

NEWS OF THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

JANUARY 1974

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All of us, whether we wish it or not, live in the modern world, and we are as a consequence subject to its character and its problems. But while we exist amid a multitude of intellectual positions and the conduct they promote, we do not, for the most part, understand them in their principles. Hence, we may find our way through them, but it is by luck rather than by design - and we cannot be very sure of our success. Nor can we be sure that, in our ignorance, we are not a part of the problem itself!

The principles of 'modernity' are intelligible and discoverable, and it is one of the aims of Thomas Aquinas College to help our students understand them. The Junior year is our first contact with those positions in their modern dress, and so our success here is a reasonable barometer of our over-all achievement.

Though we have only this year had a Junior class, they are performing beyond our expectations. They have already read, with considerable understanding, large parts of Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume, and are at the same time reading parts of Descartes' *Geometry*, Galileo and Newton. They are now able to reflect on these texts, and to see their influence in the modern world.

These results are heartening both because they are a sign of our success and because our students are preparing themselves seriously for their lives as citizens and, more importantly, as Christians in the modern world.

The rest of our program is just as successful, and our whole family becomes, year by year, more cohesive in our common effort to restore and perpetuate a genuine Catholic liberal education.

We are most fortunate to be able to add newly-retired Col. William S. Lawton, Jr., to our staff as the Vice-President in charge of development. Bill Lawton is one of my closest friends. His job of course is crucial to our whole endeavor, and I hope you will welcome him with the same kindness you have always shown all of us.

Peter DeLuca is now the Vice-President in charge of the business affairs of the College - a position he has held since the beginning, only without the title. His efforts, as you know, have been invaluable both in starting the College and in the daily conduct of our affairs.

Ronald P. McArthur
President



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NEW GOVERNOR ELECTED

On January 11, 1974, Mr. Thomas P. Sullivan was elected to membership on the Board of Governors of Thomas Aquinas College for a three year term. Mr. Sullivan has been actively involved in the work of establishing Thomas Aquinas College for several years, and is presently Co-chairman, with Mr. Francis Montgomery, of the Scholarship & Information Committee of the President's Council. Mr. Sullivan is President of Jefferson House, an interior design firm in Eagle Rock, and is an active member of St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Pasadena. He is Treasurer of the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Foundation.

NEED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS STRESSED

In our last newsletter, mention was made of the continuing need of Thomas Aquinas College for contribution income. As a result of this article, a substantial number of contributions ranging from \$50.00 to \$500.00 were received. For this demonstration of support, we are very grateful. Gifts such as these are not only important directly in helping to meet the College's financial needs, they are also a manifestation of the willingness of those who believe in the restoration of genuine Catholic liberal education to make personal sacrifices to that end.

The financial aid program of Thomas Aquinas College exists to insure that promising young people who desire to attend the College are not prevented from doing so by financial need. During the current year, approximately \$40,000.00 remains to be secured in support of this program.

In view of the enthusiastic response to our last newsletter, we have decided to establish the St. Thomas Scholarship Fund to secure this amount. Readers of this newsletter, who are not already providing financial support to the College, are asked to donate at least one percent of their annual income to this particular and very important task. Contributions may be made in a lump sum or in the form of a monthly pledge. Contributions should be sent to my attention at the College, and designated for the St. Thomas Scholarship Fund. A regular progress report will be given in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

Peter L. DeLuca
Vice President

EXCELLENT FRESHMAN CLASS ANTICIPATED

Mr. Dennis Koller, Director of Admissions, reports that his office is receiving an excellent flow of high quality applications for the September freshman class. Because of restricted physical facilities, the freshman class will once again be limited to only 34 students, and all indications are that available space will be filled at an early date. Because it is the policy of the Admissions Committee to act on applications in the order in which they are received, interested students are urged to complete the application process at the earliest opportunity. While no particular deadline has been set, those applying late may encounter difficulty in being admitted this September.

Readers who desire to call the College to the attention of students they believe would be interested in it, may do so by listing their names and addresses on the enclosed postage-paid card and returning it to the Admissions Office.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND MUSICALE

The Thomas Aquinas College Auxiliary sponsored a program entitled Christmas Tea and Musicale at the Upper Bel Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades on December 8th. The program was a success and the proceeds went to the Auxiliary's scholarship fund. The musical entertainment was provided by the Grimm Family Choir, consisting of 7 members of a family of 16 children, 5 of whom attend Thomas Aquinas College.