



Thomas Aquinas College  
**NEWSLETTER**  
SPRING, 1983

10000 N. Ojai Rd., Santa Paula, California 93060

**SPECIAL FUND APPEAL**  
**APR. 24 BENEFIT CONCERT**  
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## EDUCATION FOR RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

*The recent installation and dedication of a flagpole, a gift to the College from the Knights of Columbus council in Ventura, Calif., prompted consideration among students and faculty alike of the symbolism of the flags that now fly over the campus and of the role of patriotism in our lives. In the following essay, Dr. Ronald McArthur, president of Thomas Aquinas College, reflects upon the need to educate men for citizenship and how the College curriculum prepares the student to understand American government and the institutions of our society.*

Our concept of liberal education comes from the Greeks, principally from the writings of Plato and Aristotle. We find there the view that genuine liberal learning is necessary in order that men be free; their freedom consists of responsible action according to the rule of right reason. Since man is by nature a political animal, the highest practical use of reason in the natural order concerns the common good of civil society; it is the fruit of responsible citizenship.

It is impossible to rightly educate men without preparing them for citizenship in their own country according to the norms of its institutions. It is therefore impossible to educate American youth without being concerned with having students gain an understanding of their own country. We here at the College become acquainted directly with the American form of government through reading and discussion of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, *The Federalist Papers*, Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* and *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858*.

In the Declaration of Independence, we find the meaning of America, the essential commitment to the fundamental equality of men, and the recognition of their rights which come from God their Creator. In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, we see, in fact, the two great interpretations of that document, the one, Douglas', denying that it is applicable to all men simply, and Lincoln's, who saw in it the revolutionary character of an America which in its roots proclaimed a doctrine not until then lived, but at the same time pressing the nation to rise in conformity to its assertions.

*The Federalist* is, of course, the great apology for our Constitution. In it, we read the papers of three of the most thoughtful and learned men in our history, Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, and we find not only a brilliant defense but perhaps the greatest book ever written about the practical politics of a republic — bespeaking a wisdom which extends in its understanding as far as the ancient Greeks.

Our Constitution is the fundamental law of our land, and delineates the division of the powers of



*Students prepare to raise the flags of the United States and California during ceremonies on January 15, 1983, dedicating a flagpole donated to the College by San Buenaventura Council No. 2498 of the Knights of Columbus. The flags, which have flown over the federal and state capitols, were presented to the College by Congressman Robert J. Lagomarsino and former State Assemblyman Charles R. Imbrecht.*

our regime, and states the extent of those divided powers. The study of it provides an understanding of American government and permits the judging of contemporary politics. Without reading it, one is left unable to so judge.

Tocqueville's *Democracy in America* is a detailed and extensive study of our country, and in it we find almost every aspect of our institutions and culture examined by an extraordinary observer who was at once most fascinated and invigorated by our institutions, while objective enough to consider the pitfalls of our system of government and the inclinations of our citizens.

While these readings, each most excellent in itself, are a worthy introduction to the United States, they can be supplemented by many others, and should be by any citizen concerned to play his role. The important thing for both tutors and students here is that these works provide an almost indispensable introduction to the meaning and importance of our country, and to the institutions which serve its welfare.

Though they form a whole, our readings are yet better understood through the study of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, and in fact, through the study of Plato and Aristotle, whose works are all part of our curriculum.

We learn through these texts that patriotism, the love of country, and the virtue of courage, are part of the rectified soul, and that turning in on oneself and away from the concerns of society is cowardly at root, and leads to a loss of that piety towards one's institutions and laws without which no genuine moral life is possible.

We know, through our Faith, that temporal life does not circumscribe our existence, that in fact, we are through Baptism members of the Body of Christ, the people of God. Some would have it that our supernatural calling exempts us from the contamination of this world, and that we should consider our earthly citizenship as of little account.

Such a position, however, verges upon heresy: For the great Catholic truth, as it has developed, states over and over that grace perfects nature, and that where no natural virtues are brought to political life, the supernatural life tends to be dissipated and even die. We should, then, cherish our citizenship, especially when our country is so great, and when it is the embodiment of perhaps the most self-conscious political tradition ever known to history.

These considerations are fitting at this time, for we have been blessed this year by the gift of a handsome flagpole from the San Buenaventura Council No. 2498 of the Knights of Columbus. With the installation of this pole, we are now able to fly our national flag and our state flag, both signs of our commitment to America and to the education of our students so they may be serious citizens of their country and of their particular state.

We thank, therefore, the Knights for having provided us with the means to show forth our loyalty to America and American principles, and at the same time for beautifying our campus. We are deeply appreciative of their generosity, and we hope this gift is but the beginning of a friendly relationship between the Knights and Thomas Aquinas College.

## Special Fund Appeal

# "WE ARE DEPENDING ON YOU"

This *Newsletter* is filled with good news about the progress of Thomas Aquinas College. The education is flourishing, the faculty is improving, the number of applicants is on the increase, and the graduates continue to be delighted with the education they have received. Indeed, we have been blessed.

At the same time, perhaps for the good of our souls, we have our difficulties. Since 1978, when we moved to the new campus, we have been burdened with the substantial debt which was incurred to make the property usable as a campus.

The burden of large monthly debt service payments is a heavy one. It requires almost as much money as we need to meet the operating budget. In the last year, however, our contribution support has been reduced, due to the economic situation, and the debt burden has become unbearable.

In the years since 1978, it has not been practical to restructure our debt because of high interest

rates. Now with much reduced rates and the help of some of our most generous contributors, a special committee of our Board of Governors is working to reduce and restructure the debt to relieve the pressure on the College.

Yet the immediate problem is severe. The steps being taken to restructure the debt will have relatively little effect before the end of June, 1983, when we must raise several hundred thousand dollars to meet our operating budget.

I appeal to all who believe in Thomas Aquinas College to help us in this extraordinary crisis. Whether you have contributed in the past, whether you can contribute much or little, please do what you can to aid the College now. Each dollar that you can send is a contribution to the vitality of the Church and the nation. More than ever before, we are depending on you.

Peter L. DeLuca III  
Senior Vice President



*Die Welt, Berlin, hailed Jeffrey Siegel as "a pianist who literally overflows with music."*

## SIEGEL CONCERT IN SANTA BARBARA TO BENEFIT COLLEGE

Jeffrey Siegel, the virtuoso pianist who has been acclaimed as a "master of the keyboard", will appear in concert to benefit Thomas Aquinas College at the Lobero Theatre, Santa Barbara, Calif., on Sunday, April 24, 1983, at 8:00 P.M. The concert, "Romantic Masterpieces of Chopin and Rachmaninoff", will combine works of these two great Romantic composers. President Ronald P. McArthur will speak to the audience about the College at the conclusion of the concert.

Mr. Siegel's distinguished career includes a solo repertoire and chamber music concerts as well as performing as soloist with symphony orchestras. He has appeared with virtually every major American orchestra including those of Chicago, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Cleveland. He has made several appearances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, most recently at the Hollywood Bowl. His well-known "Keyboard Conversations" delight audiences across the United States.

As a recitalist, Mr. Siegel has captivated concertgoers from London to Tel Aviv and has appeared regularly in Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels, Munich, and Milan.

Mr. Siegel's appearance has been made possible by a gift to the College from Mrs. Kenneth M. Piper of Scottsdale, Arizona.

Arrangements are under the direction of a committee, chaired by Mrs. George D. McGrath, of friends of the College in Santa Barbara. Committee members include Miss Rosemary Donohue and the Mesdames Theodore Blakeslee, James Clyne, John Craig, Robert Gale, Brian Jarchow, Philip Kirst, Ralph Klink, Frank McGrath, James Myers, Daniel O'Brien, Anselmo Pozzo, Sherman Pratt, Martin Roe, Alex Saucedo, and Donald Sherwin.

All ticket arrangements for the concert should be made through the box office, the Lobero Theatre, 33 East Canon Perdido St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101, (805) 963-0761. Reserved seats are available for \$10.00 and \$7.50. Patron tickets at \$50.00 each and Sponsor seating at \$25.00 per ticket include an invitation to meet Mr. Siegel at a reception at the theatre following the concert. The names of Patrons and Sponsors will be listed in the concert program.

## Fund Report

### 1982-83 GIFTS TOP \$800,000

So far this fiscal year, a total of \$862,000 has been donated to Thomas Aquinas College. Individual general donors contributed 57% of this amount, in large and small gifts, and 39% came from foundations. College alumni, including 300 graduates and former students, contributed almost \$38,000, 4% of the total.

Three grants from the De Rance Foundation totaling \$225,000 are especially noteworthy. One \$50,000 unrestricted grant was applied to operating expenses, and the remaining \$175,000 provided the final funds needed to eliminate the College's debt on its modular buildings.

Other significant grants were received from the Louisa Watson Trust, which has contributed \$47,000 for scholarships; the Grace Foundation, which has donated \$20,000; the Drum Foundation, which has granted \$15,000 and the Dan Murphy Foundation, which has given the College \$12,000.

## FR. STECKLER, ASST. CHAPLAIN FOR 1982-83; ALUMNUS THOMAS KAISER JOINS FACULTY

Rev. Gerard G. Steckler, S.J., who has taught at Seattle, Gonzaga, and Gannon universities, was appointed assistant chaplain at Thomas Aquinas for the current academic year in September. As assistant to Rev. Msgr. John F. Gallagher, the College chaplain, Fr. Steckler conducts days of recollection and assists in spiritual counselling. He is also a co-leader of the sophomore seminar and gives a series of evening lectures on Church history.

Fr. Steckler, who received his doctorate in history from the University of Washington, has a special interest in Catholic history in the Pacific Northwest. His articles have appeared in such journals as the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* and the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*. He is presently writing a cultural history of the West after 1815 in the light of a Catholic and Thomistic critique.

For Thomas J. Kaiser, joining the faculty this fall was a return to Thomas Aquinas. Mr. Kaiser received his B.A. from the College in 1975. Following studies in philosophy at Niagara University and biology at California State University

(Bakersfield), he began graduate work at UCLA in biology in 1977.

Mr. Kaiser received the Candidate of Philosophy degree at UCLA in 1980 and is preparing his doctoral dissertation based on field studies of prairie falcons in the Mojave Desert.

As a teaching assistant, associate, and fellow at UCLA, Mr. Kaiser gave courses in animal behavior, organismic biology, ornithology, and vertebrate biology. At Niagara, he taught logic and introductory philosophy.

In discussing the relationship between biology and philosophy, Mr. Kaiser said: "In studying living things, one is led to wonder about their order and causes and this leads to the philosophical life. What I hope to do here is to instill that kind of wonder in students and to broaden the study of living organisms in the program."

He added: "Students should see the order in nature and understand that nature acts for an end or purpose. Both Aristotelian and Thomistic philosophy are based on these fundamental principles."



## RECRUITMENT: "REGROWING THE BODY OF THE COLLEGE"

I am often asked, as admissions director, how students are recruited into Thomas Aquinas College. It turns out to be a remarkably difficult question to answer when it is understood to mean, "How can prospective students be introduced to Thomas Aquinas College and convinced that they ought to attend?"

The difficulty is not in identifying the various reasons which Freshmen give for coming to the College. Nor is it in listing the parts of the school's recruitment program. The difficulty lies rather in accounting for the fact that for most of the nearly 425 students who have attended Thomas Aquinas College, the school's recruitment program was not responsible for their interest in the College. At the same time, the admissions office does play an essential role in the recruitment of students. Now this seems to be an unfairly complicated answer to a fairly simple question and there ought to be a further explanation.

Let me begin by observing something about the word "recruit" itself. It is derived from the Latin *recrescere*, the first and most important meaning of which is "to regrow." Recruiting is therefore a matter of regrowing the body of the College when its size, for various reasons, has been diminished. Each Freshman class brings back the student body to full stature and, with its enthusiasm and hope, refreshes it in its academic and community life. This life is the pursuit of wisdom, and it invigorates all the parts of the College, students and faculty alike.

The word *recruit* also refers to the new addition to the College, the Freshman himself. He can hardly be expected to participate in the life of the College unless he himself is living. Each recruit is an appropriate addition to the College because he is already, even before he matriculates, living its life: He is eager for the truth.

It is the chief and necessary task of the admissions office to bring together these similar interests, to ingraft the life of the student into the life of the College. This it does in two ways.

The great majority of applicants for admission to Thomas Aquinas College rely on the admissions office not for their initial interest in the College but for assistance in assembling their applications. They have heard about the school from relatives, teachers, religious, friends, or someone who is currently enrolled in the College, and they are attracted to its program as an opportunity to satisfy their appetite for the truth.

It is enlightening to note that the word "admission" is derived from the Latin *admittere*, to let go. The admissions office recruits these students simply by removing obstacles from their paths in order to let them go where they already wish to go.

I have spoken about students who are "eager for the truth," who have an "appetite for the truth." They are students who want to know where algebraic formulas come from and why they work; whether their Faith is reasonable; why some music is good and some bad. They wonder about the world. And whether they know it or not, they are candidates for Thomas Aquinas College.

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## MOTHER TERESA BRONZE PRESENTED



*Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, president of Thomas Aquinas College, and Mrs. Lynn Thomas, portrait sculptress, stand beside the bronze portrait of Mother Teresa of Calcutta which Mrs. Thomas presented to the College on November 19, 1982. Mrs. Thomas, of Santa Barbara, Calif., executed the lifelike bust to commemorate Mother Teresa's Commencement address to the graduates on June 5, 1982. Presentation of the bust, which is 14 inches high, 9½ inches wide, and weighs 25 pounds, was made during a luncheon in St. Joseph Commons. This gift to the College was made possible by an anonymous benefactor.*



*Herbert Ratner, M.D., second from left, editor of *Child and Family*, and Russell A. Kirk, right, author and columnist, confer at the President's Council dinner in Chicago last November. Both are members of the College's Board of Visitors.*

## CHICAGO, NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES AREA PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD

On November 3, 1982, Russell Kirk, member of the College Board of Visitors, addressed the annual dinner meeting sponsored by the President's Council in Chicago. Speaking to more than 70 guests at The Cliff Dwellers club, Mr. Kirk outlined the pillars of today's cultural heritage based on the works of Edmund Burke, Samuel Johnson, and Adam Smith. He spoke of the moral laxity, loss of imagination, and problems of education that have led to the present cultural decline.

Mr. Kirk said that now is the time to be bold-spirited and intrepid and to reinstitute a way of life based on personal and cultural responsibility, on those things which have proven themselves true, and on God.

Sixty guests at the President's Council reception hosted by Mr. Chauncey Stillman for Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, president of Thomas Aquinas College, at The New York Yacht Club in Manhattan heard an address by Joseph Sobran. Mr. Sobran, senior editor of *National Review*, discussed his work on his new book on the U.S. Constitution.

On November 14, 91 President's Council guests gathered at the San Marino, Calif., home of their hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Basil Gallagher, heard presentations by two Thomas Aquinas alumni, Andrew Zepeda (Class of 1979) and Rose Teichert Grimm (Class of 1976).

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## STUDENT RECRUITMENT: "REGROWING THE BODY OF THE COLLEGE"

(Continued from p.3)

There are, of course, many such students who do not know about Thomas Aquinas College. The task of the admissions office is chiefly to *meet* them. This is its second way of recruiting. The role of the office here includes more than clearing the path of those who are already informed about the College. Rather than receiving these students, the College must be taken to them. They must be shown a curriculum which begins with questions about the world, and which holds for them the hope of sure answers. And they must meet a community wherein the answers make all the difference. Visiting high schools, working with parents, teachers, and religious, advertising — all these are parts of the recruitment program. But for these students who are sought by the College, as for those who seek it of their own accord, the interest in the truth — or, if you will, the inclination for the kind of education offered at Thomas Aquinas College — is most emphatically already present. It remains for the admissions office, and the whole College, to treat that interest as the blessing it is.

Perhaps it is appropriate to linger over the enormity of that blessing. We are assured, by our own experience and by the testimony of Christ, that it is to the truth that nature and Faith should bring us. But both nature and Faith are denied in our day, and it is therefore not surprising that truth is also denied. To meet young men and women somehow preserved from the almost universal skepticism about the truth is to experience something of the miraculous. God has sown and He gives increase. Thomas Aquinas College cooperates with the families and friends of these students in nurturing their love of the truth.

If there are prospective students who should know about the College, please notify the admissions office. Applications for the 1983-84 Freshman class will be accepted throughout the summer.

Thomas J. Susanka  
Director of Admissions

## PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD

(Continued from p. 3)

Mr. Zepeda, a Los Angeles attorney, recalled a report of a college being sued for educational malpractice and misrepresentation for having claimed that it would pass on to its students wisdom, virtue, and knowledge. Mr. Zepeda said such a charge could never be brought against Thomas Aquinas College where the student is on the path to wisdom and where the College accomplishes its objectives in both its studies and social life.

Mrs. Grimm spoke of her "incalculable debt to the College" and compared her education at Thomas Aquinas with her experiences at a private university from which she graduated before entering Thomas Aquinas College. At the university, she said, "rigorous, precise thinking wasn't developed. . . and as a result many good minds were wasted."

By contrast, at Thomas Aquinas, "the basic point of our Faith is affirmed, that man has the ability and duty to seek and to find the truth," Mrs. Grimm stated. "At Thomas Aquinas, a constant effort was made to teach the students to think precisely, to define their terms, to justify assumptions. . . to use all their God-given gifts to seek the truth."



Rev. Msgr. John F. Gallagher, College chaplain, shows the Montgomery family chalice to Jane Stets, Class of 1983. The chalice was presented to the College in December.

## MONTGOMERY FAMILY CHALICE PRESENTED TO THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

On Christmas Eve, 1982, Mr. Francis J. Montgomery, member of the College Board of Governors, and his brother, Mr. George Montgomery, member of the President's Council, presented their family chalice and paten as a gift to the College. The chalice and paten were used at Mass in their parents' home for some 30 years, beginning in the 1920s.

The silver and gold-plated chalice is 9¾ inches tall and bears the inscription, *Calicem salutaris accipiam et nomen domini invocabo* ("I will take the chalice of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord"). Enameled medallions depicting the four Evangelists are set into the base.

In his addresses to the President's Council meetings, Dr. McArthur spoke of a recent trip to Washington, D.C., and of seeing the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. "I was deeply moved," he said, "by this experience for it caused me once again to reflect upon our great country and the connection it has with the whole tradition of Western civilization. . . The concern of our Founders with justice and liberty is revealed in the words inscribed on the monuments. This is the tradition which the College brings to life for its students."

Meetings to introduce the College were held in the Pacific Northwest in December. Dr. McArthur and John W. Blewett, executive vice president, spoke to 75 guests at Holy Rosary Parish center in Portland, Ore., on December 7, and to a reception for 35 at the Rainier Golf and Country Club in Seattle on December 9.

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mr. James Wrzesinski of Sherman Oaks, Calif., a donor to the College since 1979.

## TV SEGMENT FILMED; LIBRARIANS MEET

A television feature on Thomas Aquinas College will appear after March 21, 1983, on the nationally-distributed Catholic program, *Real to Reel*, which is seen in 32 cities outside California. Filming took place at the College on February 1, and included an interview with President Ronald P. McArthur, a classroom discussion, and the library collection. Call your diocesan communications director, asking when reel 26 of *Real to Reel* will be televised in your area.

The Southern California Chapter of the Catholic Library Association held its annual fall general meeting at Thomas Aquinas in October, 1982. The meeting brought together librarians from nearly 40 institutions in the Los Angeles and Orange areas and was preceded by a tour of the College library.

## 'ST. THOMAS ON LIBERAL ARTS' OPENS LECTURE SERIES

Thomas E. Dillon, Ph.D., dean of the College, opened the 1982-83 Friday evening lecture series with an analysis of St. Thomas' account of the liberal arts. His September 10 talk, entitled, "A First Look at St. Thomas on the Liberal Arts", examined the nature of the liberal arts and their relationship to higher study, principally philosophy.

Dean Dillon began by noting that the liberal arts are arts by analogy, emphasizing St. Thomas' thesis that "the liberal arts not only involve knowledge, but also a work, an *opus*, which *opus* belongs to the reason itself." He then dialectically considered a number of significant questions that emerge from the study of St. Thomas' teaching on the liberal arts.

First semester lectures included a presentation on "Cosmology" by Dr. Hollis Johnson of Indiana University and a discussion of "Teaching, Learning, and Memory" by Edward Macierowski of the University of Toronto. Highlighting the fall series was a piano recital by D. Alan Shewmon, M.D., on October 15 and a chamber music concert by The Palisades Trio in November. On December 10, the Grimm Family Choir gave a program of Christmas music including Stephen Grimm's *Mass of the Christ Child* and a selection of carols from around the world.

Joseph Sobran's Presidents' Day lecture on February 25 compared today's views of the U.S. Constitution with those of the framers of the document. Mr. Sobran, senior editor of *National Review*, said that in the 20th century the idea has spread that the Constitution "is for the experts, especially the experts of the judiciary." But, he stated, "the Constitution was not conceived as the private preserve of the courts. It was for all Americans to read, to understand. . ."

Remaining programs are: March 11, Joseph Bobik speaking on Aquinas on the existence of God; March 25, Dr. Paul Spade's lecture, "Realism Defended"; April 22, W. Knorr, "On Euclid's and Aristotle's Doctrines of Same Ratio"; May 6, Ronald Richard on Holy Scripture.