

THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE - 2001

– At 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner,

College Launches \$75 Million Comprehensive Campaign

On September 29, Thomas Aquinas College announced its comprehensive campaign to raise \$75 million to finish building the campus and fulfill all scholarship and endowment needs. The campaign received a huge boost when Sir Daniel Donohue announced on behalf of The Dan Murphy Foundation a lead gift of \$10 million. (See story, right.)



Co-Chairmen Maria O. Grant and William P. Clark will guide the course of the campaign.

The announcements were made before 800 guests assembled to celebrate the College's 30th anniversary at a black-tie gala dinner at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills.

"We're profoundly grateful to The Dan Murphy Foundation for this magnificent gift, and to all our friends and benefactors who are making this campaign possible," said President Thomas E. Dillon. To date, nearly half of the \$75 million has been secured in gifts and pledges, according to Vice-President for Development John Q. Masteller.

The College moved from the Malibu hills area to the Ferndale Ranch near Santa Paula in 1978 and began building a permanent campus. A master building plan was established, and eight permanent buildings have been completed under that plan. Funds from the campaign will be used to construct the remaining seven buildings: a chapel, a classroom building, a gymnasium, an auditorium, an administration building and residence halls for men and women.

The facilities will allow the College to grow to its maximum size of 350 students – a number fixed with the intention of maintaining a small community atmosphere in which its classical curriculum would thrive. Currently, 301 students are enrolled in the College from 36 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, China, and Kenya.

Cardinal Roger Mahony, who served as the Honorary Chairman for the event, gave the opening invocation and presided over a Mass of Thanksgiving earlier in the day at St. Victor's parish in West Hollywood. Denver's Archbishop Charles Chaput gave the keynote dinner address, filling in for *Wall Street Journal* Contributing Editor Peggy Noonan who was forced to cancel after the atrocity in New York. (See below.) ABC7's Business Correspondent, Jim Newman, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Announcing the College's comprehensive campaign were co-chairmen Hon. William P. Clark and Maria O. Grant. Clark served as Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Interior and National Security Advisor. Grant is an Overseer of the Huntington Library and Chairman of the Overseer's Education Committee.



Sir Daniel Donohue, President and Chairman of the Foundation: "It's nothing as far as I'm concerned."

The Dan Murphy Foundation Pledges \$10 Million

"I'm well aware of the need on the campus for a chapel and other buildings that would complete the whole operational set-up of that institution. So I'd like to say tonight that our foundation will give ten million dollars to begin to do that."

Sir Daniel J. Donohue, President and Chairman of the Dan Murphy Foundation, made

this blockbuster announcement at the close of the 30th anniversary dinner, just after Maria Grant and William Clark launched the \$75 million campaign to complete the building of the campus, fund interim scholarships, and, ultimately, fund the Endowment.

Sir Daniel, whom Pope Paul VI named a Gentleman in Waiting to His Holiness the Pope – a position he maintains to this day in service to Pope John Paul II – recounted his early involvement and support of Thomas Aquinas College from the time he heard founding president, Dr. Ronald McArthur, describe the project.

"I saw immediately what Dr. McArthur was saying. He was a man with a dream, something he believed in, namely, Catholic education. I listened to what he had to say, and I resolved then and there, we would do something about it. So the very next day, I talked with my dear wife Bernardine about it.

"She said, 'What do you want to do?' 'Well,' I said, 'like anything else in the Church, after the religious, you know, they need money.' So she said, 'All right.' So we were happy to make a grant of financial aid at that time to get things going. And from then on – and we hope to continue doing the same – we have always been pleased and blessed to help in the development of Thomas Aquinas College."

Bernardine Murphy died in 1968. Sir Daniel's sister, Rosemary E. Donohue, joined him on the Dan Murphy Foundation, and together they have worked tirelessly to advance the work of the Church and Thomas Aquinas College. The Foundation was among the earliest and most generous benefactors of the College. It spearheaded the College's endowed scholarship fund and made possible the conception and realization of St. Bernardine Library.

Sir Daniel, however, was dismissive about his role in providing such a large gift for the campaign. "I have been blessed indeed by the life in Holy Church. To give something to further the cause of the knowledge of our faith to young people, which is so needed today, it's nothing as far as I'm concerned – it's just a beginning."

– With Peggy Noonan Sidelined,

Archbishop Chaput Acclaims College in Keynote

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, *Wall Street Journal* Contributing Editor Peggy Noonan was unable to appear as the Keynote Speaker at the 30th Anniversary Dinner. (See her note of sincere regret, p. 6.) Denver's Archbishop Charles Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., was invited to expand what were intended to be his closing remarks into a longer reflection. We are pleased to present his remarks herein.

Born in Kansas a member of the Potawatomi Tribe, Archbishop Chaput is the second priest of Native American ancestry to be ordained a bishop. He previously served as bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota and held various leadership positions in the order of Capuchin Friars. His recent book, *Living the Catholic Faith: Rediscovering the Basics* (Servant, 2001), is a powerful apologetic for the Faith.

I believe it was Henry Ford who said, "Two percent of the people think; three percent think they think; and 95 percent would rather die than think." That always struck me as a pretty funny but pretty cynical comment on human nature. Or it did until about a year ago.

Last spring I was browsing through the newspapers, and I came across a story from *The New York Times*.

The headline read: *Why The Ignorant Are Blissful: Inept Individuals Ooze Confidence, A Study Finds.* It turns out that David Dunning, a professor at Cornell, did



a study on incompetence. Now this is true, this is true! And what he discovered is that most incompetent people don't know they're incompetent. In fact, he determined that people who do things badly tend to be very confident about their ability. They're often more confident than the people who do things well.

Now, Dr. Dunning went on to find that the ignorant overestimate their abilities for a good reason. The skills they lack for competence are usually the same

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Special Campaign Issue

Who Leads This Ambitious Course?

– See Launching the Comprehensive Campaign Page 2
– See Campaign Co-Chairmen, William P. Clark and Maria O. Grant Page 2

Who Made The Dinner A Success?

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How Much And What For?

– See Let's Finish The Project! Building the Campus and Funding the Endowment Pages 4-5

We Love You, Too!

– See Peggy Noonan's Remarks in Absentia, From New York Page 6

The Confidence of Incompetence

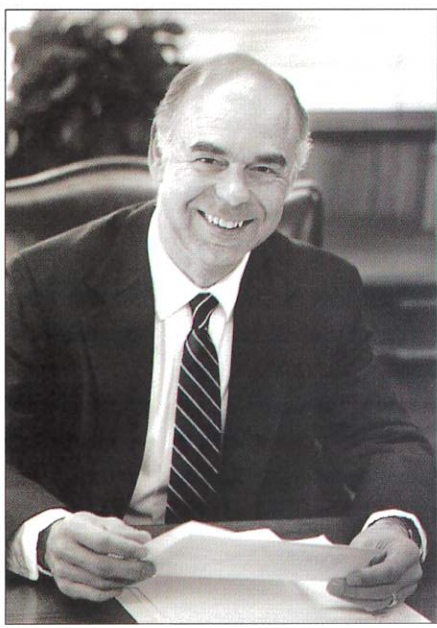
– See Archbishop Chaput's Thoughts on True Wisdom Pages 1 & 6

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

– See Cardinal Mahony's Mass of Thanksgiving
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President Thomas E. Dillon

– Launching the Comprehensive Campaign: ‘Our Friends, Instruments of God’s Providence’

In 1993, Thomas Aquinas College launched the most ambitious campaign undertaken in the school’s history – a campaign to raise \$25 million in five years to mark the 25th anniversary of the College. Thanks to our generous friends and supporters, the campaign succeeded beyond all expectations, raising more than \$27 million for buildings, scholarships, and an endowment. Those efforts put the College on its most secure financial footing ever.

Because of that campaign, we were able to complete the construction of St. Bernardine Library, Blessed Serra Residence Hall for Men, and St. Therese of Lisieux Residence Hall for Women. In addition, we were able to fund essential financial aid programs for needy students, and to establish an endowment to fund our scholarship program well into the future.

As a result of that campaign, we have now built half of the buildings called for by our Campus Master Plan. When I behold the grandeur and beauty of our campus, even with the remaining temporary buildings in place, I am deeply moved. To see this campus rise in 20 years from a mountain ranch pasture is to view something astonishing – truly the work of Providence.

But our project is not complete. Seven buildings remain to be built: a chapel, a classroom building, a gymnasium, an auditorium, an administration building, and residence halls for men and women. In addition, our scholarship Endowment needs to be fully funded to meet all of our financial aid obligations.

I hope you can appreciate my excitement, then, and that of our Board of Governors, at the prospect of seeing this campus fully built and fully endowed. We have come so far, and we want to see it through all the way.

I could not have imagined, just a few years ago, that we would be in position to launch a campaign to finish building the campus and fund our Endowment. A campaign of this magnitude – \$75 million – is three times what our last campaign sought, and that was a campaign which had itself tripled the rate of past gifts.

And yet, because of the extraordinary generosity and sacrifices of our many good friends, we are confident we can succeed in this Campaign.

I can’t begin to express the gratitude we owe to Sir Daniel Donohue and the other trustees of The Dan Murphy Foundation. The Foundation’s lead gift of \$10 million is the kind of gift that is critically necessary to launch a campaign of this magnitude. But for the Dan Murphy Foundation’s generosity, this Campaign would

not likely have been begun; now our goals are all the more attainable.

As we launch our Campaign, I am filled with profound gratitude – gratitude to the founders of Thomas Aquinas College for their courage and resolve in establishing, against tremendous odds, an institution of higher learning that would be uncompromising in its dedication to the life of the mind, unbending in its determination to pass on the great intellectual patrimony of our civilization, and unwavering in its adherence to the guiding wisdom of the teaching Church.

We are also grateful to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, whose Cardinal McIntyre so graciously invited us into this diocese thirty years ago and whose Cardinal Manning and Cardinal Mahony have so kindly encouraged our work ever since. Our deep thanks goes also to our faculty and staff, who have, for three decades now, made great sacrifices to implement our high educational ideals. And we thank our students, who have entrusted their minds to us through the years and have devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the pursuit of truth.

I am especially grateful to our many benefactors, whose prayers and support have been extraordinary, and without whom this College simply would not exist. And finally, I’m very thankful of course—deeply thankful—to God Himself for His many blessings – blessings well beyond anything we might have hoped for thirty years ago, and blessings that are wholly disproportionate to our meager human efforts.

One thing has become clear to me through the years: in bestowing His care on the College, God has built up a community of diverse parts, each of whose members He allows to share in His Providence. You generous benefactors, through your magnificent support, truly participate in God’s providential acts. Without you, as instruments of God’s Providence, this College simply would not be, and would not, therefore, have worked such good in so many lives. So I thank you again for your partnership in this noble educational endeavor, which has had such positive effects in society and in the Church.

What has made this College especially successful, I think, is that we are dedicated to what ennobles the soul. We aspire, in all that we do, to uphold the true, the good, and the beautiful. We certainly understand that the high rankings we’ve achieved in the various college guides, while gratifying, are finally of very little value. What’s really important is that we lead the students that God sends our way, one by one, toward intellectual and moral virtue, and that we do this with charity and with humility.

Naturally, it is our desire now to stay the course and to deepen and extend the work which, through God’s grace, has been so well begun. So I invite you to join with us in helping to form future generations of young people who care deeply about our Church, about our country, and about doing great things with their lives.



L to r: Mrs. Terri Dillon, Sir Daniel Donohue, Archbishop Chaput, Miss Rosemary E. Donohue and President Dillon.



Grant is an overseer of the Huntington Library

Maria O. Grant: “We owe this to those seeking faith and wisdom.”

“Like all celebrations, this one looks both backwards and forwards. We look back tonight and we honor the vision, the daring and the determination of our founding governors and donors who created a College unique in American academia and in American Catholicism – the place where both the life of the mind and the life of the soul would be essential to the mission of the College. They, with the help of all of us and many others, have succeeded.

“Today, our Thomas Aquinas College graduates are spread over the United States and abroad – men and women who have spent four years reading, discussing, and learning from the great minds that have shaped

our civilization and our faith. Now, as parents, teachers, priests, sisters, doctors, lawyers, philosophers, and other professionals, they are enriching, guiding, and evangelizing the communities they live in.

“So tonight, we stop to reflect on the success of the College, and to thank God and all of our donors. But like all celebrations, we must also look forward to the tasks ahead of us. What are these challenges? We must complete the vision of our founders. We must ensure the financial stability of the College. We must provide our students and faculty with the physical facilities they need.

“So tonight, we announce our Comprehensive Campaign to raise \$75 million in the next six years. What will this money be used for? Many of our students and faculty live and work in temporary trailers – if twenty-three years of use may be called temporary. We must build two new residence halls, a faculty office building, an auditorium, athletic facilities, a classroom building, and most important, we must build a chapel to serve as the physical center and spiritual heart of the College. We must also ensure our ongoing financial stability and our ability to fund scholarships by raising money for our Endowment.

“This campaign is a daunting challenge, particularly in light of the events of the last weeks. But we can do no less for the young men and women who come to us from all over the United States and abroad, seeking to grow in faith and in wisdom.”

William P. Clark: “Should we not accelerate the Chapel project?”

“Five years ago, during our twenty-fifth anniversary celebration, from this same podium, I talked about our sanctified little island in the secular sea, and the necessity of a chapel. Canonically, whatever this turns out to be – be it a great Roman basilica in the rendering – you will see a concept, very Romanesque, and done by the retained architect, Duncan Stroik. He is one of the finest church architects in the world, and is assisted by Larry Rassmussen, a local architect, responsible for so many of the beautiful buildings at Thomas Aquinas College.

“We do not have a line item budget, of course. We do not have working drawings because we must first have all of this approved. But we have strong feelings, and in the five-year interim, a lot has happened. Although not having a line item budget, we estimate a ten million dollar cost, and all subject to approval. Of that ten million, I believe we have half of that, believe it or not, already. So help us with the other half. In fact, I was talking to someone tonight who was seriously thinking about setting forth the \$1.25 million for the bell tower, the campanile, which, again, will be Romanesque in look.

“I have the bells to go with it, by the way – three from St. Boniface Church in Chicago. I picked them up some six or seven years ago, and they’re ready to go, but they need a tower to go in. These are bells from 1871, made by the Strichsteder family of St. Louis. They don’t make bells like these anymore.

“I must ask rhetorically, in light of what we’ve heard from Archbishop Chaput, from Peggy Noonan, from our most worthy Cardinal who offered the Mass today talking about St. Thomas as being concerned with one thing: truth. Should we not accelerate the chapel project, I ask you? Isn’t the answer suggested by the attack on New York and Washington? Right now, we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on the campus of Thomas Aquinas College in what is, in effect, the dining room!

“Maria and I, we’re a little tougher than Tom Dillon – he has the soft sell – but Maria and I are going to be coming at you with a harder sell.



Clark was Ronald Reagan’s National Security Advisor

Dinner Committee Delivers Scintillating Event



Opening the Ceremonies, Dinner Committee Chairman, Fred Ruopp, Chairman and CEO of Chelsea Management Company; College Governor, 1982-; Chairman, 1986-92.



Dinner Committee (l to r) Marina Privitelli, Merrilu Gordon, Elaine Mills, Quincy Masteller, Suzanne Mayer, Fred Ruopp, Bill Wilson, Bea Bennett, Tom Sullivan, Irene Montgomery, Rosemary Donohue, Carl Karcher, Jacqueline Slay.



Master of Ceremonies, Jim Newman, ABC7's Business Correspondent.

“Your Eminence, Archbishop Chaput, Reverend Clergy and Religious, distinguished guests, and friends: on behalf of Thomas Aquinas College, its Board, its faculty and its students, we bid you welcome and thank you for coming this evening to share our 30th Anniversary of the founding of this College. It’s because of all of you in this room that this College exists and grows and has attained its present level of intellectual and spiritual seniority.”

“I think all of us here agree that Thomas Aquinas College is unique in so many ways. And when I was asked to come by and spend a little time with you tonight, I was happy to do so because I’ve visited the College many times; and frankly I consider Thomas Aquinas College one of the best in the entire nation. The unique thing about Thomas Aquinas College is not only the faculty, but the student body. They are a remarkable group of young people, dedicated to making the world a better place; and they do so through their own initiative and their own effort.”

DINNER COMMITTEE

Mr. Frederick J. Ruopp, Chairman
Mrs. Conrad N. Hilton, Co-Chairman
Hon. William A. Wilson, Program Chairman
Mr. Carl N. Karcher, Program Co-Chairman

Decorations
Miss Rosemary E. Donohue, Chairman
Miss Merrilu Gordon
Mrs. Mark E. Montgomery
Mrs. Andrew F. Puzder

Sales
Mr. Thomas P. Sullivan, West Coast
Mr. Mark A. Belnick, East Coast
Mrs. Paul Bennett
Mrs. Paul Griffin III

Publications
Mrs. Suzanne Mayer, Chairman
Mrs. William F. Mills
Mrs. Joseph G. Privitelli

College Coordinator of Special Events
Mrs. Jacqueline Slay

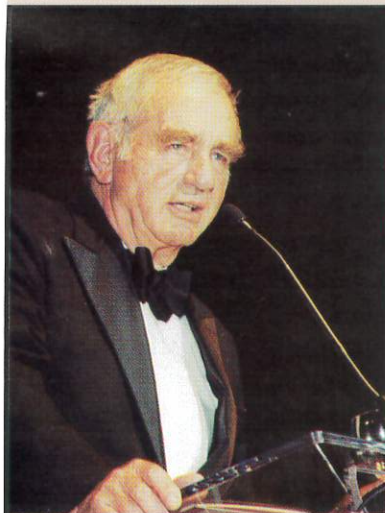
HONORARY DINNER COMMITTEE

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, Chairman
Mr. & Mrs. David Aikenhead
Hon. & Mrs. Michael D. Antonovich
Hon. William J. Bennett
Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua
Archbishop Charles J. Chaput

Hon. & Mrs. William P. Clark
Hon. & Mrs. Jeremiah A. Denton
Sir Daniel J. Donohue
Edward Cardinal Egan
Elaine S. Ewen
Hon. Elton Gallegly
Francis Cardinal George

Mrs. Russell Kirk
Mr. Bowie K. Kuhn
Mr. Lewis E. Lehrman
Theodore Cardinal McCarrick
Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Montalban
President & Mrs. Ronald Reagan
Archbishop Justin F. Rigali

Christoph Cardinal Schönborn
Mr. Richard Carlton Seaver
Hon. Frank Shakespeare
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Simon, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Trebek
Dr. Alice Von Hildebrand



Offering the opening toast, James L. Barrett, Founder of Chateau Montelena Winery, Calistoga, California; Member, College Board of Governors since 1992.

“I toast to our family – the family of Thomas Aquinas College. In a way we are a family because we are all spiritually bonded.

“September the 11th was an attack on the United States of America, and the President declared war – War on Terrorism. We at Thomas Aquinas know we are at war. A much more difficult and serious war.

“The kind of war we’re in has been going on since Adam and Eve. It’s a battle for the hearts, minds, and souls of all human beings. No one has captured the epic drama of that battle better than St. Ignatius Loyola, in the Spiritual Exercises.

“We, at Thomas Aquinas, are the foot soldiers engaged in this war. So the toast, this toast, is for our regiment, in the army of Christ, to soldier on, to soldier on. We must! It’s a matter of life or death.”

“I remember back in the late ‘60s when Dr. Ron McArthur had a great vision. He was dedicated to establishing a great institution with the Great Books to prepare a nation of young people to be the leaders of tomorrow. I know that this has greatly exceeded the visions that he had and those of the other founders of this wonderful institution.

“The visionaries who built this College had a vision of a school in which the faith would be taught, the Great Books would be learned, and Christians would go out into the world carrying out that Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“That vision has never stopped; it has happened today. Let’s hope that what occurred on September 11 will keep this nation united so we can carry out that Good News as we are entitled to do in a free society.”



Los Angeles County Mayor, Michael D. Antonovich, presented a commendation from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to President Dillon.



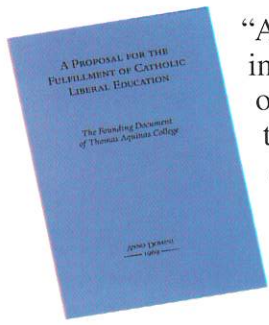
More than 800 guests joined in the celebration at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.



Johnny Crawford leads his famous 24-piece classic orchestra in music from the Swing Era.

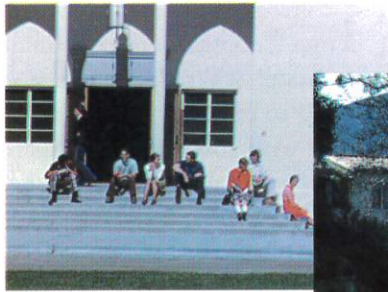
The Thomas Aquinas College

From a Bold New Vision...

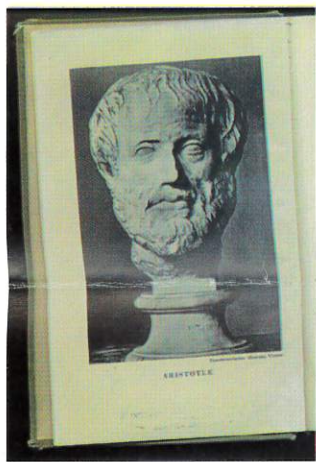


“American Catholics are becoming increasingly aware of the growing tendency of Catholic colleges to secularize themselves—that is, to loosen their connection with the teaching Church and to diminish deliberately their Catholic character.”

—The opening line of the 1969 founding document of Thomas Aquinas College: *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education*



In September 1971, Thomas Aquinas College opened its doors to 33 young men and women who desired a liberal education under the light of the Catholic faith.



They would study the works of the greatest minds in Western Civilization — Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, Einstein, and many others.

They would read some of the greatest literature ever written: *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, *Faust*, *Don Quixote*, *The Divine Comedy*, *Canterbury Tales*, *War & Peace*, and *Hamlet*, to name a few.

They would encounter these authors in a four-year integrated curriculum covering philosophy, theology, mathematics, literature, laboratory science, history, language, and music—in classes of fewer than 20 students, using, instead of lectures, the Socratic seminar method of inquiry and discussion.



And all of this would take place within a vibrant Catholic community where students would be nourished by a rich sacramental life.

Thirty years ago, the College offered this program to its first class of students. Thomas Aquinas College offers that same program today.

Board of Governors

James L. Barrett
Mark A. Belnick
Marcus R. Berquist
Harry G. Browne, M.D.
James P. Conn
R. Glen Coughlin
Peter L. DeLuca III
Thomas E. Dillon
Rosemary E. Donohue
Maria O. Grant
Paul E. Griffin III
John P. Heffernan

Carl N. Karcher
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Ronald J. Richard
Frederick J. Ruopp
William W. Smith, M.D.
Thomas P. Sullivan

Howard J. Walsh
William A. Wilson
Henry J. Zeiter, M.D.
Andrew W. Zepeda

Governors Emeriti

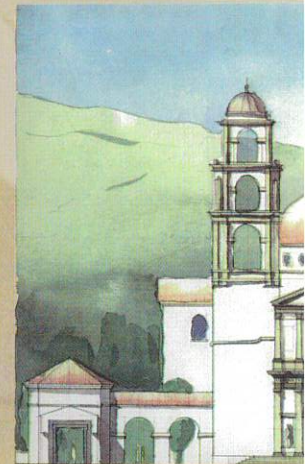
John W. Blewett
J. Edward Martin
Ronald P. McArthur
Herbert H. McDade, Jr.
Felix S. McGinnis, Jr.
John E. Schaeffer

Friends and Visitors

Mortimer J. Adler †
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Hadley Arkes
Rev. Hugh C. Barbour, O. Praem.
William Cardinal Baum
Michael J. Behe
William J. Bennett
Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua
Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz
Bishop Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop Charles J. Chaput
Lynne Cheney

LET'S FINISH

In 1978, Thomas Aquinas College moved to the Ferndale Ranch at the edge of the Los Padres National Forest near Santa Paula, California. A Master Plan was produced to provide permanent facilities for 350 students—the optimum number for this unique program in which truth would be pursued in a small community of friends.



Residence Hall for Men

(\$3.5 million)

To provide living space for 106 men, this two-story residence hall will include a three-room suite for a resident priest, a gated-entry courtyard with fountain and balcony, a spacious two-story lounge, study rooms, a laundry room, an exercise room, and a kitchenette.

Chapel and Bell Tower

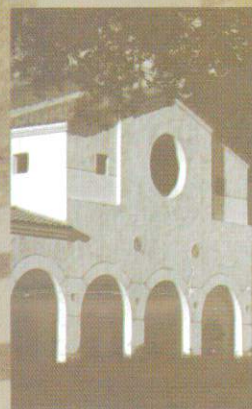
(\$10 million)

To provide for the worship of God, a chapel of great majesty, splendor, and tradition will be the crowning architectural achievement on campus. It will include a bell tower, a crypt, seating for 500 people, and a spacious portico for large outdoor liturgies in the courtyard.

Residence Hall for Women

(\$3.2 million)

To provide living space for 64 women, this residence hall will be modeled after St. Therese of Lisieux Residence Hall, and include a gated entry courtyard, a spacious lounge with fireplace, study rooms, a laundry room, an exercise room, and a kitchenette.



Faculty Office Building

(\$3.7 million)

To provide for faculty and administrative needs, this two-story building will include private offices for teaching faculty and administrative personnel (the development, admissions, and business offices), two conference rooms, a student post office, a campus bookstore, the network computer servers, and a staff coffee room.

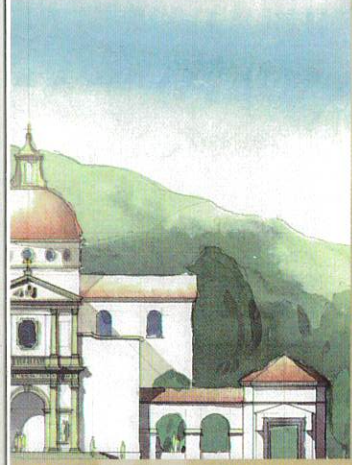
Buildings + Scholarships

= \$75 million



Comprehensive Campaign

THE PROJECT!



Under the Master Plan, eight buildings have been completed. Seven are left to be built. With a fully-funded endowment, the College can cover all of its operating expenses and student financial aid needs. For \$75 million, the College can finish the Master Plan, fund interim scholarships and, ultimately, fund the Endowment.

Auditorium

(\$4.9 million)

To provide a forum for the College's Friday Night Lecture and Concert Series, this acoustically designed hall will include sloping, fixed seats in a main hall to accommodate 450 people, a front lobby for serving refreshments, music practice rooms, art project facilities, and a coffee shop with indoor and outdoor seating.

Gymnasium/Athletic Complex

(\$5.7 million)

To provide for athletic needs, this facility will include an indoor basketball court, racquetball courts, a weight room, locker rooms, and an adjacent lap swimming pool, tennis courts, and soccer/baseball fields.

Priests/Visitor Residences

(\$1.9 million)

To provide for other campus needs, additional buildings will include a chaplains' residence, visitors' quarters, and an outdoor amphitheater.

Scholarships/Endowment

(\$40 million)

To provide for student scholarships and to cover operating expenses over the next 6 years, the College will need \$12 million. An additional \$28 million is required to fully fund our professionally managed Scholarship Endowment.

ships + Endowment
Million



Classroom Building

(\$2.1 million)

To provide for additional classroom space, this classroom building will mirror St. Augustine Hall from across the quad and include 6 sound-proofed classrooms, each with tables sufficient to host small seminars.

...To an Established Reality



1979



1989



1990



1991



1995



1996



1999

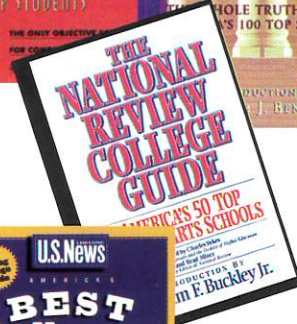
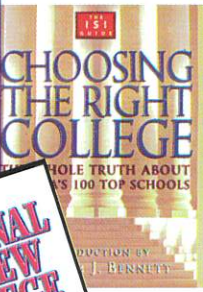
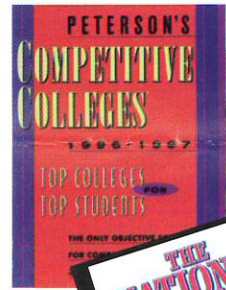


2000

Thomas Aquinas College began on leased facilities owned by the Claretian Order in Calabasas, California. In 1978, the College relocated to its own property near Santa Paula, California.

While the College's curriculum and pedagogy have remained unchanged since its founding, what has changed over the years is the reaction of others to the program.

In 1991, *The National Review* declared the College "one of America's top 50 liberal arts schools."

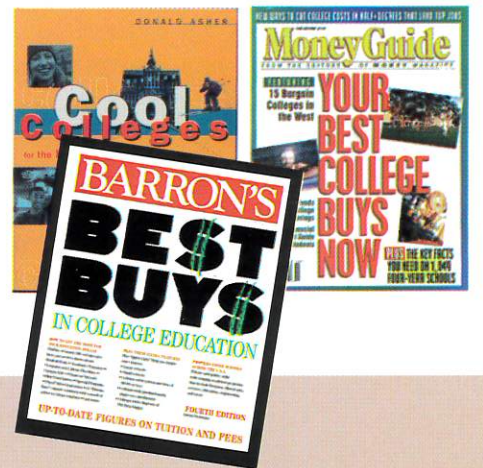


In 1995, the *Los Angeles Times* called the College "one of the nation's best liberal arts schools."

In 1997, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute judged the College's curriculum "virtually unparalleled for providing students with a rigorous liberal arts education."

In 1999, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the College third "Best Buy" of national liberal arts colleges.

And the College routinely makes "top 10" best college lists by the *National Catholic Register*, *Crisis*, and *Insight* magazines.



While half pursue advanced studies, Thomas Aquinas College graduates go into a wide variety of professions: teaching, law, business, medicine; and vocations to religious and family life flourish.

Seven more buildings must still be completed; the Endowment needs to be fully-funded. But one fact stands clear: Thomas Aquinas College is a thriving institution that will serve society and the Church for years to come.

Rev. Msgr. Eugene V. Clark
William P. Clark
Paul Davies
Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.
Edward Cardinal Egan
Rev. Joseph D. Fessio, S.J.
Edouard Cardinal Gagnon
Elton Gallegly
Francis Cardinal George
Robert George
Rev. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R.
Scott Hahn

Rev. John A. Hardon, S.J. †
Deal Hudson
Henry J. Hyde
George Sim Johnston
Alan Keyes
Russell Kirk †
Douglas Kmiec
Peter J. Kreeft
Erik von Kuenhelt-Leddihn †
Bowie K. Kuhn
Lewis Lehrman
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

Archbishop Renato R. Martino
Theodore Cardinal McCarrick
Rev. C. J. McCloskey III
Malcolm Muggeridge †
Bishop William Murphy
Archbishop John J. Myers
Rev. Richard John Neuhaus
John Cardinal O'Connor †
Rt. Rev. Ladislav Parker, O. Praem.
Paul Rahe
Robert Reilly
Charles E. Rice

Archbishop Justin F. Rigali
Rev. George W. Rutler
Antonin Scalia
Rev. James V. Schall, S.J.
Christopher Cardinal Schönborn
David Schippers
Jan Cardinal Schotte
Frank Shakespeare
William E. Simon †
William E. Simon, Jr.
Rev. Robert Sokolowski
Mother Teresa, M.C. †
Alice Von Hildebrand



Peggy Noonan to College: **“I’m not at all sure you need me, but I’m certain I need you”**

William P. Clark read the following statement from Wall Street Journal Contributing Editor Peggy Noonan:

Please forgive me for not being with you this evening. I felt honored to be asked to speak.

It was Tom Dillon who called many months ago and asked me to come. Tom, the one thing I never said to you in our phone calls is that I know how responsible you personally are for the strength, the astonishing endurance of your good

school. So, Tom Dillon, I want you right now to put down that wine glass and stand up and take a bow. [He complied.]

And that’s not all. If it’s really Bill Clark who’s reading this for me I would ask him to show each and every one of you his beautiful black formal western boots before the evening is over. [Clark then showed his boots.]

I’m writing you this evening from New York, from Manhattan actually, which, as all of you well know, has been hit by some hard things these past few weeks. I don’t know anyone who has not lost a friend. I barely know anyone who has not been to at least one memorial or funeral.

But I have to tell you something else that has happened in this town, and you will know when I tell you that it’s something of a miracle. It’s not only that we are being courteous to each other, finally, and kind, and really quite protective and loving of strangers. And it is not only that we feel united by something big that has happened and that we all share.

It is that at every memorial and every little place where people gather to remember the heroes and to remember the loved ones and to remember friends — at every little memorial, and every big one too, you see it — a field of votive candles, and pictures of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and statues of St. Francis and St. Anthony, and Mass cards, and the Sacred Heart, and crucifixes, and crosses, and rosary beads strung along bouquets of flowers.

My city, our wonderful little Babylon, is experiencing a great spiritual renewal, or at least, that’s what my Born Again friends tell me. And what I have perceived is that the very Catholic heart of our town has come forward. And our very Catholic ways of showing our love and loss have sprung from the rubble of downtown.

People aren’t being self-conscious about their beliefs any more; they’re not being so reticent, they’re not being so self-edited. God is bursting out all over here. It’s a very beautiful thing to witness.

And what a school like Thomas Aquinas College does — and what we need so much more of — is the undergirding, the intellectual and philosophical and theological grounding of our natural and emotional beliefs. I know so many people who now wear rosary beads to work or who make it a point to catch noon Mass, or who now have holy water in the house. Their hearts are so in the right place, but their brains need help in keeping their hearts there.

So I say, thank you, Thomas Aquinas College, and keep doing what you’re doing because we need it all more than ever before. Keep telling us Catholics what it is we believe in and why. I hope you’ll invite me again. I will make it back sooner or later. I’m not at all sure you need me, but I’m certain I need you.



Archbishop Chaput: **“As a nation and as individuals, we’re not as smart as we think.”**

(Continued from p. 1)

skills they need to recognize incompetence. Now this is a serious article. In fact, according to one of Dunning’s colleagues, “not only do [incompetent people] reach erroneous conclusions and make unfortunate choices, but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realize it.” By the way, as a result of his study, Dr. Dunning now worries about his own competence.

Now that’s a true story, and we can smile and laugh about it. But the lesson I want to draw from it tonight is a serious one. As a nation and as individuals, we’re not as smart as we think. If we learned anything on September 11, it’s that we bleed just like everybody else. We pay for our overconfidence and self-absorption just like everybody else. Fools with tools are still fools. Technology, wealth and power are not the same as wisdom, purpose and character. And they don’t give us any security, because only God can do that.

Like all of us here tonight, I love my country. I believe that Americans are a great people, a good people. I believe that America remains a great experiment in human dignity. But it’s an experiment that depends on certain assumptions — and first among them is the sanctity of the human person.

“Sanctity” is an idea that makes no sense without God. The historian Gertrude Himmelfarb put it this way: America today is “living off the religious capital of a previous generation, and [that] capital is being perilously depleted.” The more we remove God from our public life, the more we remove the moral vocabulary that gives our public institutions meaning. The more secular we become, the more we feed our problems that are killing us as a community.

Here’s the first problem: *our inability to think clearly*. Reasoning requires time. It needs a reverence for ideas. It involves the testing and comparison of arguments. But the America we have today is a culture built on marketing — and marketing works in exactly the opposite way.

Marketing appeals to desire and emotion. It depends on the suppression of critical thought, because thinking can get in the way of buying the product or the message. That explains why marketing is tied so tightly to images. Images operate underneath, or beneath, the radar of critical thought. That’s why car dealers usually put an attractive young woman in front of their latest sports car, instead of a stack of performance statistics. So that’s one of our big problems.

Our second big problem is *our inability to remember*. Christopher Lasch once observed that Americans have a kind of addiction to “the new.” We’re a people of the “now.” Of course, we enjoy nostalgia, because it’s a kind of entertainment. But we don’t really like history, because the past — as it really happened — burdens us with memories and unfinished business. It imposes obligations on the present. Americans like to think that we can invent and reinvent ourselves. But the cost of that illusion is that we tend to have a very poor grasp of history. We learn too little from the lessons of the past.

Here’s problem three: *our inability to imagine and hope*. Americans have never been ideologues. We’re pragmatists and toolmakers. We believe in results. So it’s really no surprise that we have the strongest economic machine in the world; or that we excel at science and technology; or that these disciplines enjoy such esteem in our culture.

But technology, Edward Tenner reminds us, always carries with it what he calls a “revenge of unintended consequences.” And one of the unintended consequences of our science is that we’ve become its objects and its victims. The price tag for our science has been a decline in our vocabulary of the soul, a rise in the materialist view of the world, and a collapse in our confidence that humanity is somehow a unique part in creation.

Hope and imagination flow out of a belief in a higher purpose to our lives. If all we are is very intelligent carbon — well, then, hope and imagination are just quirks of the species. And so any talk about the sanctity of the human person is silly.

Here’s problem four: *our inability to recognize and live real freedom*. Freedom is

not an endless supply of choices. Choice for its own sake is just another form of idolatry. Freedom is the ability to see — and the courage to do — what is right. But if Americans stop believing that absolute principles of right and wrong exist, then how can we even begin to discuss things like freedom, truth, and the dignity of the human person in a common vocabulary? How can we agree on which rights take precedence, or who has responsibility for what?

What we get in place of freedom is a kind of anarchy of conflicting pressure groups and personal agendas held together by just one fragile thing: the economy we all share — and that’s not the basis of a community. In fact our economy, more than anything else in American life, teaches us to see almost everything as a commodity to be bought or sold.

This is what Jeremy Rifkin means when he describes American culture as increasingly a “paid-for experience” based on the commodification of passion, ideals, relationships and even time. If we want freedom, we buy it by purchasing this car or that computer. If we want romance, we buy it by purchasing this cruise or that hotel package.

The trouble is, the more our advertising misuses the language of our dreams and ideals to sell consumer goods, the more mixed up our dreams and ideals become. We confuse ourselves to the point where we no longer recognize what real love, honest work, freedom, family, patriotism — and even life itself — look like.

So those are the problems. What do we do about them?

Well, the only thing we can do about them is fix them one heart, one intellect, one potential leader at a time. That’s why the vocation of a college like Thomas Aquinas is even more important today than it was 30 years ago.

It’s easy to praise the obvious successes of this school. More than 30 young men have graduated from TAC and gone on to be priests. More than 20 young women have graduated and entered religious life. Many, many others have formed strong Catholic families, developed fruitful careers, and now live an active and faithful lay life. These are tremendous gifts, not just to the Church, but to wider society, because men and women who live lives of virtue have a ripple effect. They ennoble the whole community. And that’s the kind of “good infection” that, little by little, can heal the whole body.

But I think the real greatness of this College is written into its gene code. Neil Postman once said that “any fool can have an opinion; [but] to know what one needs to know in order to have an opinion is wisdom — which is another way of saying that wisdom means knowing what questions to ask about knowledge.”

As I worked on my thoughts for this evening, I paged through the curriculum. I read about the seminars. I reviewed the syllabus. And I was reminded why the old, like me, so often envy the young. What a priceless education this College offers. Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Pascal, Tocqueville, the Sacred Scriptures: These are the real teachers and challengers of every Thomas Aquinas College student. It’s not a bad list of tutors. The genius of Thomas Aquinas College is that it teaches wisdom first — the things one needs to know in order to have an opinion — and the questions one needs to ask about knowledge. Nobody can give or get a better gift.

Congratulations, Thomas Aquinas College. Happy anniversary.



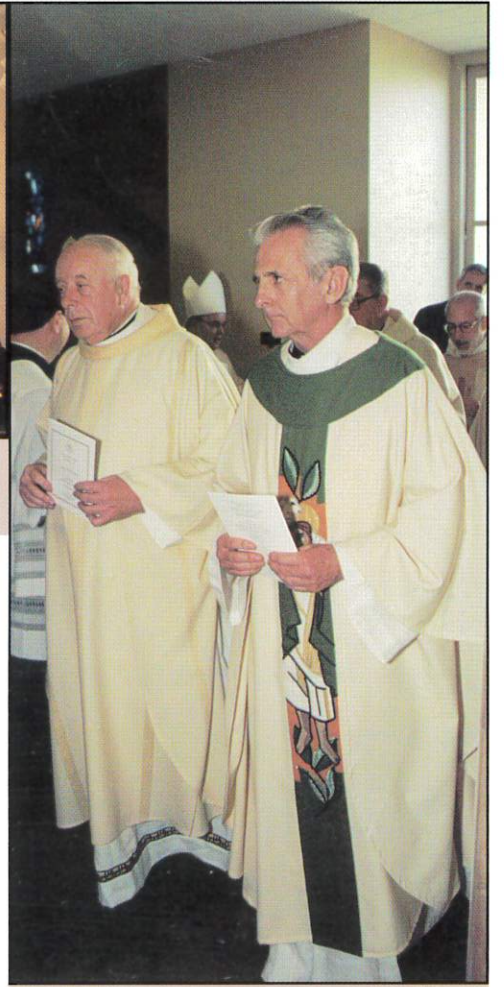
Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!



Cardinal Mahony delivers greetings and good wishes from the Holy Father (copy below) before delivering the invocation at the dinner.



St. Victor's beautiful parish in Hollywood was the setting for the Mass of Thanksgiving preceding the dinner event; Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony was principal celebrant.



Monsignor Francis J. Weber (l) and Monsignor Jeremiah Murphy (r) concelebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving.

Invocation Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

Lord God Almighty, in your kindness, hear our prayers. We gather this evening to celebrate the thirty years of blessings that you have bestowed upon Thomas Aquinas College. In your gracious favor, bless those so dedicated to the pursuit of truth, the teachers and students of Thomas Aquinas College, and may they always learn to know You, the Source of all truth.

May all of us, imbued with the words of truth, search for the wisdom that guides the Christian life, and strive whole-heartedly to stand by Christ, our Teacher.

God, our heavenly Father, through the breaking of bread together, you strengthen the bonds that unite us in love. Bless us, our conversation and these your gifts. Grant that as we sit down together at table, in joy and sincerity, we may grow always closer in the bonds of love.




Board member Mark Belnick, Vice-President and General Counsel of Tyco International Ltd. in New York, procured a prodigious number of table sponsors and advertisers for the dinner.

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ARTHUR ANDERSON, LLP	MR. & MRS. PAUL GRIFFIN III
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HON. & MRS. WILLIAM P. CLARK	MR. & MRS. CARL N. KARCHER
CLIFFORD, CHANCE, ROGERS & WELLS, LLP	MR. TIBOR KEREKES
CRAVETH, SWAIN & MOORE	MR. & MRS. J. EDWARD MARTIN
DAN MURPHY FOUNDATION	MERRILL CORPORATION
MISS ROSEMARY E. DONOHUE	MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & McCLOY, LLP
MRS. PHILIP W. FLANNERY	MR. & MRS. EDWARD N. MILLS
FRESHFIELDS, BRUCKHAUS & DERINGER, LLP	

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MR. FRANCIS J. MONTGOMERY MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS	MR. & MRS. PAUL BENNETT	MR. & MRS. IVY LEE
MR. & MRS. ANDREW PUZDER	DR. & MRS. HARRY G. BROWNE	MR. & MRS. J. EDWARD MARTIN
RASSMUSSEN & ASSOCIATES	MR. & MRS. STAN CARMICHAEL	MR. & MRS. WILLIAM F. MILLS
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MR. & MRS. WILLIAM R. VAN IDEN	MR. & MRS. JAMES P. CONN	MISS MARY B. NEUMAYR
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DR. & MRS. WILLIAM W. SMITH	DR. & MRS. THOMAS M. GOODWIN	MRS. JOSEPH PRIVITELLI
WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING	MISS MERRILU GORDON	MR. & MRS. WILLIAM E. SIMON, JR.
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DR. & MRS. HENRY ZEITER	MR. & MRS. JAMES E. HOLMAN	MR. & MRS. THOMAS P. SULLIVAN
	MR. & MRS. JOHN KLINK	MR. & MRS. R. J. WENSLEY
		WILEY REIN & FELDING


SECRETARIAT OF STATE
FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS
N. 499.759

From the Vatican, September 17, 2001

Dear Cardinal Mahony,


I have the honor to forward to you the following message requested by Mr. William A. Wilson, former United States Ambassador to the Holy See, for the thirtieth anniversary of Thomas Aquinas College:

THE HOLY FATHER HAS LEARNED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2001 THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE IN SANTA PAULA WILL COMMEMORATE THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDATION. HE ASKS YOU KINDLY TO CONVEY HIS GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO ALL ASSEMBLED FOR THE OCCASION, TOGETHER WITH THE ASSURANCE OF HIS PRAYERS THAT THE ANNIVERSARY WILL FOSTER A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO THE IDEALS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE WHICH INSPIRED THE COLLEGE'S FOUNDATION. COMMENDING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, ITS BENEFACTORS AND FRIENDS TO THE INTERCESSION OF MARY, SEAT OF WISDOM, THE HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING AS A PLEDGE OF GRACE AND PEACE IN OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.


CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO
SECRETARY OF STATE.

With gratitude and every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


 + Leonardo Sandri
 Substitute

Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010

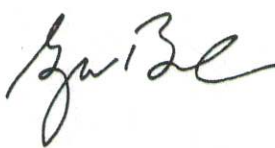

THE WHITE HOUSE
 WASHINGTON
 Crawford, Texas
 August 17, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings and congratulations to all those celebrating the 30th anniversary of Thomas Aquinas College.

Education is America's top priority. We must challenge young people to develop their knowledge and skills, so they will have the foundation they need to thrive in a dynamic and changing world.

Throughout the years, your institution has served a vital role in preparing students for the challenges and opportunities that await them. I commend the faculty, staff, and supporters for your contributions to its success. Your efforts improve the quality of life for countless individuals and help to build a brighter future for our Nation.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.





Top: (l to r) College Events Coordinator Jackie Slay goes over evening's "script" with ABC7's Jim Newmar, Master of Ceremonies; The Johnny Crawford Orchestra plays music from the 30s and 40s; Mrs. Irene Montgomery enjoys program. Middle: (l) The barbershop quartet of students Merrill Roberts, Bill Grimm, Joseph Zepeda and Brian Morey came back for an encore presentation; (r) Metropolitan Opera singer Dennis McNeil rouses the audience with The Star Spangled Banner. Bottom: (l) Several College co-eds enjoyed assisting at the event; (m) Cardinal Mahony greets Armando Rangel (Class of '02).

The Comprehensive Campaign – What You Can Do To Help

- Make a cash gift
- Refer us to a foundation
- Make a bequest in your will



• Pray

- Establish a charitable remainder trust
- Make a gift of appreciated stock
- Ask friends to make a gift

We invite you to join us daily in praying the Memorare of Our Lady for continued blessings on our College community, and, in particular, for the success of our Comprehensive Campaign.



Remember,
O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy
protection, implored thy help,
or sought thy intercession
was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence,
I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother!
To thee do I come,
before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate,
despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy
hear and answer me.
Amen.

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