the results of our various appeals which, thanks to the generosity of friends, parents, and alumni, have proven to be so successful in recent years.



	All Funds Raised	Friends Week of Giving Appeal	Parent Day of Giving Appeal	Alumni Day of Giving Appeal
2021	\$14,138,782	\$1,040,946	\$302,978	\$141,432
2022	\$15,468,052	\$1,021,592	\$319,456	\$191,486
2023	\$16,065,216	\$2,030,333	\$324,164	\$253,929

Financial Aid

Thomas Aquinas College offers one of the lowest tuition and room and board rates of any top liberal arts college. In fact, the College was ranked first in the country on Kiplinger’s most recent list of “Best Value Colleges.”

We welcome every qualified student, regardless of financial where-withal. Students and their families are asked to contribute as much as possible to the cost of their education, but there are many who without assistance would not be able to attend the College. Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, the College has been able to meet 100 percent of students’ demonstrated financial need.

Financial aid packages vary, but the first component is a service scholarship job, whereby students work 13 hours per week on campus during the academic year. The program provides them with a unique opportunity to care for the campus and carry out essential tasks that support the community. Students help prepare and serve meals in the kitchen, clean and maintain the residence halls, assist staff in the College’s library and offices, and maintain the grounds on both campuses. In the process, they learn valuable skills for later in life.



67%
of students receive
need-based
financial
assistance

Students
receiving financial
aid work
13
hours/week on
campus

Debt at
graduation limited to
\$19,000
.....
national average:
\$35K

Summary of Income and Expenses FY '23

Principal Sources of Income

Contributions	\$ 16,065,216
Tuition	13,601,899
Investment Earnings	3,964,172
Auxiliary Enterprises (room & board, fees, etc.)	5,132,142
Other Gains and Support	496,983
	<hr/>
	\$ 39,260,513

Principal Expenses

Operations, Maintenance, & Food Service	\$ 12,494,161
Instruction	9,809,177
Administration	7,300,425
Student Financial Aid	6,656,354
Other (depreciation, amortization, & debt service)	4,367,417
	<hr/>
	\$ 40,627,534



Called to Do More?

The College's expansion to a second campus in New England has brought with it increased operating costs. Our growing enrollment increases our need for financial aid funding. And with more graduates than ever, more mentors are needed to guide our young men and women to find their career paths and vocations.

How you can help:

Become a Spiritual Supporter

Pray for the College and the well-being of its students, faculty, governors, alumni, and benefactors.

Become a Monthly Benefactor or a Member of the President's Council

The President's Council is composed of benefactors who give \$1,000 or more annually.

Contact: Karim Obagi

Executive Director of Development

805-421-5928 or kobagi@thomasaquinas.edu

Become a Career Mentor

Contact: Dan Selmeczy ('08)

College and Career Adviser

805-421-4014 or careers@thomasaquinas.edu

Become an active member of the Alumni Association or the Parents' Association, or join a Regional Board of Regents

Active members of the College's Alumni and Parents' Associations volunteer their time and talents to help widen the scope of the College's outreach. They foster Catholic liberal education by fundraising; they assist with student recruitment; and they provide career and educational guidance, networking, and referrals for students and alumni.

Members of the College's Boards of Regents are dynamic local leaders who serve as ambassadors of the College, helping to introduce and promote the College to new friends throughout their regions. They also help organize regional fundraising events to benefit the Annual Fund.

Contact: Nathanael Cassidy ('22)

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations

413-846-1135 or ncassidy@thomasaquinas.edu