

# NEWS OF THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

MAY 1975

## COLLEGE TO HOLD FIRST GRADUATION

Thomas Aquinas College is preparing for the graduation of its first senior class on June 7. "This event represents a major milestone in the development of the college" according to President Ronald P. McArthur. "It should provide a true sense of accomplishment to all who have made sacrifices that this institution might come into being." "The initial task has been accomplished; if we are to insure a growing number of liberally educated Catholics, we must now devote our attention to the growth, perfection and permanent establishment of the college."

Commencement exercises will begin at 11:00 a.m. on the oak-studded west lawn. The traditional academic ceremony will feature the graduates, faculty and Governors in full academic regalia. Diplomas will be presented by His Excellency John Ward, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, representing the Ordinary, Cardinal Timothy Manning. The commencement speaker will be Mr. H. Lyman Stebbins who will address the graduates on the topic "John Henry Newman: A Man For Our Times." Mr. Stebbins, national President of Catholic United for the Faith, is a prominent New York Catholic layman. He is a 1933 graduate of Yale University.

The commencement will be preceded, at 9:00 a.m., by the Baccalaureate Mass for seniors and their parents in the college chapel. This solemn high Mass of the Holy Spirit will be celebrated in Latin and sung by the college choir. The celebrant will be Fr. Thomas McGovern, S.J., a senior tutor at the college. Homilest will be Fr. Charles Taylor, Pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Church, Jackson, Wyoming, and a long time member of the Board of Visitors.

## GOVERNORS ESTABLISH NEW AWARD

The St. Thomas Aquinas Medallion was established by the Governors of the college at their April 16 meeting. It will "provide a means of giving special recognition to those who have



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demonstrated in their life and work an extraordinary dedication to God and His Holy Catholic Church."

The award consists of a large silver medallion struck last year in Rome on the occasion of the 700th centenary of the death of St. Thomas and an appropriate certificate. It will be awarded annually by resolution of the Board. Candidates will be nominated by the President and the Instruction Committee of the college.

#### COLLEGE PRESIDENT TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT WANDERER FORUM

President Ronald P. McArthur will deliver the keynote address at this year's Wanderer Forum, to be held the weekend of June 27 at the St. Paul Hilton, St. Paul, Minnesota. His paper is entitled, "Toward the Restoration of a Christian Order."

Speaking at the Forum with Dr. McArthur will be Carol Jackson Robinson on "The Roots of the Christian Order," Mr. William Marshner on "The Christian Order Destroyed," and Dr. Rupert J. Ederor on "Development of the Social Teachings of the Church."

#### SUPPORT SOUGHT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND CURRENT BUDGET

Contributions in support of this year's Scholarship Program and current operating budget are needed, according to Vice President for Development, William S. Lawton, Jr. Although contributions are ahead of last year, a substantial sum is still needed due to the larger size of the college.

Progress must be made in the next two months if the college is to complete its fiscal year in the black according to Mr. Lawton. "Contributions of any size will be appreciated. If the good work of this institution is to continue and grow, everyone must be prepared to sacrifice."

#### STUDENTS DONATE FUNDS TO COLLEGE

The student body of Thomas Aquinas College presented President Ronald P. McArthur with \$3,600 which is the amount raised by students during the year through such activities as collecting aluminum cans, cake sales, babysitting, etc. This gift was part of

\$7,600 pledged by the students. The remaining \$4,000 will be raised by the selling of a record album featuring the Grimm Family Choir, some of whose members attend the college. This record will feature sacred Renaissance music and is priced at \$6.00. The students are asking all friends of the college to help meet their pledge by purchasing a copy of this record. This may be done by sending \$6.00 plus 75¢ for postage and handling to: Thomas Aquinas College Student Fund, 26812 W. Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, California, 91302. Checks should be made payable to Thomas Aquinas College. Your record will be sent by return mail.

#### SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN APPLICATIONS REPORTED

Mr. Dennis Koller, Director of Admissions, reports that, as of April 15, applications for admission to the college were running about 28% ahead of last year. Mr. Koller expects the 1975-76 freshman class to be full earlier this year and therefore urges all students interested in being considered for admission to complete and return their application as soon as possible.

#### LITERATURE AVAILABLE

The college has available a limited number of copies of Dr. McArthur's talk, "The Roots of Modern Education." The talk gives a very clear picture of the causes of the decay that infects the modern academy. Copies can be obtained by writing Mr. Dennis Koller at the college. The college Bulletin and other literature are also available.

#### DR. DIETRICH VON HILDEBRAND GIVES LECTURE

On Friday, March 21, Dr. Dietrich von Hildebrand, noted Catholic writer and philosopher, spoke at the college on "Death in the Light of Christian Revelation."

Dr. von Hildebrand's major theme was the contrast between death seen naturally and death viewed through the eyes of Faith.

"My dear friends; in order to realize how radically changed is the meaning of death in Christ and through Christ, we must first try to grasp the natural aspect of death in its gruesome, fearful, frightening character. The existential, natural aspect of death discloses itself in two fundamental ways: one is the death of a person whom we love deeply, the other is that of our own death which comes closer inevitably at every moment...."Death in the existential, natural sense has gruesome, frightening aspects, but it has also an aspect of nobility and dignity. Not only does the face of the dead have a noble expression, but death has something

so real, so genuine; it is the very antithesis to all illusions, to all that is ungentle. How many people are filled with unnecessary, imaginary problems! How many believe they have been offended, wounded when in reality nothing has happened to justify their imaginations. Man lives often in an imaginary, unreal world and he gives so many ungentle responses. And then comes death; with its frightening reality and the dignity of something so serious, so decisive, that all babble, all meaningless drivel, gives way to silence...."This connection of two opposite aspects of death enhances still more the enigmatic character of death. On the one hand, the gruesome, horrible destruction; on the other hand, something solemn which calls for reverence, which is endowed with a certain majesty...."

Having examined the natural aspect of death, Dr. von Hildebrand then turned his attention to death in Christ. He emphasized its character of transition into the final and permanent state and the transformation into a loving union with God.

"It has no longer the frightening horror which death possesses in the naive existential level. It is no longer the enigmatic, dark, indefinite aspect of death: the sudden meaningless disruption behind which lurks the fear of ceasing to be. It is the incredibly serious moment in which God, who created us, calls us, and we have to render account...."

"Death is viewed in a completely different aspect for the one in whom a deep, ultimate love for Jesus lives, and who thus overflows with an impetuous longing to be united with Him, face to face, and in Him with God. The aspect of death as the hour of judgment has not disappeared, but the aspect of the eternal love union with Jesus Christ, and in Him with God, is in the foreground... the holy sobriety of the soul which is enlightened by the Lumen Christi, is here united with the victorious ebriety of love...."

Born in Florence in 1890, Dr. von Hildebrand spent the first part of his career teaching philosophy at the Universities of Munich and Vienna, until forced to flee the country at the beginning of the Second World War. Since that time, he has come to the United States, taught at Fordham University, and become a professor emeritus at that institution. He is the author of numerous books, the best known of which are probably *Transformation in Christ* and *Trojan Horse in the City of God*. More recently, he has written for *Triumph* magazine and other such Catholic periodicals.