

# THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

## FALL 2005



## “Prepare the Way of the Lord; Make Straight His Paths”

### Construction Begins for Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel

In 1968, Thomas Aquinas College existed only as a dream in the imaginations of a small group of Catholic educators. These founders were determined to build an institution especially devoted to the thought of St. Thomas Aquinas, which would renew Catholic higher education through the pursuit of truth via the twin beacons of faith and reason. In 1971, Thomas Aquinas College was founded, and the dream became a reality. The College moved to its permanent location in Santa Paula, California, in 1978, where it has been continually blessed by God. Through His good graces and the generosity of benefactors, building after building has been erected, and the College has achieved an international reputation for excellence.

In the fall of 2001, Thomas Aquinas College announced an ambitious 7-year, \$75 million Comprehensive Campaign to finish building the campus, increase the endowment, and provide for all financial aid needs during the life of the Campaign. A bold move, perhaps; a leap of faith, certainly. But not without basis: when the Comprehensive Campaign was made public at the College's 30th Anniversary Gala, Sir Daniel Donohue of the the Dan Murphy Foundation announced a lead gift of \$10 million.

With that magnificent beginning, the College could complete and then implement its plans for the crown jewel of the campus: Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. Thus, on June 24, 2005, massive earth-moving machines and men in hard hats broke ground to “prepare the way of the Lord” and begin construction of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. It was, to be sure, an auspicious date to start as June 24th happened to be the feast day of the birth of St. John the Baptist.

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## Accolades for Thomas Aquinas College

### A “Top College” and an “Overachiever”

In the 2006 edition of *America's Best Colleges* published in late August by *U.S. News & World Report* (*U.S. News*), Thomas Aquinas College was once again ranked among the top 104 liberal arts colleges in the country—one of only four Catholic colleges to be ranked nationwide in this “top colleges” category, along with the College of the Holy Cross, St. John's University, and the College of St. Benedict. Of the new Catholic colleges founded in the United States in the past 35 years, Thomas Aquinas College is the only one to be so ranked by *U.S. News*.



*U.S. News & World Report* awards an official “badge” to those colleges and universities that have been ranked in the top tier of their category. Thomas Aquinas College was so ranked among national liberal arts colleges.

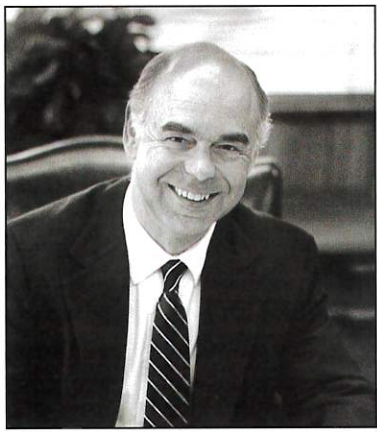
The College was also ranked first of all liberal arts colleges in the nation, religious and secular, for the highest percentage of classes under 20 students—100%. Further, it is one of only four Catholic liberal arts colleges in the country to be ranked in the “least debt” category, which measures the average amount of debt incurred by students.

In addition, *U.S. News* has again named Thomas Aquinas College a “best value,” explaining that category of 40 institutions as follows: “The higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal. Only schools ranked in the top half of their categories are included, on the premise that the most significant values are among colleges that are above average academically.” In this category, Thomas Aquinas

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## This Is the Time

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven,” says the Book of Ecclesiastes. “A time to be born, and a time to die... a time to plant... a time to build...”

At Thomas Aquinas College, it is a time to build. The time has arrived to build the crown jewel of our campus, Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

For years, we have planned for this magnificent *Domus Dei*. Now the constant noise of the heavy grading equipment is music to my ears. Workmen will soon prepare the foundation, and before long, the structure will begin to take shape.

The construction of the Chapel is the most ambitious project we shall ever undertake at the College. Completion of the project is estimated at two and a half years from now, and its cost will be approximately \$20 million—by far the most expensive structure to be erected on the campus. But this is fitting: as Cardinal Schönborn told me

when he viewed the plans for Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel during one of his visits to the campus, “You can never do too much for the glory of God.” With this remark in mind, we are now building a Chapel of great beauty that will withstand the test of time both in its design and in its materials.

From the three Masses offered daily within the Chapel walls will flow into our students’ souls the graces they need to fully embrace the truth and to respond generously to the various vocations to which God calls them. Adoration, the Rosary, Compline—these daily devotions will soon take place in a fitting setting, one that will inspire deeper faith, reverence, and love of God in generations of students to come.

This is indeed the time to build. But we cannot do it alone. We need the help of our friends. It is most gratifying that many at the College are already involved in actively supporting the Chapel project: the alumni of the College, the parents of our graduates, the College’s faculty and governing board. Now we hope for participation in this noble undertaking by all our friends. With your generosity, we shall be able to complete Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel *ad majorem Dei gloriam!*

# Standing With Socrates

## Remarks of President Dillon at Convocation

Recently I had the opportunity to re-read and discuss Plato’s dialogue the *Apology*, which the freshmen will study in their philosophy tutorials later this month.

Upon taking up that great text once more, I could not help but reflect on how much Thomas Aquinas College is rooted in that ancient but nourishing dialogue, and how much Socrates—from two-and-a-half thousand years ago—has shaped this institution today.

### The Quest for Truth and Goodness

What is most striking in the dialogue, of course, is that Socrates is willing to undergo death rather than give up his ways of inquiry and conversation about the deepest issues that face us all. His quest for truth and goodness will not be thwarted by any concern for his material welfare or by threats from the state on his very life. “No man worth anything,” says Socrates, “ought to spend his time weighing the prospects of life and death, but should consider only one thing in performing any action—that is, whether it is just or unjust.”

It is ironic, of course, that Socrates is accused of corrupting the youth, when in fact he is doing just the opposite: attempting to show the young that wealth, reputation, fame, and power are no where near as important as truth, virtue, and the perfection of their souls.

A number of things, I think, give Socrates confidence in his enterprise: he understands that there is a difference between mere *opinion*, on the one hand, and *knowledge*, on the other. He sees that thinking we know when we do not know is a fatal impediment to achieving wisdom. He realizes that there is an intrinsic power in what is true, what is good, and what is beautiful, and that the human soul is perfected by their apprehension. Most of all, though, he sustains the conviction that real wisdom comes from God and that his mission to his fellow Athenians is divine in origin. “I owe a greater obedience to God than to you,” he says to the citizen jurors at his trial, “and so long as I draw breath and have my faculties, I should never stop practicing philosophy and indicating the truth to everyone that I meet.”

### The Highest Welfare of Your Souls

Now Socrates is certainly a model for us at Thomas Aquinas College, and though we may not always live up to what is best in his life, clearly our aspirations are shaped by his.

Consider Socrates’ own account of his life in one section of the *Apology*: “I spend my time trying to persuade you, young and old, to make your chief concern not for your bodies or your possessions, but for the highest welfare of your souls.”

How well Socrates sums up in a phrase the essence of the culture that also surrounds us, where the chief concern indeed seems to be for our bodies and our possessions. But at Thomas Aquinas College, contrary to the prevailing winds of the culture, we seek the highest welfare of your souls.

Like Socrates, we too are convinced that the unexamined life is not worth living, and we have structured a curriculum in which we invite you to examine the most important questions and issues that confront us as men.

Like Socrates, we see that there is a difference between knowledge and opinion, and we exhort you not to settle for easy answers; but to press for the right account—to seek the reasons and causes behind things—and to be diligent and unrelenting in your search for truth.

Like Socrates, we are convinced that our mission is divine in origin, and we would rather suffer institutional death than compromise our character and our dedication to pursuing and upholding the truth—and we are happy to be a “stinging fly,” if we must, within the educational establishment.

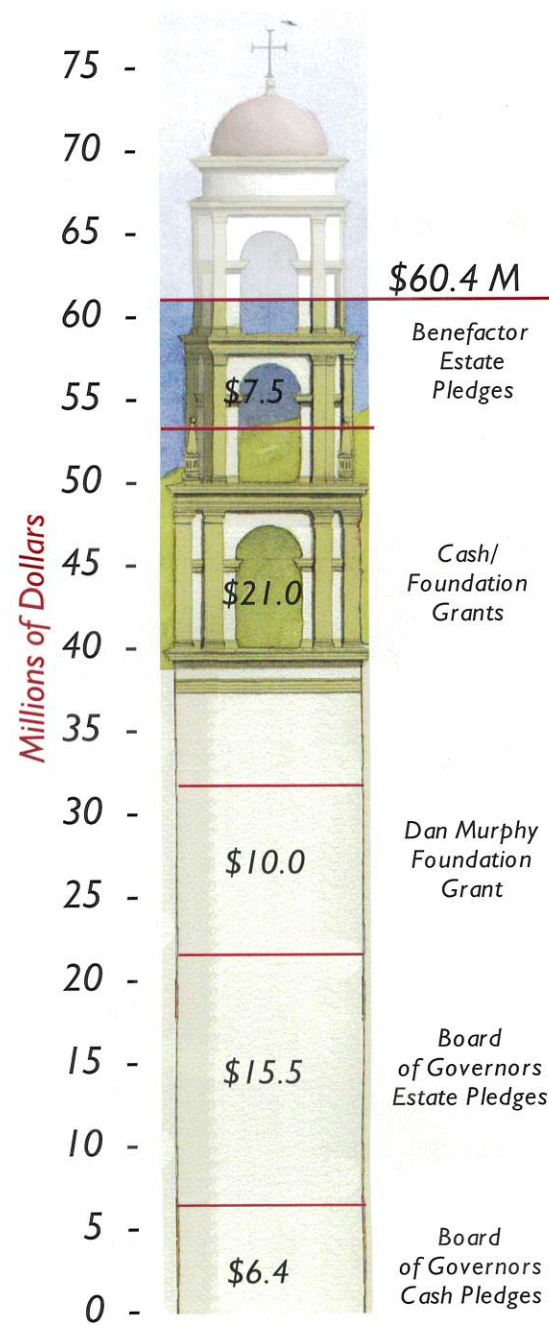
But unlike Socrates, we have the certainty of God’s revelation and we have Christ. Moreover, we have the teaching Church as a guide in our quest for wisdom.

It is remarkable—astonishing really—that Socrates could have the insights he did without the benefit of Christianity. How blessed we are, in contrast, to have Christ the Teacher, to have the Gospels and St. Paul, and to have an unerring Church to mediate God’s revelation. How fortunate also are we to have the great Fathers and Doctors of the Church, especially our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, whom pope after pope has recognized as occupying the pinnacle of Christian thought.

### A Good Beginning

Our fundamental endeavor at Thomas Aquinas College is a modest one: to help you make a good beginning on the ascent toward wisdom. Your success in making this good beginning depends very much on you—on your diligence, on your intellectual energy, and on your cultivation of wonder.

October 2005



As of October 31, 2005

These four years at the College are a precious opportunity to develop your minds and refine your habits of thought and action. You will be reading and discussing the greatest works ever written; works that have defined eras and shaped civilizations. In a community of friends, and under the guidance of tutors who care deeply about your good, you will seek to make reasoned judgments about the nature of reality. You will be aided in your inquiries by the rich intellectual tradition of the Church as you study Her wisest teachers—wise especially because of their own docility to Christ and His Church.

Liberal education concerns not what is servile and transient, but what is intrinsically worthwhile and permanent. By coming to Thomas Aquinas College, by devoting yourselves to four years of a liberal education, you are standing with Socrates and opting not for the life of convenience and trivial pleasure, but rather for the life rooted in the love of wisdom and ordered to virtue, especially intellectual virtue. Such a life is not easy, for it demands discipline and self-denial, but it is a life of genuine freedom and happiness.

Allow me to urge you to give free reign to your wonder as you progress through the curriculum. Think *reflectively* about the matters treated in the various arts and sciences which make up our course of studies. Only by asking questions, and only by deep reflection on what you study can you make what you are attempting to learn your own. It is important for you to test what you think you know, to ponder what you do not know, and to humble yourselves before the truth where you find it.

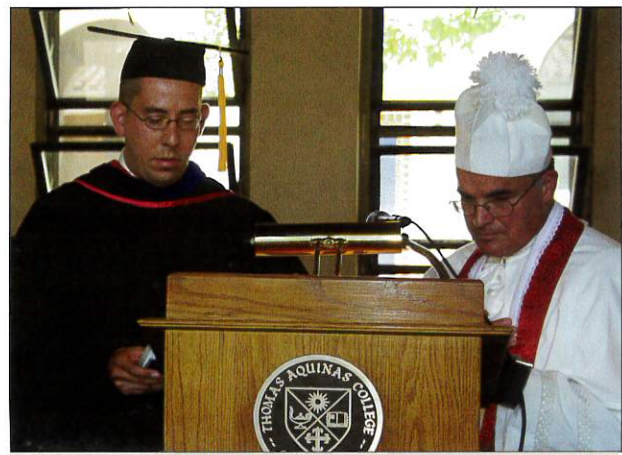
Let us together, then, approach this 35th year of the College’s existence with confidence in the nobility of our enterprise, with trust in God’s provident care, and with a determination to apply ourselves fully to the great things that lie before us.

# Academic Year Begins with Historic Convocation

## College Begins 35th Year at Maximum Enrollment

In many ways the Convocation of August 22, 2005, was like other such ceremonies at Thomas Aquinas College. As in years past, the faculty of the College marched into St. Joseph Commons arrayed in robes and hoods signifying their educational achievements. Once again, the College was honored to have a bishop of the Church preside over the opening Mass of the Holy Spirit. And President Dillon officially welcomed the new freshman class and spoke words of encouragement to them about the great work that stood before them.

In another sense, however, the Convocation of August 22 was unlike the others that had gone before. It was historic in the sense that it marked the beginning of the 35th year in the school's history, but even more, it was the first convocation for the College's maximum-sized student body.



New tutor David Arias takes the Oath of Fidelity.

Since its founding in 1971, the College has aimed at the relatively small number of 350 as an ideal maximum number of students. Dean of the College Michael McLean explains that "...Our classes are conducted as small seminar discussions. This kind of learning requires an intimate community of friends in which students feel comfortable

## Chapel - Continued from page 1

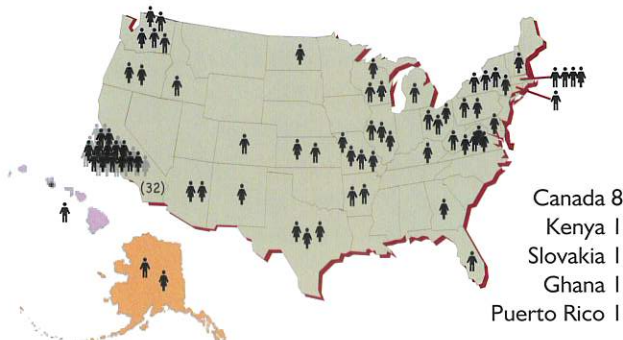
Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, with its exquisite blend of Roman, Renaissance, and Spanish Mission Revival architecture, will be a treasure of beauty, grandeur, permanence, and tradition. As the church in a medieval village was prominently located, so too Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel will have a position of distinction on the academic quadrangle, signifying that Christ is at the heart of both the intellectual and community life of the College.

Though similar in "footprint" to St. Bernardine of Siena Library, the Chapel will appear more grand due to features such as the three-tiered bell tower, the dome, and the height of the ornate façade. Iconographic in its very design, it will speak to all who enter of the riches of the Catholic faith: the cruciform shape of the building itself represents the crucified Christ; the three tiers of the bell tower, reminiscent of the California Missions, symbolize the Blessed Trinity; the baldacchino over the altar, though it may not have the scale and magnificence of Bernini's at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, will nevertheless remind visitors of the College's allegiance to Rome; seven columns along each of the side aisles will call to mind the seven sacraments, or the gifts of the Holy Spirit; and representing the Apostles will be twelve windows in the dome looking down upon the altar.

In these ways and many more, the College aims to ensure that Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, like the great books studied in the academic program, will weather the fads and fashions of time and remain a constant, beautiful place of worship for generations to come—a sacred place where the hearts and minds of students throughout the years will be transformed for Christ.

To contribute to this chapel that springs from within the Church's long tradition of sacred architecture, please contact Quincy Masteller, Vice President for Development at 805/525-4419, Ext. 327 or [jmasteller@thomasaquinas.edu](mailto:jmasteller@thomasaquinas.edu).

## Class of 2009 SAT avg. 1293; ACT avg. 29



enough with each other and their tutors to take an active part in their own learning, and faculty are easily accessible to the students. The College, therefore, has only slowly increased the size of its student body. And though we have had a waiting list in recent years, we will not grow any further."

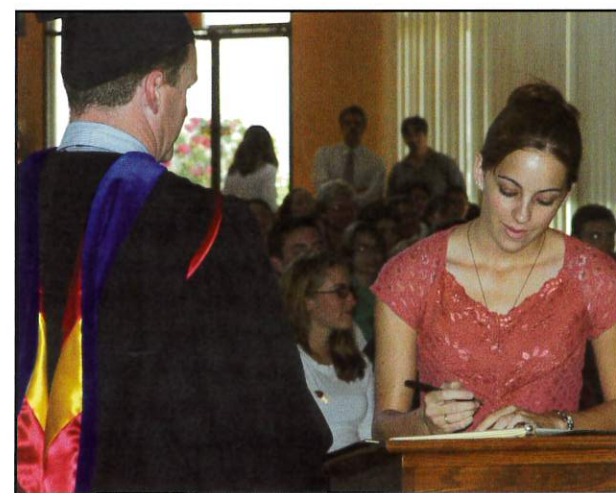
Convocation day began with a Mass of the Holy Spirit at which Bishop Robert Vasa of Baker, Oregon, was the principal celebrant and homilist. (See excerpts from his homily on page 4.) During the matriculation ceremony that followed, faculty members were introduced to the new students, and new tutor David Arias (see story on page 8) made the Profession of Faith and took the Oath of Fidelity, administered to him by Rev. Michael Perea, O.Praem., Assistant Dean for Religious Affairs. Director of Admission, Mr. Jon Daly, then read the names of the incoming freshmen for all to hear, prompting them to rise, approach the podium, greet Bishop Vasa and President Dillon, and sign their names to the official College Registry.

In his remarks toward the ceremony, Bishop Vasa expressed warm approval of the College's mission and its program of Catholic liberal education. Then, Dr. Dillon, after speaking to the students and faculty of the compatibility

of faith and reason in the pursuit of the truth, officially proclaimed the opening of the new academic year.

If their response to Dr. Dillon's proclamation was any indication, the class of 2009 is an enthusiastic and serious collection of young men and women, committed to the mission of the College and full of anticipation for the educational and spiritual journey on which they were embarking. These 102 young men and women hail from across the United States and Puerto Rico as well as such diverse nations and territories as Canada, Ghana, Slovakia and Kenya. Their average SAT score is 1293.

In the student body as a whole, there are 60 (17%) who are sons and daughters of Thomas Aquinas College graduates: 22 freshmen, 16 sophomores, 10 juniors, and 12 seniors are following in one or both of their parent's footsteps. These legacy students are tangible evidence of the bond between the College and its alumni, whom it is honored to assist in carrying out their sacred duty to educate their children.



Freshman Kathryn Frassrand signs her name in the College's Registry during the matriculation ceremony.

## Accolades - Continued from page 1

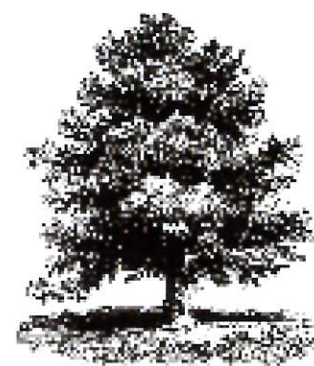
College ranked 37th. It is the only Catholic college in the United States included in this top 40.

With its ranking as a "top college" by *U.S. News*, Thomas Aquinas College thereby became part of a study concerning these select liberal arts institutions conducted by The Teagle Foundation of New York, which has recently recognized Thomas Aquinas College as an overperformer in higher education. Established in 1944 by Walter Teagle, then president of the Standard Oil Company, The Teagle Foundation is committed to advancing higher education in the United States through recognizing excellence when it sees it, and supporting it through grants and other forms of financial aid.

In 2000, current Teagle Foundation President, Dr. W. Robert Connor, a retired professor of ancient Greek and Roman history, commissioned Roger T. Kaufman of Smith College and Geoffrey Woglom of Amherst College to conduct a study of the top 104 liberal arts colleges in the country, as determined by *U.S. News*. The study singles out institutions that achieve exceptional results in educating students. Evaluating each college's achievements as measured by graduation rates and the number of Ph.D.s obtained by its graduates, the study then correlates those numbers to the financial resources available per student at each college.

Thomas Aquinas College was one of only 13 "overachieving colleges" (a "baker's dozen") cited by the study. An "overachiever" is defined as an institution that has an exceptionally high graduation rate and a high percentage of students who go on to earn doctoral degrees, and achieves these results through the effective use of its limited resources. These 13 institutions, according to Connor, "must be doing something right!"

The Teagle Foundation undertakes "efforts to strengthen liberal education by attempting to identify, and then often by convening, leaders of



## The Teagle Foundation

exceptional thoughtfulness and vision in areas of special interest" to the Foundation. Noting a rise in the interest and involvement of American undergraduates in religion, the Foundation is now exploring how students' religious interests may be influencing their academic engagement and achievement.

To consider this question, President Connor convened a "Listening" this past September in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, inviting, among others, representatives of a prestigious group of colleges and universities from across the country to participate in an exchange of thoughts on the subject. President Dillon was invited to represent Thomas Aquinas College at the event, along with representatives of schools such as Princeton University, Columbia University, the University of Notre Dame, and others.

Convinced that one can make the greatest advance in the intellectual life under the light of both faith and reason, Dr. Dillon looks forward to contributing to The Teagle Foundation's on-going study of the intersection of students' religious faith and academic achievement.



# A Time of Pentecost

## Excerpts from the Homily of the Most Rev. Robert Vasa, Mass of the Holy Spirit

I want to talk to you today about two upper rooms. The first room is the room in which we meet the disciples this morning. We know that immediately after the crucifixion, they had huddled in that upper room and had locked the doors, as the Scriptures tell us, for fear of the Jews. So there they were, isolated, set apart, fearful. And then Jesus comes and stands in their midst.

### He Is Still Standing

Every word of the Gospel is significant and we need to look at every word: He comes and He stands in their midst. He's standing. He's no longer bowed under the weight of the cross. He's standing. He's no longer crumpled on the ground, as we read in the Stations of the Cross, fallen beneath its weight. He's standing. He's no longer beaten down by the rods of His executioners and persecutors. He's standing. He's not standing before Pilate as that Lamb before the slaughter, but He is standing now as the Prince of Peace, the King of kings, the Lord of lords. He comes and stands in their midst and speaks the simple words, "Peace be with you."

He didn't chastise them for their fear, He didn't chastise them for their anxiety, He didn't chastise them even for hiding. He did come and witness to



The Most Rev. Robert Vasa (left) is Bishop of Baker, Oregon. Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, he was ordained for that diocese in 1976 and served his home diocese for nearly 25 years. He was ordained a bishop in 2000 and has served as shepherd of the faithful in Baker since then. Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J., Chaplain, (right) concelebrated the opening Mass with Bishop Vasa.

them that He was still standing, that His wounds had not destroyed Him, that He was still in their midst.

I think the Apostles faced a world not dissimilar from our own in many ways. We see a world which the present pope has described as one afflicted by the "dictatorship of relativism." And we who are faithful to the teachings of the truth, who affirm the existence of an objective truth, we are being persecuted, we are being ridiculed, we are being criticized. There is an attempt to do away with us. There is a persecution. There is an attack on the truth and it is pervasive in our country.

I think the Apostles were facing the same kind of thing. So they huddled in fear in that upper room, perhaps remembering the jeers of the executioners, 'He saved others, let us see if He will save Himself.' They didn't want to find themselves in that same situation, so they hid. They hid until the Lord came. They hid until He came and said, "Peace be with you."

Even then, though, they did not take to the streets; they did not immediately go out and proclaim what they now knew more firmly. No, the Lord told them to wait, to wait until they were in another room, in another space, where He would send His Holy Spirit.

### A Second Upper Room

So they waited in a second room, but that waiting was different from the fearful hiding after His death. The Apostles now waited with a kind of expectation and a kind of eagerness, with a hopefulness, a conviction that they needed to wait until that truth permeated and penetrated them to the very core of their being, so that it was no longer

simply a message which they would proclaim, but rather a way of life.

Ultimately that Spirit did come, in wind and in fire, and He inspired them and filled them with those wonderful gifts. In a particular way, perhaps, He filled them with courage—the courage to go out into that relativistic world and proclaim that unpopular truth that there is a truth, there is a Lord, and He is risen, and He loves us, and He died for us, and He has for us a plan, a way in which He wants us to live that is consistent with the nature of our creation. And because they spoke with the power of the Spirit, people listened, and were converted.

You students of Thomas Aquinas College have here a kind of period of Pentecost during which time the various gifts of the Spirit that you received in Confirmation—wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord—these gifts will grow in you by the grace of God over these years at Thomas Aquinas College, your Pentecostal upper room.

The Spirit will not come in one fell swoop or one night of fire and wind. Rather, gradually, that Spirit will grow within you in each discussion that you will have with your fellow students, in each grace-filled conversation with your tutors, in each time you gather at the holy sacrifice of the Mass, each time you kneel down in prayer, each time you renew your consecration to the Sacred Heart, each time you devote yourselves again to God and to the works of God.

Eventually, you will come not to a convocation like today's, but a sending forth, a graduation, a commencement. As the Apostles did after the Spirit came, you, too, will go out into that hostile world with confidence, with faith, and without fear because you will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

### An "Island of Spiritual Concentration"

Even before Pope Benedict spoke about the establishment of "islands of spiritual concentration"—and I commend you because I think Thomas Aquinas College is such an island, a place where spiritual souls are gathered together, or heaped together. I like to use the analogy of briquettes in a charcoal grill. You do not spread them all out and try to light each one individually; you light a couple of them, and you pile them all up together, and you let them sit there, and soon that whole pile of coals is blazing red hot. Only then is it safe to spread them out to allow them to do the work they were designed to do.

Make no mistake about it: the world will hate you for speaking the truth, because, as the Holy Father says, the real threat to this dictatorship of relativism is the assertion that there is one truth, valid for all. That conviction undercuts relativism.

You must recognize that what you do here at this college is important not only for the individual salvation of your soul, but really as a witness to all of society, and particularly the society of Western Europe—our Western society, where that dictatorship of relativism is much more powerful, much more damaging, much more dangerous perhaps even than the dictatorship of communism which Pope John Paul II so successfully worked against.

Now Pope Benedict has set his sights on the dictatorship of relativism. It is a much more severe battle, a much more difficult battle, a much more pervasive battle. But here I am convinced you will receive the tools that you need to underscore and undergird your convictions and acquire the tools to walk out into that very world and to say with great boldness, without fear: "There is one truth



Bishop Vasa was the principal celebrant of the opening Mass of the Holy Spirit.

valid for all. There is a Lord who loves us and who teaches us how to live.'

### Form Solid Communities

Your time here is a kind of Pentecost. But remember, the disciples did not meet just once in that upper room to wait for the Spirit. Rather, they met constantly to hear the Apostles teach, to share the common life, to break the Bread, and to pray. Think about that first Christian community, even after they graduated, even after they went out from that island of spiritual concentration, they sought other smaller islands wherever they were. And they gathered regularly. It is very Christian, it is very Catholic, it is Apostolic, it is traditional, it goes back to the time of the Apostles themselves.

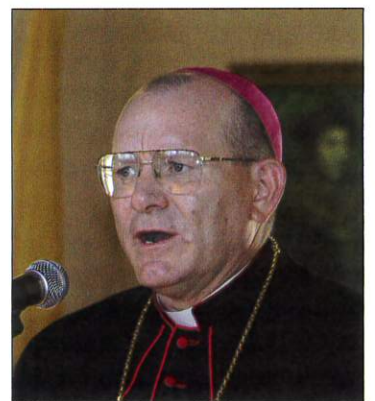
You could do no better than to persevere in this for the whole of your life—to meet constantly, to hear the teachings of the Truth, the teachings of the Apostles, to share the common life, to mingle with others who share the same values. That is not a sign of fear, it is a sign of prudence. It is a virtue to recognize that you need to foster Catholic friendships, supportive friendships that help you sustain and maintain the values that you hold and want to continue to hold.

There is nothing more important for us to do than to gather around the table of the Lord to hear Him, and for Him to come into our souls when we are fearful and lost and to say, "Peace be with you." And always and everywhere we must pray, not only in time of distress, and not only when you have upcoming tests or oral exams, but to pray always. And pray for your tutors. And I beg you to pray for bishops; we are not necessarily on the front lines, but we are close. We do need your prayers.

So listen to your tutors, listen to the Truth, listen to the Church, listen to the Apostles, form good, solid communities, pray in the Eucharist devoutly and fervently always. And pray. This is your four-year assignment, your Pentecost event. Enjoy it. Throw yourself into it. Know that here you will find great things, not from yourselves, and not from your tutors, but ultimately, from the Spirit of God, to whom we open our minds, hearts, and souls and say 'Fill me with your Spirit, Lord; give me wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and a reverential fear of the Lord.'

It is good to be with you. I pray you have a grace-filled and holy year.

*Editor's Note: An interview with Bishop Vasa will appear in the Winter 2006 issue of the Thomas Aquinas College Newsletter.*



# God Bless Father Sebastian, 40th Alumni Priest

## Alan Walshe ('94) Ordained a Norbertine

The Order of Praemontre was founded by St. Norbert on Christmas Day in the year 1121 A.D. Since that time, empires that were supposed to last forever have come and gone, and entire civilizations have completely disappeared from the face of the earth; but the love of God and the Norbertine Order, as it is commonly called, remain as constant reminders of the Creator's continuing participation in the lives of His people.

This past September 24, 2005, that Divine love was in full display at St. Michael's Abbey in El Toro, California, home of the Norbertines who were exiled from Stalinist Hungary in 1950. Here, in the most solemn of ceremonies, Thomas Aquinas College graduate Alan Walshe ('94) was ordained to the priesthood.

A Catholic convert at the age of 13, Alan described himself then as a "well-intentioned" Catholic though someone who did not have a very deep grasp of his faith. Having graduated from the University of California at Irvine with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Alan landed a "good job" with "good pay." But he soon found that achieving his goal of securing a comfortable, upper middle class lifestyle for himself was not all he thought it would be. "I realized that it was not very fulfilling. One of the things I noticed was that the life of my mind was just not satisfying, that I had received job training, but nothing really close to an education."

It was then that Alan began to think about the small school up in Santa Paula that his neighbors, the Grimm family, were always talking about. (Eleven Grimm family members are now graduates of the College.) With growing interest in the more important questions and truths about God and man, he decided to enroll at the College and get the education he believed he missed out on in his first go-around in higher education.

Alan was grateful for the support his father gave him in this decision to start his education process "over" after having already earned a prestigious degree from an equally prestigious university. His friends understood his decision, for the most part, as well. But they also believed him to be an idealist and that after a couple of years or less he would realize his mistake. "But it was no mistake," says Fr. Sebastian. "The reason I went to Thomas Aquinas College was to get a real education; it took me until that point in my life to realize that those big questions matter. That was what got me to go back to school."

Here, the education of Alan Walshe began in earnest. It was at Thomas Aquinas College that Alan came to understand that there was much more to the Faith he had embraced as a teenager. He began to understand apostolic tradition as well as the teaching authority of the *Magisterium*, and as a result, his Faith deepened. Thomas Aquinas College was also Alan's first experience of being immersed in a Catholic culture. "I was surrounded by so many people who had been born and raised into devout, practicing Catholic families...lots of kids and parents who were serious about their faith."

Upon graduation from Thomas Aquinas College, Alan began studying for a Ph.D. in philosophy at The Catholic University of America. In 1996, he met several seminarians and struck up an important friendship with Fr. Tim Meares, a Norbertine, who encouraged Alan by his words and example to consider the priesthood, thus planting the seeds of a priestly vocation in Alan's heart.

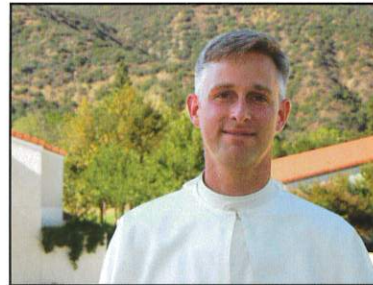
Alan had grown up in Pasadena, California, not far from the Norbertines at St. Michael's Abbey. It was there at Christmastime of 1997 that he decided to test the waters of discernment. He formally en-

tered the Abbey on August 27, 1998; the years of further education and deeper spiritual growth culminated on September 24, 2005, with his ordination.

St. Michael's Abbey is one of the few Norbertine Abbeys that has retained the ancient tradition of bestowing new names on its priestly candidates, signifying the new life of an *alter Christus*. Seminarians at St. Michael's Abbey are allowed to submit a list of three possible names to their Abbot who usually chooses from the submitted list. Alan Walshe chose the name Sebastian because he was particularly touched by the life of St. Sebastian who, as Alan puts it, was "martyred twice" for God. According to Church tradition, this saint survived the first attempt on his life when he was tied to a tree and shot with arrows only to be later bludgeoned to death by edict of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Fr. Sebastian returned to his *alma mater* just days after his ordination to offer a Mass of Thanksgiving in the College's chapel, where he had spent hours in prayer as a student years before. He is now in Rome where he will complete the doctorate in philosophy he started at The Catholic University of America. Upon his return to America, he will teach philosophy to the seminarians at St. Michael's Abbey.

The College wishes Fr. Sebastian an abundance of God's blessings and looks forward to his future visits to Thomas Aquinas College.



Rev. Sebastian Walshe, O.Praem., during a visit to his *alma mater* just after ordination.

## "Go to Thomas . . ."

### Founding President Opens Lecture Series

On Friday, August 26, the founding president of Thomas Aquinas College, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, now a tutor, opened the College's Friday Night Lecture and Concert Series with a talk on the pre-eminence of St. Thomas Aquinas in the Catholic intellectual life. In so doing, he reminded his audience of the purpose for which Thomas Aquinas College was founded.

In his address to the College's student body and faculty, Dr. McArthur described genuine Catholic education as *faith seeking understanding*. "The Church," he said, "ratifying St. Augustine, St. Anselm, and all the other fathers and doctors of the Church, teaches as part of her doctrine that there can indeed be the cooperation of faith and reason."

He went on to explain that the Catholic intellectual life relies necessarily on a mastery of philosophy and the lower arts and sciences (logic, grammar, mathematics, geometry, music), yet all of these studies are directed finally to the study of God, Himself. Noting, however, the weakness of the human intellect in its fallen state and, therefore, the inherent difficulty of achieving knowledge of divine things, Dr. McArthur maintained that the surest way for a Catholic to make progress in the intellectual life is to learn from the masters, from the Fathers and Doctors of the Church—St. Augustine, St. John Damascene, St. Athanasius, St. Thomas Aquinas, to name a few.

Quoting one pontiff after another down through the centuries, Dr. McArthur went on to make the case that above all, St. Thomas Aquinas—the "Angelic Doctor"—is the surest guide to the truth. "It is no wonder," he quoted Pope Pius XI as saying, "that all the popes have vied with one another in exalting him, proposing him, inculcating him, as a model, master, doctor... as it was said of old to the Egyptians in time of famine, 'Go to Joseph' so that they should receive a supply of corn to nourish their bodies, so to those who are now in quest of truth we now say 'Go to Thomas' that they may ask from him the food of solid doctrine of which he has an abundance to nourish their souls for eternal life."

Dr. McArthur received a B.A. from St. Mary's College of California, and a Ph.L. and Ph.D. from the University of Laval, Quebec, Canada and taught previously at San Francisco College for Women and St. Mary's College of California. He served as a tutor and the founding president of Thomas Aquinas College from 1971 to 1991. Dr. McArthur returned to the College in 2003 as a tutor.



## Big Steps for the Smallest Ones

### Crossroads Walker Spotlights the Unborn

A pro-life organization whose mission is to take the message of the sanctity of life literally to the streets of America, Crossroads accomplishes its goal with an annual continental pilgrimage. Each summer, young people from across the country walk across the three thousand miles of our nation, bringing awareness to all they meet of the plight of America's Innocents, the unborn.

This past summer, Thomas Aquinas College student Jonathan Teichert ('06) was a Crossroads walker. Now in his senior year at the College, Jonathan used his summer vacation to good purpose, starting off his sacrificial trek at the Santa Monica Pier near Los Angeles just a week after school finished in May. In a few small groups, he and 34 other Crossroads walkers traversed a number of trans-continental routes. On August 7th, they all made it to the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for a rally, followed by a special Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Along the way, Jonathan and his traveling companions stopped at parishes in major cities, gave talks, prayed at abortion clinics, and like the Apostles, raised money to cover the cost of daily food and necessities. The boldly lettered pro-life t-shirts they wore helped to spark many a conversation, and passersby on the highways couldn't help but have a heightened awareness about the plight of the unborn.

According to Jonathan, the journey was not only spiritually fulfilling, but it gave him a renewed sense of hope. "I have always been pro-life, but I had the mentality that abortion had arrived, and that it was here to stay. From meeting pro-life people all over the country and getting a good look inside the pro-life movement, I see now that there's reason to hope."

He views his participation in the Crossroads movement as a seamless continuation of his education at the College. "I don't think I could participate in pro-life activities—whether it's walking across the country for Crossroads, or praying the Rosary outside an abortion clinic—without the incredible amount of support I receive from the whole College community; it gives me the courage to work on behalf of the unborn."

Jonathan will graduate from the College next spring, and is prayerfully considering missionary work in Africa thereafter.



Jonathan Teichert (far right) received southern hospitality from the Boudreaux family while in Louisiana.

**The Principle of Double-Effect**

Dr. Thomas Cavanaugh, a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College's Class of 1985, has written *Double-Effect Reasoning: Doing Good and Avoiding Evil*, scheduled for publication in June 2006 by Clarendon Press of Oxford University. The Clarendon Press serves as the academic branch of Oxford University Press. Accordingly, it publishes only the most exceptional scholarly works.

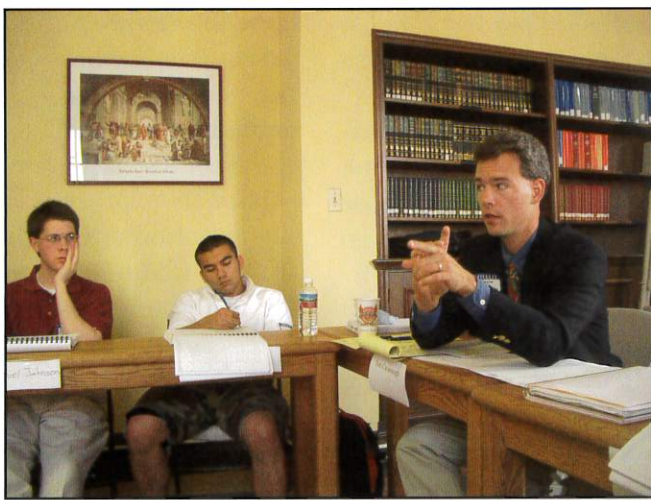
Professor Cavanaugh's book is an in-depth study of the ethical principle of double-effect, first formulated by St. Thomas Aquinas to evaluate human acts that foreseeably result in both good and bad effects. More specifically, the principle of double-effect concerns those circumstances in which a man's otherwise good act may bring about a bad consequence that he foresees but does not intend. While the agent in such a scenario has the primary objective of achieving a good end, his foresight of an associated bad effect raises the question as to the moral permissibility of such an act.

On the surface, this inquiry may sound like a highly theoretical exercise. But as Dr. Cavanaugh is quick to point out, there are many situations in which the principle of double-effect comes into play. The ethical parameters of military action and medical care are two pertinent examples he cites. In the military instance, the principle is applied to the bombing of a military target that also involves the deaths of innocent non-combatants. End-of-life issues taken from today's headlines also call for ethical evaluation in terms of double effect. The principle addresses questions ranging from pain relief of the terminally ill to those circumstances in which one may forgo or remove medical interventions that postpone death.

Though Dr. Cavanaugh admits *Double-Effect Reasoning: Doing Good and Avoiding Evil* is perhaps more an academic and scholarly text than a practical handbook, he nevertheless hopes it will find a broad audience. Certainly, the principle he examines bears upon important social issues such as the debate over physician-assisted suicide—where clear, ethical thinking is called for, yet seldom found.

Dr. Cavanaugh's work counter-balances that

of euthanasia advocates such as Peter Singer. Singer, who holds an endowed chair of bioethics at Princeton University, is one of the founding fathers of the animal rights movement and a proponent of infanticide.



Dr. Tom Cavanaugh's book, *Double-Effect Reasoning: Doing Good and Avoiding Evil*, is due out next spring from Clarendon Press.

"Actually, what I do in my book is argue a very narrow point between Singer and the traditional sanctity-of-life position." Dr. Cavanaugh explains, "Singer is a consequentialist: he doesn't think that the intentions of an agent are of any consequence when deciding whether an action is ethical or unethical. What matters to a consequentialist is only what occurs when the agent acts." In *Double-Effect Reasoning* one finds a correction for the prevailing errors of ethical thought typified by Singer's arguments.

In the book, Dr. Cavanaugh relies heavily on the insights of St. Thomas Aquinas, whose teachings on these and like matters the *Magisterium* has made its own for hundreds of years. Dr. Cavanaugh hopes that *Double-Effect Reasoning* will one day become a foundational text in institutions as varied as military academies, medical schools, and Catholic colleges and universities.

Dr. Cavanaugh chairs the Philosophy Department at the University of San Francisco, where he began teaching in 1994. He earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Notre Dame where he studied under Dr. Ralph McInerny, an emeritus member of the College's Board of Governors. He has published numerous articles on the history of ethics and on medical ethics, and has lectured widely on these subjects across the country and abroad. A native of Erie, Pennsylvania, Dr. Cavanaugh lives in Marin County in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, Bonnie, and their son, Thomas.

**An Advocate of Justice and Peace**

Arthur Hippler, Thomas Aquinas College graduate of the class of 1989, is a man who wears many hats. A professor of philosophy, a regular contributor to a national Catholic weekly, and a husband and father, he is also the Director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He now adds "author" to his

list of accomplishments with his new book, *Citizens of the Heavenly City: A Catechism of Catholic Social Teaching*, the premier selection of a new venture in Catholic publishing, Borromeo Books.

Having been commissioned by then Bishop of La Crosse, the Most Rev. Raymond Burke, to write an accessible and informative companion piece to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* aimed at Catholic youth, Dr. Hippler has produced a book that is destined to become a staple of upper-level catechism classes and homeschool curricula across the country. Bishop Burke has given his imprimatur to the book explaining that it is "directed to helping our youth to carry out the pastoral program of the Church in their lives, especially to helping them to understand and to observe the pastoral priority of witnessing to Christ in their ordinary Christian living."

With additional endorsements by Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford and Fr. Robert Sirico of the Acton Institute, *Citizens of the Heavenly City* covers topics as varied as manual labor and the Sabbath, capital punishment, and contraception and the common good.

The journey that has brought Dr. Hippler to produce such an important book began in the far



Theresa and Arthur Hippler ('89), shown with their two daughters, have recently welcomed a son into the family—Arthur, Jr.

reaches of Anchorage, Alaska. Enrolled in a public high school there, the then non-Catholic Hippler had a rendezvous with the Faith by reading works of St. Thomas Aquinas and Bishop Fulton Sheen. When he was a junior in high school, he was received into the Catholic Church and learned about Thomas Aquinas College through his good friend and "godbrother," now a tutor at the College, Ed Wassell ('91).

Dr. Hippler believes his intellectual life really began at Thomas Aquinas College. At the College, for instance, his youthful exuberance for the libertarian ideals of thinkers such as John Locke

**Alumni Update**

**Keeping Things "In FOCUS"**

Nick Blaha graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in 2002, but he just cannot get off a college campus. For the past two years, he has served as a missionary in the Catholic campus ministry known as the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS).

Founded by Curtis Martin in 1977, FOCUS is a missionary response to the increase in depression, suicide, and abortion rates on college campuses and the simultaneous decline in faith among college students across the country.

National in its scope, FOCUS now has chapters on 27 college campuses in 15 states, with over 100 full-time staff members and thousands of volunteers. Staff members offer small group bible studies on campus, one-on-one mentoring, and leadership training. In addition, as an alternative to the excesses of "Spring Break," FOCUS offers mission trips both at home and abroad to aid the poor and underprivileged.

Eminent prelates such as Archbishop John Myers of Newark, New Jersey, Archbishop Edwin



O'Brien of the Archdiocese for the Military U.S.A., and Bishop Robert Morlino of Madison, Wisconsin, are enthusiastic supporters of FOCUS, noting that its missionaries bring the authentic teachings of the Church to college campuses—secular and Catholic—all across America. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver has said of the organization, "No one does a more dynamic job of reaching college students for Christ than FOCUS."

Nick Blaha joined FOCUS the summer after graduation from Thomas Aquinas College. He has since spent his time and energy working with the FOCUS chapter at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

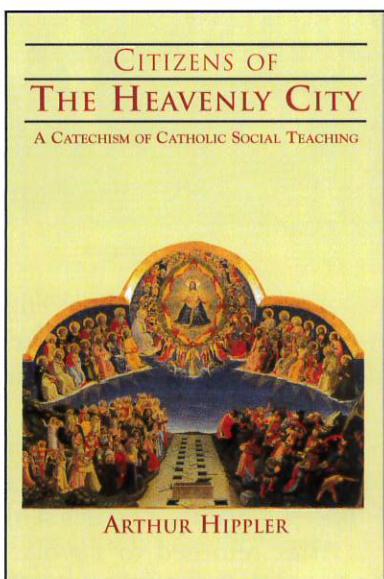
Finding his involvement with FOCUS to be both a blessing and a challenge, he strives to make what he calls "deep contact" with college students, many of whom have had very little exposure to the teachings of the Catholic Church. In his work, he relies heavily on the education and experience he received at Thomas Aquinas College, recalling often the words of one of his tutors, "You only know it as well as you can teach it."

Now entering his third year with FOCUS, Nick was recently chosen to lead the formation of a new FOCUS chapter at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He asks that members of the Thomas Aquinas College community keep him—and the students he is there to serve—in their prayers.



collided with the truth he found in the works of Aristotle and St. Thomas. Both could not be true. As Dr. Hippler's intellectual growth proceeded, so also did his spiritual life deepen; he found himself increasingly a disciple of the Angelic Doctor and more and more committed to serving the Church.

Arthur Hippler has been the Director of the Office of Justice and Peace for the Diocese of La Crosse since January 2000. He also serves as a Visiting Professor for the Institute of Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Boston College in 1993, and has taught at both the high school and college levels. He writes a weekly column on Catholic social teaching for *The Wanderer* and a bi-weekly column for his diocesan newspaper. Dr. Hippler is married to Theresa, a native of the Philippines; they have two little girls, Gianna and Nieves, and a newborn son, Arthur.



## St. Thomas Aquinas and the Natural Law Tradition

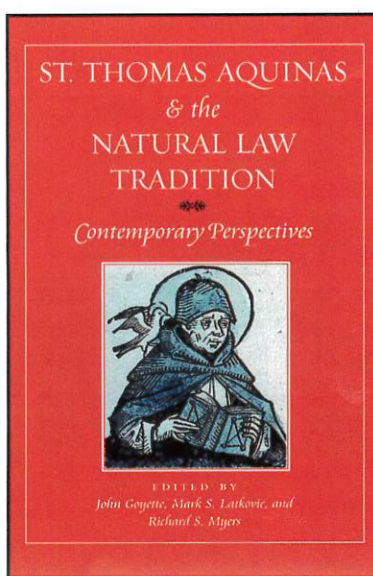
Dr. John Goyette ('90), Thomas Aquinas College graduate and tutor—along with Mark S. Latkovic and Richard S. Myers—has edited a new book on natural law, *St. Thomas Aquinas & the Natural Law Tradition*, published by Catholic University of America Press.

Goyette and his co-editors conceived the book as a way of framing a discussion of natural law as taught by St. Thomas Aquinas in a manner that would have specific relevance to issues that impact our lives today; thus the book's subtitle: *Contemporary Perspectives*. To best serve that model, Goyette and his co-editors organized a conference in June of 2000 with the help of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, and the Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Goyette explains that the conference on which the book is based was an unmitigated success. It featured lectures by some of the most important figures in Thomistic thought today. "Participants represented a rather broad range of disciplines...theologians and philosophers from some of the most important centers of learning in the country." Among the participants were Ralph McNerny, the Michael P. Grace Professor of Medieval Philosophy and Director of the Jacques Maritain Center at the University of Notre Dame; Janet Smith, holder of the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan; Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University; Rev. Romanus Cessario, O.P., priest of the Eastern Province of the Dominicans currently serving as professor of systematic theology at St. John's Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts; and William E. May, the Michael J. McGivney Professor of Moral Theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Dialectical in nature, the book reflects the nature of the conference itself. Goyette describes it as a collection of major papers on various topics pertaining to the natural law tradition, followed by shorter papers commenting on—and sometimes disagreeing with—others.

*St. Thomas Aquinas & the Natural Law Tradition* is an important resource for anyone serious about St. Thomas and his teachings on natural law. The essays in the volume relate to a number of issues relevant to readers today such as the place of natural law in political discourse and the role of a judge within our legal system. "The essay by Russell Hittinger, for instance," says Goyette, "makes it clear that St. Thomas taught that a judge was authorized



Prior to his appointment as a tutor at Thomas Aquinas College, Dr. John Goyette ('90) was a professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, where at the request of the rector, now Bishop Allen Vigneron, he redesigned the curriculum of the philosophy department using Thomas Aquinas College's program as a model.

only to interpret the law, not to make it."

Another contributor, renowned Jewish scholar David Novak, writes about how Maimonides, the great Jewish medieval scholar, influenced the writings of St. Thomas. In this piece, Novak summarizes the subject of the volume that Goyette and his colleagues have put together: "To discover natural law is to discover what is divine within the universe, especially as it pertains to the human condition."

In keeping with the dialectical model, Goyette himself offers a response to Novak in which he takes exception to Novak's claim that one can find a natural law doctrine in Maimonides. This is just one example of the lively and invigorating exchange of ideas that characterizes the book and mirrors St. Thomas' own dialectical approach to the pursuit of truth.

John Goyette received a Ph.D. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He is a member of Thomas Aquinas College's Class of 1990 as is his wife of 14 years, Rebecca. The Goyettes are the proud parents of Elizabeth, Cecelia, Robert, Maria, Peter, David, and Mark.



## Alumni Update

### Editor-in-Chief of Ave Maria Law Review

Luke Reilander, a graduate of Thomas Aquinas College's Class of 2002, is also a member of the 2005 graduating class of the Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Michigan, an institution dedicated to forming lawyers in the context of the natural law and the Catholic intellectual tradition. The Catholic law school has been steadily growing and successfully accomplishing its mission since its founding in 2000.

Competing with law schools such as the University of Michigan, also at Ann Arbor, the fledgling Ave Maria School of Law has led the state of Michigan with its rate of bar exam passes and has consistently won inter-school competitions in the state. It recently achieved public prominence when, in just five years, it received full accreditation from the American Bar Association.

In addition to carrying the heavy workload of a law school student, Luke distinguished himself at Ave Maria School of Law by serving a one-year term as an associate editor of the school's *Law Review*. He followed that accomplishment with another year as the *Review's* editor-in-chief in the 2004-2005 academic year. Under Luke's direction, the *Ave Maria Law Review* expanded from one to two issues per year.

Notably, the *Review's* mission statement



explains that it "seeks to facilitate dialogue within the legal profession on the use of faith and reason as a means to a fuller understanding of the law and of the transcendent dignity of the human person." In keeping with this goal, the *Ave Maria Law Review* has featured articles by leading Catholic jurists and prelates such as Robert Bork and Charles Rice, and Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, and Renato Cardinal Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Luke attributes his success at the Ave Maria School of Law to the educational foundation he established during his time at Thomas Aquinas

College. By studying and discussing the great books, he learned to read carefully, to examine closely the ideas presented, and to analyze arguments. Luke believes that the four years of classroom discussion in which he became adept at voicing logical arguments were his best preparation for law school.

In addition to being well-prepared by the College's pedagogy, Luke also benefited from the substance of his studies, which included Aristotle's *Ethics* and St. Thomas Aquinas' treatise on natural law in the *Summa Theologiae*. Having already become conversant with the concept of the natural law and the way in which faith and reason together can illuminate the study of law, Luke's transition to the curriculum offered at the Ave Maria School of Law was nearly seamless.

As a student at Thomas Aquinas College, Luke Reilander served as the head prefect (resident assistant), the College's highest position of trust and leadership, and was elected by his classmates to be Class Speaker at Commencement in 2000.

Now, having taken the Michigan bar exam, Luke is waiting to hear the results. In the meantime, he is clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Paul V. Gadola in the Eastern District of Michigan.

## New Tutor Profile

### Mr. David Arias

David Arias was born in Manhattan Beach and lived a very typical California childhood, which included the apparently-required habit in this Western state of moving every couple of years. But there were constants in his life: his family, his love for the beach, and the Catholic education he received at American Martyrs parochial school, Loyola High School, and Loyola Marymount University. Having gone on to receive multiple advanced degrees from prestigious institutions of higher education, first in California and then in Texas, Arias has now returned to California and put down roots. This past August he began his career as a tutor at Thomas Aquinas College.

Arias has had an abiding interest in both philosophy and theology. Thus, after high school, he attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, enrolling in a “double degree” program. Instead of the typical four-year time period necessary to complete most undergraduate degree programs, the “double degree” curriculum took five years to complete, but resulted in two separate bachelor’s degrees—one in philosophy and one in theology.

During the final stages of completing his double degree at Loyola Marymount, Arias was disappointed to learn there were no Thomists in the theology department. Fortunately for him, there were Thomists in the philosophy department, and it was they who told him about a small college about an hour and a half north of Loyola where the study of St. Thomas was the focal point of a rigorous program of Catholic liberal education. Intrigued, Arias looked up Thomas Aquinas College on the Internet. The mission statement, the curriculum comprised of the great books, everything he found on the website not only increased his desire to learn more, but made him aware of certain deficiencies in his current educational path.

Arias had investigated the programs of study at other Catholic colleges, but at Thomas Aquinas College he found discipleship, to God and the Church, through St. Thomas. That was the deciding factor for him. He decided to finish the double degree program at Loyola Marymount University, (which he did in 1998, graduating *summa cum laude*); then he would attend Thomas Aquinas College. “I knew by now that I was called to teach. I could see that going to Thomas Aquinas College would be a way to further my education and make me a better teacher. It was a way to fill in the gaps in my own education.”

Arias’ father, a building contractor by trade, voiced concern that his son was not being practical. Arias recalls that his father had a difficult time understanding why his son, after completing what was considered a rather extensive degree program at a respectable institution, would want to start all over again at Thomas Aquinas College, where he would learn, his father assumed, the same old stuff. “He was skeptical of the decision and of how good Thomas Aquinas College really was,” Arias says. “I sort of had to prove to him that it was a good decision. I remember sitting down with him and the College’s founding document, *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education* (the “Blue Book”), showing him the extent of disciplines in the curriculum and the challenging nature of the original texts studied in the program.”

With a degree in mathematics and a job in the “real world” as a building contractor, Arias’ father had lingering doubts about the practicality and worth of pursuing a liberal education. In his day, students like himself in the science and math programs looked down on the liberal arts students—their studies weren’t tough enough, and more importantly, they weren’t practical. To counter these parental concerns, Arias gave his father

a copy of St. Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae*. “When he had read some of the arguments,” recalls Arias, “he declared that they were as logical as those in any math book.”

There was another facet to Arias’ decision to attend Thomas Aquinas College. Upon graduation from Loyola, David began thinking seriously about entering a seminary. Planning to investigate various religious orders, he believed Thomas Aquinas College would be the ideal place to continue discerning a vocation. “Not only would I be learning so much,” he thought at the time, “but I would be in daily contact with holy priests and good, Catholic families. To be honest, I was leaning more towards the priesthood than the married life when I enrolled at the College.” Arias remembers his spiritual director advising him to have patience and see which vocation God might present to him.

In 1999, as one of the “old” freshmen, the vocation God had planned for David Arias did indeed manifest itself. “I was a work-study student, originally assigned to the grounds crew. But



David Arias

to get married, and we got engaged that summer. At that point, practical necessities dictated my next step. With marriage and a family on the horizon, I had to complete my education as soon as possible. So, I decided not to come back to the College for my sophomore year, but to pursue graduate studies while Jennaya finished her senior year.”

Arias returned to Loyola Marymount where he earned a masters in theology in 2001. After Jennaya graduated, they were married and moved to Texas where Arias continued his graduate work at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. There, he collected a masters in philosophy in 2003 and began a doctorate in philosophy, which he is now in the process of completing. Over that same period of time, David and Jennaya collected some other very important treasures: their names are Joseph, age 4; Dominic, age 3; Thomas, age 18 months; and David, age 5 months.

When the faculty position at Thomas Aquinas College became available, David quickly responded and was invited to the campus for an intensive—and successful—interview process that included a prepared lecture and a seminar with students. “The opportunity to come back to the College as a tutor was a blessing,” says Arias. “It was as though God was giving me a second chance to go through the curriculum. One of the most marvelous things about the College’s program is that here tutors are not only educators, but learners themselves.”

Surprised and impressed with the caliber of student he has already encountered, Arias says, “I believe that it is in large measure because they are mostly practicing Catholics that they also have this great desire to pursue the truth.”

The irony of David’s appointment to the faculty of Thomas Aquinas College is not lost on his father: for David is now in the construction business. The difference is that rather than working with bricks and mortar, David is helping to build minds and souls for Christ.



Taking a break from graduate studies at the University of Houston, David and wife Jennaya toured nearby Galveston with their four young children before leaving Texas for California. The Ariases are delighted to be back at the College.

halfway through my first semester I got switched to the library because somebody wanted out of that job; since I had a good deal of experience as a researcher, people thought I would be a logical replacement.”

Working an overlapping shift at the library was junior, Jennaya Doylend (’00). College librarian Viltis Jatulis takes full credit for the match and maintains to this day that she predicted David and Jennaya would make a perfect couple. “By the end of my freshman year, Jennaya and I had decided

### IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Richard E. Reeder Benefactor	July 18, 2005
Mrs. Marguerite T. Glocheski Benefactor	July 21, 2005
Joseph Pedry Brother of Paul (’00), John (’02), and Mary (’03)	July 26, 2005
Mary Brigid Dovel Mother of Amy Dovel (’08) and sister of Brian Kelly (’88)	August 23, 2005
Mr. Daniel Corkery	August 14, 2005
Mrs. Alice Corkery Parents of Terri Dillon and grandparents of Tom Dillon (’91), Maria Forte (’97), and Christine Ellis (’99)	August 31, 2005
Mrs. Monica Burnham Mother of Susie Waldstein (’78)	August 2005
Mr. Carlos R. Orellana Father of Robert (’82) and grandfather of Rafael (’07) and Gabriel (’08)	September 2, 2005
Mrs. Mary Currihan Benefactor	September 23, 2005
Mr. Wellington Mara Benefactor	October 25, 2005



Frances Hardart

Since it is indelicate to discuss the birth date of a lady, when talking about Mrs. Frances Hardart, a member of the Board of Governors, it will be sufficient to stipulate that she is old enough to be wise and young enough to embrace life with a gusto that would put most thirty-year-olds to shame.

Mrs. Hardart grew up in Waterford, New York, a small town north of Albany. Her father was a successful lawyer there whose life took a turn when he represented a struggling paper mill in a legal proceeding. He liked the business so much he purchased it. The paper mill prospered and has remained in the family to this day. Sharing her father's great interest, Fran has been a member of the Board of Directors of Mohawk Fine Papers, Inc. for many years.

Fran earned a bachelor's degree at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart and then did graduate studies in art history at the University Firenze, Italy. Returning to New York City, she worked in the family business, designing direct mail advertising pieces. As a member of the Junior League of New York, she also did volunteer work as a nurses' aide at Lenox Hill Hospital, taught English as a second language in a public school in Chinatown, taught remedial reading at a learning center in Hell's Kitchen, and was involved in the work of the Near East Foundation.

In 1961, she married Dr. Frank Hardart, Jr., a distinguished obstetrician at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan. The couple moved to 7th Avenue and 12th Street to shorten Frank's commute to the delivery room. While living in the West Village, their six children, Frank III, George, Richard, Marie Therese (Tracie), Christopher, and Michael, were born. In 1973, Fran and Frank moved their energetic brood to Bronxville, New York, and started on phase two of their adventures.

With all of their children enrolled in the Bronxville School, Fran served as chairman of the Elementary School Council for two years and later as a member of the High School Council in that district. She also served two terms (six years) as a member of the Bronxville School Board. As a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church, she was on the Parish Council and led the reorganization of the CCD program, forming the Mother's Advisory Board and expanding the program and activities.



Frances Hardart

In 1979, both Fran and Frank were invited to become members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 1986, Fran became a Dame in the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta (Order of Malta), American Association U.S.A., and at present, serves on its Board of Councilors, holding the position of Hospitaller. This office involves, among other things, oversight of the works for the sick and poor run by members. She also serves on the Board of the Malta Human Services Foundation, which funds many of the Order's projects. A former co-chair with her husband of the Lourdes Pilgrimage Committee and a member of the Lourdes Medical Committee since its inception, Mrs. Hardart has participated in eleven pilgrimages.

Fran travels on behalf of the Order to meetings with Hospitallers of Associations in Europe and South America, and her efforts with the Malta Federation for Latin America have been a very interesting part of her work, as has her participation on the Board of Holy Family Hospital Foundation, which supports a very special maternity hospital run by the Order of Malta in Bethlehem. In 2000, Fran had the pleasure of visiting that institution.

Dr. Hardart retired from practice in 1990, the same year that he was diagnosed with ALS

(Lou Gehrig's disease). His last ten years were an inspiration, made happy by his attitude of acceptance and his ever-present family and friends. Fran recalls fondly that in 1995 her children—none of whom lived at home—promised that one of them would be with her every night as she cared for their father; for five years, they kept their promise. She considers this a loving miracle.

It was during this time that Fran and Frank met Dr. Tom Dillon, President of Thomas Aquinas College, and began enjoying many wonderful visits with Dr. Dillon, his wife, Terri, and occasionally other members of the College community. Fran had been thinking for a long time about adopting a truly Catholic institution and becoming one of its spiritual alumni. Learning about this select, four-year college in Santa Paula, California, and visiting with its enthusiastic president over the next few years convinced her that without a doubt she had found the right place.

When the Hardarts were asked to help in the construction of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Women's Residence, it was as if they were receiving a special affirmation of their conviction: their only daughter had been named for the "Little Flower," whom they considered, with prayerful respect, a lifelong friend of the family. The Hardarts responded to the request with a generous gift for the building project.

As a result of their growing friendship with Dr. and Mrs. Dillon, the Hardarts found a special place in their hearts for Thomas Aquinas College. They believed that Thomas Aquinas College, with its unique curriculum, was providing vital education to young people for the future of the Church and our country. Not long after her husband's death in 2000, Fran was offered and accepted an invitation to become a member of the College's Board of Governors.

Mrs. Hardart has a deep understanding of the problems of Catholic higher education and an equally deep appreciation for how Thomas Aquinas College provides an antidote to those problems. She is attracted to the College because she believes it to be a place where minds are nourished and students are taught to think and articulate their positions while at the same time remaining loyal to authentic Catholic teaching. She considers this a winning combination and is honored to be part of the Thomas Aquinas College family.

An Interview with Frances Hardart

Q: Could you describe some of your work as Hospitaller for the Order of Malta, American Association?

A: The mission of the Order is to provide for the care of the sick and poor and the defense of the Faith. The projects range from a hospital for the poorest in Haiti, a residential psychiatric facility in Michigan, Malta House for mothers and children in Connecticut, many Eucharistic ministries, mentoring programs for underprivileged children, and many, many others.

My work at the moment also deals with the international activities of the Order. Over the past few years we have begun to work more closely with Malta Associations in Europe and, more recently, in Latin America. We share projects and support others. Malteaser International, the disaster relief arm of the Order located in Cologne, Germany, has most recently sent both money and volunteers to Baton Rouge to aid in the relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Actually, my job of oversight is easy because our members are so talented and generous.

Q: What impressed you most about your first visit to Thomas Aquinas College?

A: I was impressed by how friendly and cheerful the students were as we walked around the campus and, during the lunch that Dr. Dillon arranged, how thoughtful and well-spoken they were. The



Board member, Frances Hardart, and family

combination of a well-developed intelligence and the ability to express one's thoughts is dynamite in our time.

The fact that they were smart was a given, considering the curriculum. That they were great fun was a treat.

Q: Is there any one Thomas Aquinas College student who made a lasting impression on you?

A: I met a young man from the northeast who was graduating and going on to a business career. In the course of our conversation, he told me that he had been raised a non-Catholic and had spent the first two years of college at two very sought-after universities in the East.

I also picked up the fact that he was an

accomplished concert musician who had studied at a very prestigious conservatory. With all of this experience, he still felt that something very important was missing from his education. He had gone on the Internet and discovered Thomas Aquinas College and went out to California to look it over.

He was so impressed with what he found that he was willing to start over for four more years. In the course of his stay at Thomas Aquinas College, he had become a Catholic and fallen in love with a fellow student whom he was marrying. Obviously, he was an extremely bright young man, and what was equally obvious was Thomas Aquinas College's influence on the direction of his life. He was confident, articulate, and memorable.

Q: In what ways does the Thomas Aquinas College curriculum prepare students for the larger world?

A: Through the great books curriculum, Thomas Aquinas College students learn to think and express their thoughts and to reason and argue their positions with civility. The value of truth learned through the study of the Faith, and the confidence gained through the knowledge acquired in their studies, gives the Thomas Aquinas College student all of the necessary tools to address the world they live in and be valuable contributors to society.

# What They Did on Their Summer Vacation

## Summer Program for High School Students Continues to Grow

No rap music. No video games. No Mall. Just what kind of Summer Camp was this? Actually, it was the annual Thomas Aquinas College Great Books Summer Program for High School Students, which proved once again to be a resounding success. A record 103 young men and women from all over the country came to spend two weeks with the likes of Sophocles and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Not only did more students attend the program than ever before, they came from a wider geographic area as well, with less than half of the attendees originating from California. All were exposed to the rigors, intellectual challenges, and pleasures of being part of a tri-part program which fed the spiritual, physical, and intellectual hunger of these young people. Mr. Jonathan Daly, Director of Admission, who helped organize and supervise the program, was thoroughly impressed with the caliber of young people who participated.

For two weeks, these rising seniors stayed in student housing, had their meals in St. Joseph Commons, and lived a close-knit, communal life very similar to the Thomas Aquinas College experience itself. College tutors directed the classroom discussions, and current Thomas Aquinas College students served as prefects, assisting the high school students with the great books curriculum and participating in the extracurricular activities. College Chaplain Rev. Wilfred Borden, O.M.I., offered Mass each day and was available for confession and spiritual counseling for all the participants.

When program attendees weren't discussing the tragic flaws of Macbeth or investigating the Book of Genesis like they never had before, they enjoyed trips to the beach, hiking on the trails of the Los Padres National Forest near the College, field trips to Santa Barbara, and visits to museums like the Getty in Los Angeles.

"For some of these young people, reading Euclid's *Elements* or Plato's *Crito* was daunting at first," said Jonathan Daly. "But it was truly remarkable to watch over the course of just two weeks how quickly and enthusiastically

many of these same students embraced the curriculum." The purpose of the two-week program is to show young people who might be interested in the rigorous education offered at Thomas Aquinas College that it is within their grasp.

This was the ninth year of the High School Great Books Summer Program. An indication of the program's success can be found in the steady 35-40 percent of attendees who go on to enroll as freshmen at the College. Yet there is probably no better endorsement of the program than the testimony of satisfied parents. Recently, Jon Daly received such an endorsement from Mrs. Jane Ross, whose daughter took part in this past summer's program.

*"I picked up our eldest daughter, Alexandra, from the Summer Great Books Program on Saturday and had to write you to tell you how impressed I am by what you do. I won't say we had to drag Alex kicking and screaming to Thomas Aquinas College two weeks ago—but it was close. Suffice it to state that the inherent benefits of participating in a program like yours were not immediately apparent to our daughter.*

*"When I retrieved her two days ago, it was obvious that Alex's experience had been extremely positive. Best class: her section's discussion of Antigone. Best reading selection: Pascal. Most difficult material: the pre-Socratics and Euclid. Biggest sense of accomplishment: slogging her way through Euclid and doing her "proof" at the board correctly. Most fun: swing dancing was the 'coolest thing ever.' Best friends: lots and lots of them.*

*"Anyway, I'm sure you hear this all the time, but thank you. Our second daughter, Ariana, will be applying for summer '06 (and we won't have to drag her kicking or screaming). In the meantime, please send us an application for the College."*

The next High School Great Books Summer Program is scheduled from July 23 to August 4, 2006. For more information about the High School Great Books Summer Program, please contact the Office of Admission at 800/634-9797 or [admission@thomasaquinas.edu](mailto:admission@thomasaquinas.edu).



# Order of Malta Weekend

## Inaugural Summer Retreat

The Order of Malta is a lay order of prominent Catholic men and women dedicated to godly service of their fellow man and the defense of the Faith. Whether tending to the needs of the *malades* taken on annual pilgrimages to Lourdes, bringing food and water to hurricane-ravaged Louisiana, or meeting the first aid needs of the young people who attended the 2005 World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI in Cologne, Germany, the Order of Malta is sure to be found. Theirs is an organization devoted to the physical care of those in need. But because the Order of Malta is spiritual in its foundation, this past summer, a number of knights and dames were found at Thomas Aquinas College for a retreat sponsored by the Order's Los Angeles Chapter.

The genesis of the retreat was a visit made to the campus by Mr. Michael K. Grace and his wife, Cecilia, in 2003. The Graces are partners in the Los Angeles law firm Grace & Grace LLP, which specializes in intellectual property and business litigation. Mr. Grace is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta (the Order of Malta) Western Association U.S.A. and chairs its Membership Committee. In addition, he was recently elected to the Board of Governors of Thomas Aquinas College.

The Graces visited the College at the urging of the chaplain of the Order and long-time friend of the College, Msgr. George Parnassus. Met at the College by President and Mrs. Thomas E. Dillon, the Graces were shown around the campus and informed about the history and mission of Thomas Aquinas College. Later, during lunch at the Doheny Hacienda, the Dillons and their guests learned from the Graces about the formidable history and acts of Christian charity that are the hallmarks of the Order of Malta.



Michael Grace and Dean Pace, both members of the Order of Malta, share a light moment before dinner served *al fresco* in the courtyard of St. Monica Hall.

The roots of the organization lie in the Hospitallers of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, acknowledged as a lay order by Pope Paschal II in 1113 with the mission of addressing the previously unmet spiritual and medical needs of pilgrims in Jerusalem. In fact, when the Crusaders made their first entrance through the gates of Jerusalem, the Order was already there, operating a hospital.

In addition to performing acts of charity, members of the Order are dedicated to the staunch defense of the Catholic faith. Like Thomas Aquinas College, the Order of Malta is dedicated to the truth and to spiritual growth in Christ.

With these fundamental goals in common, it was a natural for the College to host a weekend retreat for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Order of Malta. On July 8, 9, and 10, twenty-four knights and dames assembled at the Thomas Aquinas College campus for a weekend of spiritual and intellectual nourishment and camaraderie. Mass was offered each day in the College chapel by the retreat chaplain, Rev. Eric Hollas, O.S.B. Elegant meals were prepared by the College's catering service, *Bon Appétit*, and cordials were enjoyed in the evening under the stars. Thomas Aquinas College students staffed the residence halls and kitchen to ensure that the knights and dames had a comfortable and pleasant stay.

Highlights of the weekend included a lecture delivered by Fr. Hollas on the history of the Order and a viewing of the film "The Knights of St. John," in the St. Bernardine of Siena Library. In addition, President Dillon introduced the knights and dames to the College's discussion format in a seminar on St. Thomas Aquinas' articles from the *Summa*

*Theologiae* on just war. Mr. Grace was especially impressed by how the Socratic method facilitated the learning process. "Around the table," explains Grace, "all were enlightened by the discussion and came away with a better sense of the Church's teaching and the theological and natural law principles that supported the theory of just war." The final talk on Sunday was delivered by Fr. Hollas, who discussed the Catholic critique of the Cold War doctrine of "mutually assured destruction."

Noting an important synergy between the Order of Malta and Thomas Aquinas College, Mr. Grace believes the College attracts students of the

very highest quality who are not satisfied with simply learning about the Faith, but are anxious to incorporate it into their daily lives.

"As our members in the Order see what is happening at Thomas Aquinas College, I think there will be more interest in supporting the mission at the College; and as the students see what we are doing, it is our hope they will want to be active in the Order of Malta youth programs designed for high school and college-age young people."

This was the first retreat the knights and dames of the Los Angeles Chapter had ever attended. Commenting on the weekend retreat, Dr. Dillon said, "It was an honor for the College to host the knights and dames of the Order on our campus, and we look forward to doing so again in the years ahead." According to Mr. Grace, "Thomas Aquinas College was the big experiment, and I think it was a resounding success. As soon as the event concluded, members were already asking to get another retreat at the College on the calendar for next year."



## Semper Fi: Captain Brooks Braden U.S.M.C. ('97)

able to claim a “birthday” of November 10, 1775—almost nine months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence—the United States Marine Corps is just a little older than the United States of America itself.

Now well into their third century of existence, the Marines have forged an impressive history of duty, honor, and tradition. Exotic locations like Tarawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Guadalcanal are known to us because U.S. Marines paid for them with their blood in the defense of freedom. The indelible image of Marines raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on the island of Iwo Jima remains to this day a singularly powerful icon of American courage and patriotism.

Brooks Braden graduated from Thomas Aquinas College in 1997. He also holds two law degrees and is a member of the California State Bar. These are achievements of which one can be proud. But if one were a betting man or woman, it would be wise to make book that Brooks Braden is most proud of his membership in another august body: he is a Captain in the United States Marine Corps.

Though Thomas Aquinas College cannot yet calculate its existence in centuries, and though it does not have battle ribbons, soft-spoken gunnery sergeants, and an Air Wing, it does have an underlying devotion to duty, honor and tradition much like that which Brooks Braden found so attractive in the Marine Corps. Thus, though the College might at first have seemed an unlikely staging ground for Captain Braden’s path to the Marines, upon closer inspection, it becomes clear that it was a natural step along the way.

As a northern California high school student, Brooks did not have a burning desire to attend Thomas Aquinas College. In fact, he would not have known of the College’s existence at all had it not been for family acquaintances who had a connection with the College. A chance meeting Brooks’ mother had with one of the College’s alumni priests solidified her good impression of the school. But Brooks had other plans. He had by then taken preliminary steps to enroll at a large, Catholic university in California, inquiring also about the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program at that institution.

But as Brooks moved forward with his plans, Mrs. Braden kept bringing up Thomas Aquinas College as an alternative. So, like a good son, he succumbed to her gentle methods of persuasion and went to have a look for himself.

Arriving at the campus for his first visit in the company of his grandmother, Brooks sat in on various classes. He recalls being particularly impressed by how different these classrooms were from anything he had experienced in high school, and how different they were from what he had imagined a college classroom would be like. Instead of a large room full of students sitting passively while a professor lectured, Brooks found small classrooms of students fully engaged with their tutors in genuine dialogue with one another. Impressed by the questions the students were asking, he was even more amazed by some of the answers they were giving.

Brooks returned home less sure of his plans to attend a large university. In fact, he began to seriously consider applying to Thomas Aquinas College. Admittedly, the College’s comprehensive financial aid package was a factor; but something else, something deeper, was pulling him to the small college that his mother had been championing.

Eventually, Brooks applied to the College, and in 1993, he enrolled as a freshman. That’s when Brooks Braden had an epiphany. He describes his choice of Thomas Aquinas College over all others as the equivalent of just missing being hit by a train.



Cpt. Brooks Braden U.S.M.C. ('97) (left) with his commanding officer, Brigadier General Carl B. Jensen.

“Going anywhere else would have been devastating because I would not have developed the kinds of intellectual skills nor acquired the kind of knowledge that only the College could give me. The education I would have received someplace else was the train. Any other education would have threatened my life...at least my life as I now know it.”



Robert and Diane Braden at their home in Red Bluff, California, with their four sons, all of whom are Eagle Scouts and three of whom are graduates of the College. From left to right: Britt, Brooks ('97), Beau (standing) ('00), and Buck ('03).

In less than a month’s time he was immersed in the College’s curriculum. At first he had been taken aback by all of the “big” questions that were being posed. He thought nobody could really “know” the answers to questions like ‘Can you prove there is a God?’ or ‘How ought men to live?’ But at the College he found himself in a community where faculty and students alike had a conviction that questions like these could indeed be answered definitively, especially when faith and reason were complimentary guides and the truth was sought with a humble heart.

During his senior year at Thomas Aquinas College, Brooks started thinking about the next step in his life. His exposure to the great books of Western Civilization and the discussion method of learning kindled in him a disposition to become a lawyer. After all, he had already received a solid foundation in how to organize his thoughts and either defend or challenge a given premise; law school, therefore, seemed to be a natural next step.

In 1998, Braden entered the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. Always a hard worker, by 2001 he acquired two law degrees: a J.D. and a master of law (LL.M) in Government and Public Policy.

Upon graduating from McGeorge and passing the California State Bar Exam, Brooks was ready for another life-altering decision. A military career had been in the back—or perhaps front—of his mind since before college. Brooks now set out to

fulfill that desire and put his law degrees to good use. Seeking out the exceptional, as he had in his academic pursuits, Brooks decided to join the United States Marine Corps.

In many ways the Marine Corps is unique among the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. A small, close-knit “family,” the Marines offered options to Braden that he could not pass up. In a relatively short time in the Marine Corps, Braden could be in the courtroom, serving as a defense counsel on some cases and a prosecutor on others. In addition, unlike other services in which military lawyers (Judge Advocate Generals, or JAGs) practice law exclusively, Marine Judge Advocates (JAs) are also trained line officers: in a nutshell, JAs are just as capable of leading a defense or prosecution team as they are able to lead a group of Marines into battle. “There is no division among the Marines,” explains Braden. “We are all one Corps.”

Between months of training at OCS (Officer’s Candidate School) and TBS (The Basic School), Braden was given intensive training in the codes of military justice. In addition, he was tutored in the “arts” of warfare: close air support, weapons, map-reading, and most important of all, leadership.

Braden found that one of the primary jobs of a Marine Corps officer is to be a teacher to other Marines under his care, a role for which Brooks believes he was well-prepared by the discussion method at Thomas Aquinas College. “It has made me a good communicator and teacher; it gave me the ability to explain things to people, to teach difficult concepts within the law of war, which can be very abstract.”

With the training and capability of leading men into harm’s way, our country’s on-going war on terrorism has weighed heavily on Captain Braden’s mind. “I have had the opportunity to talk to a number of wounded servicemen and women and hear their stories. I cannot help but be impressed by the indomitable spirit that most of these returning heroes possess.”

New Marines are continuously drilled in the importance of honor, duty, and integrity. According to Brooks Braden, his experience at Thomas Aquinas College gave him a leg up on his fellow Marines: honor, duty, and the need to do that which is right were an integral part of his formative years at the College. “At my *alma mater* and in the Marines, hard work and high standards are the norm; with both experiences I have had a strong sense of accomplishment.”

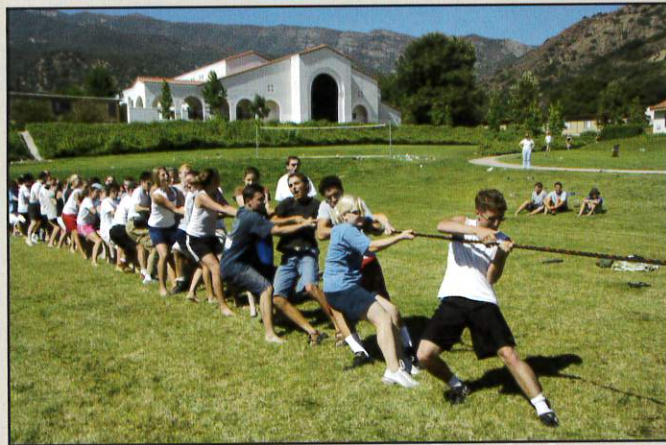
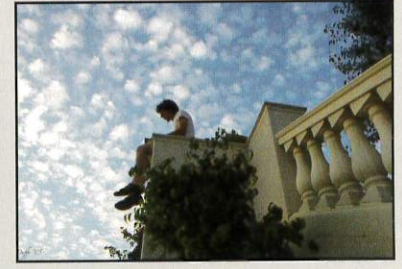
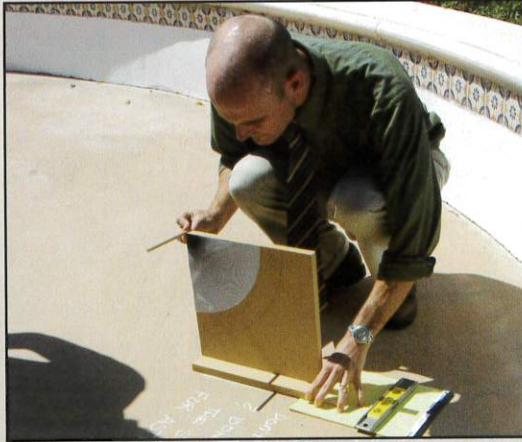
In addition to having served as a Judge Advocate, Captain Brooks Braden has been an Officer in Charge (OIC) for Legal Assistance as well as an OIC of a Tax Center for the Marines. Currently he is the Aide-de-Camp for Brigadier General Carl B. Jensen, Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE; Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area; Commanding General, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego.

Captain Braden recently received word that he will accompany Expeditionary Strike Group THREE on its next deployment. Bearing in mind the dual role for which Captain Braden has been so well prepared, the community of Thomas Aquinas College wishes this graduate the special protection of St. Michael the Archangel, patron of soldiers, as well as that of the lawyer’s patron, St. Thomas Moore.



**MARINES**  
THE FEW. THE PROUD.

# CAMPUS LIFE



Clockwise, starting top row center: Tutor Brian Dragoo ('01) demonstrates Ptolemy's latitude meter; Junior/Freshman Dance, Guadalupe Fountain; Simon Noster ('09) enjoys the nimbus clouds; Tom Duffy ('08) arose before 6:00 a.m. to capture a full autumn moon over the library; Mark Kretschmer ('99) Career Advisor, serves freshmen during orientation week; Sophomores try to hold off freshmen in annual tug-of-war; the gentlemen of St. Bernard's Hall prepare to do battle at the first Croquet Day of the year; "Ultimate Frisbee" is popular among the students; this, and other excavators working on the chapel site, provided a rumbling sound-track for the beginning of the academic year.



Please keep the date of Monday, May 22, 2006, open on your calendar for the Thomas Aquinas College Golf Classic to be held at Sherwood Country Club, Thousand Oaks, California. Fees are \$1,000 per golfer or \$4,000 per foursome. For further details, please contact member of the Board of Regents, Jim Scanlon, at 818/316-0999, ext. 276.

## FOUNDATIONS for Planned Giving

August of 2005 marked the premier issue of Thomas Aquinas College's financial and charitable planning guide, *FOUNDATIONS*. A quarterly publication, *FOUNDATIONS* has as its objective to provide concise and timely discussions of the many different planned gifts by which donors may magnify their assistance to the College while simultaneously enjoying favorable tax and other financial benefits. Topics of the quarterly include estate planning, differences between wills and living trusts, "retirement income gifts" such as gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, and the benefits of donations of real estate, appreciated stock, or IRAs.



*FOUNDATIONS* includes information regarding various and specific financial circumstances presenting donors and potential donors with new and innovative options to make larger gifts to the College than previously thought possible. Although current and outright gifts to Thomas Aquinas College remain essential, there is no better way to provide for the College's future than by laying down a firm foundation of planned giving. To that end, the new publication *FOUNDATIONS* is committed to the goal of describing the wide range of well-tested planned giving options which can ensure the long-term financial security of the College while at the same time provide substantial financial benefit to donors.

If you would like to receive the premier issue of *FOUNDATIONS* or a list of brochures that outline the myriad of gift plans the College offers, please contact Tom Susanka, Director of Gift Planning, via email at [tsusanka@thomasaquinas.edu](mailto:tsusanka@thomasaquinas.edu) or at 800/634-9797.

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### Calendar of Events

Thanksgiving Break	November 23 - 27
Advent Choir Concert	December 2
Feast of the Immaculate Conception (no classes)	December 8
Final Exams	December 10 - 16
Christmas Break	December 17 - January 8
Second Semester Begins	January 9
St. Thomas Day Lecture, Rev. Benedict Ashley, O.P.	January 27
President's Day, (no classes)	February 20
President's Day Lecture, Honorable Frank Shakespeare	February 24

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