

March 25, 1977

Dear Friends,

Instead of the regular spring Newsletter, we are sending the enclosed evaluations, written by our students and graduates, on the life and program of liberal education at Thomas Aquinas College. We invite your comments. You may get additional copies by writing me at the College.

We are pleased to announce that Christopher Derrick's book entitled, Escape from Scepticism: liberal education as if truth mattered, has been published and is now available from the publisher, Sugden and Company of La Salle, Illinois. Mr. Derrick's book was inspired by his visit to Thomas Aquinas College two years ago. An order form for the paperback is enclosed.


The Thomas Aquinas College Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring "Calaveras County Evening," a fund-raising dinner to be held at Mark Twain's Notorious Jumping Frog Saloon in Los Angeles the evening of Sunday, May 15th. Entertainment will be provided by the Barber Shop Four. The ladies promise a "fun evening for a worthy cause." Donations are \$25.00 per person. Reservations can be made by writing Mrs. Charles Frank, 16538 Hartsook Street, Encino, California 91316.

The admissions picture continues to be bright. The College has experienced a 20% increase over last year in the number of applications received—and last year was our best ever. If you know of any students wishing to enroll for the fall semester, tell them to apply as soon as possible.

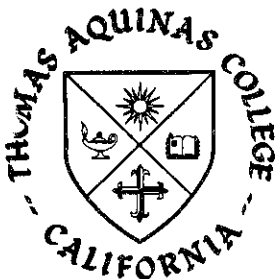
The new 1977-1978 Bulletin is now available. Copies can be obtained by writing the College.

From all here at the College, I wish to thank each of you for your continued interest and support.

Sincerely,



Dennis Koller  
Director of Admissions



Thomas Aquinas College • 26812 W. Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, California 91302 • (213) 880-4421

**STUDENT EVALUATIONS  
OF  
THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE**

Students are enthusiastic about Thomas Aquinas College. In these pages they tell what this unique college has meant to them and why they believe it is important. Their remarks are printed here as they were written.



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"...TO FIND OUT WHAT IS RIGHT AND TRUE..."

One of the many things I like about our school is the discussions we have. These take place in class, out of class, at meals, often in the kitchen (dining room) at various hours. They cover whatever subjects anyone--tutors, students, visitors--is interested in. And the interest is important because the point of our discussions is not to win an argument or force an opinion on anyone but to find out what is right and true concerning the subject.

Hannah Kern  
Fillmore, California  
Class of '77

"...I CAN DRAW CLOSER TO GOD..."

I'm sure everyone has heard people say that something is like a 'breath of fresh air.' After my first year at Thomas Aquinas I realize that the education and the people of the school are breaths of fresh air. Coming from a world where I seem to be suffocating from immodesty, immorality and the foul language people use, I can breathe easier at school. I'm not by any means implying that Thomas Aquinas is a college where one can breeze through without any trouble but that I'm finally learning important things so that I might better myself. This is not an easy feat, but in trying to better myself I can draw closer to God and this is the most important thing in life!

Mary Beth Schutzman  
Estes Park, Colorado  
Class of '77

"...EQUIPS THE STUDENT TO THINK, EVALUATE AND JUDGE."

At Thomas Aquinas College I have rejoiced to find available an education which equips the student to think, evaluate and judge. It develops and educates through the systematic study of the best of Western thought. The opportunity for careful examination of the ideas which have shaped Western civilization, in the light of known truth enables the student to develop his own values, as well as providing an unequalled liberal education. The kind of education which I almost despaired to find - an education which seeks truth with the confidence that it can be found - I have discovered here.

Laura Steichen  
St. Cloud, Minnesota  
Class of '75

"...THE ORDERING OF DESIRES AND HABITS FOR THE END OF GOODNESS..."

At Thomas Aquinas, peer group pressure works for good. This is especially clear in the spheres, moral and spiritual, where doing is a prerequisite for real understanding. Rather than working as a force which pushes for the conformity of all to the lowest common denominator, the students' association with each other helps to clarify and raise moral and spiritual goals, and is a source of great mutual support in the ordering of desires and habits for the end of goodness. To live among people, students and teachers, who are trying to love God and His creation always more is a great gift.

Rose Teichert  
Sacramento, California  
Class of '76

"...THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM IS NOT  
A MERE GAME..."

Upon entering Thomas Aquinas College one of the most impressive aspects was the students' desire to attain intellectual virtues that enables men to seriously pursue the Truth. The strong scholastic life indicates that for the students at Thomas Aquinas, the search for Wisdom is not a mere game, but is necessary in order that man becomes truly free. Though the intellectual life is demanding, the students know that liberal education properly orders the mind, enabling the student to perceive and understand the truth that exists in reality. Finally, the students realize that this type of scholastic life is not only commensurate with their human nature but necessary, 'for the unexamined life is not worth living.'

Greg Pesely  
La Mesa, California  
Class of '77

"...DEVELOPMENT OF MIND, OF WILL,  
OF SPIRITUAL DEPTH..."

To embrace the curriculum at Thomas Aquinas College is to be open to the development of mind, of will, of spiritual depth, and of the character as a whole. After two years of attending this unique college, already I can recognize in myself a true enrichment. Certainly the example and guidance of my tutors has influenced my way of thought and the disposition of my pursuits; yet perhaps of equal impact has been the intimate exchange with my fellow students, young people my own age with noble

values and high Christian ideals. This has helped me not only to better understand and appreciate my principles and my Catholic faith, but to proudly adhere to these beliefs and to be able to reasonably defend them with clarity and conviction. This I have realized strongly when I am apart from the campus, as I reflect on what I have learned and I encounter people whose secular ideas are not my own. I am positive and grateful that the truths and habits and aspirations that I am acquiring at Thomas Aquinas College now, I will carry with me through the whole of my life.

Terri Vorndran  
Los Angeles, California  
Class of '76

"...RESPONSIBLE JUDGMENTS AND  
DECISIONS..."

It's difficult to describe life at Thomas Aquinas so that it is believable because you so seldom find anything as good as it is here. The students and teachers are wonderful and friendly people forming a closely united community. We are concerned in a serious way with learning truth with wisdom and the good, the knowledge of which forms us into intelligent citizens able to make responsible judgments and decisions concerning all aspects of life. This knowledge, seen in the light of the Catholic Faith, bestows a peace of mind and soul upon its possessors which is evident at Thomas Aquinas.

Maryann Montanaro  
Liverpool, New York  
Class of '75

"LEARNING IS AN EXCITING EXPERIENCE  
HERE.

Thomas Aquinas College is a unique school - not only because of the exceptional curriculum or the ideals upon which the school is based but because of a common spirit and brotherhood prevalent among students and faculty. This spirit that unites people of all ages and from all walks of life comes from the desire to achieve a common goal - the pursuit of truth that is not akin to any practical knowledge. Learning is an exciting experience here. It is difficult to put into words the mental joy one can feel after reading a particular Platonic dialogue or discovering the wisdom of Biblical writers. Thomas Aquinas College is a community designed to educate the 'entire man' and this is 'higher education' in its truest sense.

Cynthia Six  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Class of '77

"...AN IDEAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY..."

I am in anguish every time I see a young adult, especially a Catholic, wandering aimlessly - not knowing quite what to do with himself. I wish that they all could find what I have found here at Thomas Aquinas College; an ideal Christian community - made up of individuals each using his God-given talents and intelligence in striving for knowledge, i.e. of that which is true, therefore good. For all truth comes from God who is Good. That is why, I found,

everyone is so happy at Thomas Aquinas College for they see the quintessence of our school which is that intellectual truths and the Catholic Faith go hand in hand. For 'when one seeks truth, he seeks God.' Therefore since we are all seeking God in our school, how can we be anything else but happy?

Cathy Short  
Ridgefield, Connecticut  
Class of '77

"...I HAVE FELT COMPLETELY AT  
HOME..."

Thomas Aquinas College for me is more than a home away from home, not only do I feel comfortable with the people and surroundings but I have a sense that along with the other students, I share a common goal that is more than an intellectual or social bond. Ever since the first day I visited this community, I have felt completely at home, the students were friendly and they accepted me as one of them on that first day - a feeling that comes to one only when he feels relaxed in a new and strange place. The truths I have learned while attending Thomas Aquinas College have not only made me wiser but I have learned more about other people, near to me and those foreign to me, but most importantly about myself and about God. I have truly found a place in life to stop and examine its existence and its origin.

Stephen Six  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Class of '76

"...ALL SUBJECTS RELATED...IN THE LIGHT OF THESE PRINCIPLES."

Though I have had no first hand experience of other colleges, Thomas Aquinas College seems to me to be outstanding in several ways: the meaningfulness and quality of the education and the insight and understanding of the professors; the devotion to Christian principles on the part of the faculty and students; and the maturity and friendliness of the student body. The curriculum is somewhat like the Great Books program of St. John's University but is based on Catholic principles, and all subjects are related to each other in the light of these principles. What one learns here has inherent meaning and one is not merely presented with opinions, whether these be true or not. And thus this education is - I would think - much more satisfying than the usual liberal secular education. There are not many rules governing student behavior, and there is no need for such, since the students are expected to be and are mature enough to behave themselves. After a year at Thomas Aquinas I can say that it has been the most worthwhile of my education.

Patrick Moore  
U.S. Dept. of State  
Karachi, Pakistan  
Class of '77

"...I LEARNED HOW TO TRULY THINK."

As I look back on my first two years at Thomas Aquinas College,

I am thankful to be a part of this college and that I am receiving this education. I do not think that any other education could possibly compare with it. These two years have taught me much more than Euclid, Latin, etc. alone. In this time I learned how to truly think. I have also become stronger in my faith and I now have firmly rooted principles. Each course in the program substantiates the others, and through them each student becomes a strong individual.

Besides the strong intellectual education which I am receiving at Thomas Aquinas, I am also receiving the opportunity to strengthen my spiritual life. I think that most students would agree with me that the attendance at Mass each day goes hand in hand with our classes. I have found that what I learn in class each day is intensified through prayer.

Finally, since I first came to Thomas Aquinas I was struck by the extreme friendliness of all the students. The atmosphere of the community is one in which charity is definitely held before one's self. The community of students and faculty at Thomas Aquinas is unique. Since all of us share the same goal, to seek the TRUTH, and the faith, as we work together, we grow closer. I know that the friends I have made here will last forever.

Considering all this and more, I anxiously await the next two years at Thomas Aquinas and I thank God for the opportunity which has been given to me.

Martha Schaeffer  
San Francisco, California  
Class of '76

"...NO STUDENT BODY AS THOUGHTFUL  
AND SELFLESS..."

Most of my efforts to give people an accurate description of Thomas Aquinas College have met with failure. I deem the reason for this to be that very lack of experience with education in these people that Thomas Aquinas fulfills. As a philosophy major at a college on the east coast I became acutely aware of the fact that something was missing in my education but it was not until I came to Thomas Aquinas that I understood what I had been missing, and that I now possessed it. Therefore, if I can't explain to someone exactly what Thomas Aquinas is, I can at least tell them that it is the 'something' they have been missing.

Who better to judge the friendliness of a student body than one constantly in need of their help. My handicaps place me in just such a position and I am convinced there is no student body as thoughtful and selfless as that at Thomas Aquinas College.

Piety should not be the least among the virtues of a serious student. At Thomas Aquinas College one is free to develop all virtues in an atmosphere where they are respected and nurtured.

David Rioux  
Lewiston, Maine  
Class of '75

"...EACH OF OUR TUTORS  
ACKNOWLEDGES TRUTH..."

What does not immediately strike the visitor to Thomas Aquinas College but what has deeply influenced all of us as students, and has been chiefly responsible for our ever-growing desire to know all that is true, is the example of our faculty. That each of our tutors acknowledges Truth and the great value of seeking it is unquestionable. And the certitude with which they guide our progress in class reveals this. For their certitude does not fear, but rather, welcomes questions and objections from us, thus indicating an assurance in our ability to arrive, after an honest struggle, at the unchangeables within man's reach. The enthusiasm with which they pursue matters outside of class and their generosity in giving of their time are further manifestations of their dedication. Most importantly is their firm conviction that without Him Who is Truth, they can do nothing. Hence, with individuals such as these before us, it comes as no surprise that rather than the faculty-student antagonism present in most colleges, we find in our faculty a powerful source of encouragement and inspiration.

Maureen Barlow  
Arlington, Virginia  
Class of '76

"...DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND CHARACTER..."

The aim of Thomas Aquinas College is to educate its students. The meaning of education, the development of knowledge and character, is truly realized in the college's curriculum and atmosphere. The curriculum emphasizes the intellectual life that will lead to the development of knowledge and the attainment of truth. Although the educational aspect of the school is most emphasized, it is truly the combination of both the curriculum and the atmosphere that make the college unique. The atmosphere contributes to the development of character both spiritually and socially. The spiritual advantages are innumerable. One has the opportunity of not only practicing, but also living his religion daily and attaining, as I have, a closer relationship with God. The social aspect is unequaled, since one has the opportunity to be with those who have similar interests and desires as himself. Although the social aspect is the least emphasized, it is also important for man is a social animal as well as an intellectual being and his need to live with others cannot be and is not overlooked at Thomas Aquinas College. It is the realization of the unique curriculum of both the educational curriculum and the spiritual and social atmosphere of Thomas Aquinas College that has made me desire it and love it as much as I do.

Sonja Welch  
Bakersfield, California  
Class of '77

"...RIGHT REASON AND THE VOICE OF THE TEACHING CHURCH."

To a man who loves the truth and seeks it, there are few gifts more precious than the gift of Faith. For it is through reason illumined by Faith that men come to an understanding of the highest truths concerning God and His creation. Therefore, it was a sweet blessing for me indeed to have found a Christian community such as Thomas Aquinas College which pursues these truths and which is guided both by right reason and the voice of the Teaching Church.

Kevin Long  
Inglewood, California  
Class of '77

*For more information please write to:*

Mr. Dennis Koller  
Director of Admissions  
Thomas Aquinas College  
26812 W. Mulholland Hwy.  
Calabasas, California  
91302