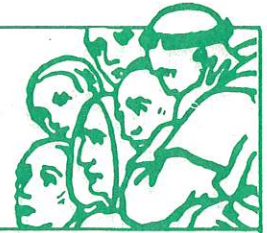




# Thomas Aquinas College NEWSLETTER

Spring, 1984

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



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## The Patrimony of the West

# NEWMAN, LIBERAL EDUCATION, AND "THE HUMAN MIND"

By John W. Neumayr

In the early 1850s, in Dublin, John Henry Cardinal Newman gave his famous series of lectures on the idea of a university. His thesis throughout those lectures was that liberal education is at the center of a university and that liberal education derives from Western society. He says of that society: "I think it has a claim to be considered as the representative Society and Civilization of the human race, as its perfect result and limit...I call this commonwealth pre-eminently and emphatically Human Society, and its intellect the *Human Mind*..."

Few in Western society would make such a claim today. In 1977, Professor J.M. Cameron, a highly sympathetic Newman scholar, commented on the passage in this way: "The argument is that European civilization and culture is normative, that they set standards that are final and definitive of what is human in the highest possible degree. I think we have to say that for us such a view is quite out of the question. This scarcely needs to be argued. Our view of a civilization and culture has to be empirical, not normative..."\*

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given culture is the norm and measure of the human mind, that one civilization has found the final and essential form of learning for mankind, and has embodied it in its great books. Consequently, we will substitute ethnic courses for traditional ones in our schools without a sense of loss. More commonly, believing that the flow of history transforms even a given culture, we will replace the older forms of learning in our own tradition with newer ones. The liberal arts give way to social studies, the philosophy of nature to mathematical physics, and theology to comparative religion. The form of liberal education that Newman saw has all but vanished.

Not all, however, who hold cultural relativism in education, think the corpus of learning of the West should vanish. Professor Cameron is among them. "Nevertheless," he continues, "...the works of intellect, imagination, organizing ability [of Western society]...are our gift to the world: this is the matrix out of which we have come. No matter how much it may come to be changed and enriched by other cultures it will remain for as long as need concern us the culture we have to re-live and appropriate if we are to understand ourselves. We are what the seven liberal arts have made us, and if we were to forget them we should be undone. We should be like men who had forgotten their names and where they were born."

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(Continued on p.4)

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As in the past, a large number of freshmen — nearly a third of the class — began their studies at Thomas Aquinas after completing academic work at other colleges. These students so highly prized the course of study at Thomas Aquinas College that they began their education anew in September.

Freshman Mary O'Hara, of Blair, Wis., attended a Catholic university in the Midwest last year. During the summer of 1983, she joined a gathering of students from her area who attend the College and decided to apply to Thomas Aquinas.

Miss O'Hara later wrote of that afternoon: "I met students — my own peers — with a stability and sense of direction I thought was unreachable at this point in my life. These people were not searching for their identity, as I found myself and fellow students doing. They were searching for and finding the elusive yet unchanging truth. Though I had read much material on the College, it was through these conversations that I realized just how much I needed to attend the College. The genuine enthusiasm and staunch confidence in themselves, the College, and most of all, the truth that is the basis of the education — God — convinced me of the benefits I could gain from such an education."

The size of this year's student body is an encouraging sign. The College has embarked on a student recruitment campaign which will extend the success of last year's recruitment and bring the number of students closer to the optimum planning for the College, 350. In this campaign, the efforts of the school's friends — especially parents and acquaintances of students — are of special importance. The majority of this year's freshmen were introduced to the College by their parents or by the parents of students already attending Thomas Aquinas. The Admissions Office solicits the continued assistance of these important sources of prospective students. Applications for admission in September, 1984, will be accepted throughout the summer.

## MARCH BENEFIT 'SMASHING SUCCESS'



The Santa Barbara News-Press called the benefit reception for the College held in Santa Barbara on March 18, 1984, a "smashing success". Given by The Santa Barbara Committee for Thomas Aquinas College, under the chairmanship of Miss Rosemary Donohue, the event raised over \$96,000 for the College. Mr. Thomas P. Sullivan, chairman of the Board of Governors and a member of The Santa Barbara Committee, was the master of ceremonies for the program during which President Ronald P. McArthur and graduate Tom Walsh, M.D. (Class of 1978), spoke. At the conclusion of the program, Miss Donohue presented Dr. McArthur with checks for the gifts.

The Santa Barbara Committee members, shown above (left to right), are: Miss Donohue; Mrs. Stanley T. Williams; Mr. Williams; Mrs. Guy McComb; Mr. Sullivan; Mrs. Florian Martini; Mr. Arthur Gaudi; Mrs. Ralph Boardman; Dr. David Bomar (Class of 1976), alumni representative. Honorary committee members (not pictured) are: Sir Daniel J. Donohue; Mrs. George D. McGrath; Mrs. Marian Hancock Barry; Mrs. Walter Brennan; Mrs. Fritz R. Huntsinger; Mrs. Gladys Q. Knapp.

## MRS. BROWNE: "WE CANNOT THANK HER ADEQUATELY"

This April, Mrs. Francis Browne gave a major gift of \$138,112 to the College, the latest of her many donations. She also presented to the library a collection of such merit that it will be named *The Margaret Browne Collection on American History*. The Board of Governors passed a resolution thanking her for these gifts at its May meeting.

We knew, when we founded the College, that our success and our very existence would depend upon loyal and concerned benefactors who, in their charity, would carry us along as we found our way through the difficulties which would attend our beginning efforts. Mrs. Browne more than fulfilled our most optimistic expectations; she became a member of our Board of Governors; attended all our meetings, no matter how inconvenient, and took effective part in them; and stepped forward again and again with the support we most needed, when we needed it.

She and her husband, Francis E. Browne, M.D., moved this spring from southern California to their home state in the Midwest. She, therefore, has resigned from the board, but has consented to be a governor emeritus. We will miss her at our meetings and functions, yet we are happy that she will remain with us in that capacity.

We cannot thank her adequately for all she has done and for her friendship, but we pray for her and her husband and ask God's blessings upon them and their family.

Ronald P. McArthur, President

## COLLEGE RECEIVES OVER \$809,000 IN '83-'84 GIFTS

Since July, 1983, Thomas Aquinas College has received over \$809,000 in gifts from corporations, foundations, and individual donors. Corporate and foundation gifts have totalled more than \$481,000; several hundred individuals donating gifts under \$1,000 have contributed nearly \$28,000 during this fiscal year. President's Council members have donated almost \$300,000.

Among the foundation gifts are grants totalling \$125,000 for operating purposes from the De Rance Foundation and a gift of \$100,000 from the Carl N. Karcher and Margaret M. Karcher Foundation. The Drum Foundation contributed \$15,000 to the College for operating purposes.

The Louisa Watson Trust significantly increased its contribution to the College's scholarship and student financial aid program this year, donating \$60,000. The Marcellus L. Joslyn Foundation awarded two grants totalling \$15,000 to the program.

Donations from corporations matching their employees' gifts to the College are increasing. The largest such gift this year was a contribution of \$5,000 from TRW Corp. made possible by Mr. Norman Goyette, Aurora, Colo. A list of corporations with matching-gift programs is available from the College development office.

## W.A.S.C. TEAM COMMENDS THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

"The atmosphere of the College is truly collegial...and refreshingly intellectual in tone..."

"The quality of students recruited is, as indicated by SAT scores, etc., very high."

"...the conduct of college affairs is suffused with a strong, dignified, and energetic spirit of Catholic faith..."

"...the College is stronger now than in 1980...with an unflinching sense of purpose, high academic standards, and high morale..."

These evaluations of Thomas Aquinas College are among the findings and conclusions of representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) — the regional accrediting agency for senior colleges and universities — who visited Thomas Aquinas in October, 1983.

The October 20-21 evaluation visit by a WASC visiting team was an interim assessment of the progress the College has made since receiving full WASC accreditation in 1980. Such interim visits are customary in the continuing accreditation process.

The 1983 WASC visiting team examined the operation of the College from its curriculum and teaching to budgetary and financial procedures. Its inquiry centered on recommendations and suggestions which WASC had proposed in 1980. The team also assessed the February, 1983, *Interim Report* which the College had submitted in response to the 1980 WASC recommendations. Dean Thomas E. Dillon, accreditation liaison officer for Thomas Aquinas College, coordinated the WASC visit.

The 1983 WASC team found that Thomas Aquinas College has made "substantial progress on all fronts" in response to the 1980 WASC recommendations and concluded that the accreditation granted in 1980 "was well justified."

The team commended "all at Thomas Aquinas College for their energy, dedication, and commitment to their mission." It cited the "integrity and effectiveness of the curriculum in ensuring that what is done is done well", noting the quality of the writing program, the accessibility of the faculty to students, and the faculty's "ongoing careful examination of the curriculum."

Citing the "strengthening of financial management and control", the WASC team reported the College's "good budget planning and expenditure controls" and good planning for the future.

The principal problems which the team found are the need for completing the College's physical facilities, for providing recreational facilities, and for expanding the holdings of the library.

## MRS. BROWNE, MR. KILEY HONORED AS GOVERNORS EMERITI

Mrs. Francis E. Browne, Lake Forest, Ill., and Mr. John R. Kiley, San Francisco, who retired from the Board of Governors in 1983, have been named governors emeriti of Thomas Aquinas College. Mrs. Browne had been a member of the board since 1974; Mr. Kiley, since 1975.

The position of governor emeritus honors for distinguished service to the College former board members who have served at least one full term. While not members of the board, governors emeriti may participate in the deliberations of the board and their advice is sought in the development of the College. Mrs. Browne is known for her work in Catholic social services; Mr. Kiley is executive consultant to Bechtel Corp.

## LECTURES, MUSIC IN '83-'84 FRIDAY EVENING SERIES

The 1983-84 lecture series opened with Tutor John Neumayr's examination of Newman's thesis that the Western tradition is the intellectual heritage of mankind and forms the basis of liberal education. Dr. Neumayr argued that through its foundation in common experience, the Western philosophical heritage and especially the perennial philosophy endures as the common intellectual tradition of humanity.

On September 23, 1983, Dr. Thomas G. West, University of Dallas, addressed the College on the interpretation of its patron by the political philosopher, Leo Strauss. The lively question period centered on discussion of esoteric writing, especially in the works of St. Thomas. In October, Mr. Frank Fowles, rhapsode, presented a dramatic enactment of "The Death of Patraklos". In November and December, the College enjoyed performances by Hambro and Bihari, guitar duo, and Mrs. Natalie Gorman's operatic singers.

Two visitors from St. John's College took part in the series. The dean, Mr. Samuel Kutler, spoke on "Play and Seriousness", illustrating his talk with theorems and problems from mathematics. Dr. Elliott Zuckerman lectured on the harmonic basis of classical music, rooting his inquiry in the first chord in Wagner's *Ring*.

Science and religion were examined by Mr. Kevin Kolbeck of the University of Notre Dame and Mr. Thomas Bethell, an editor of *Harpers Magazine*. Mr. Bethell argued that the consensus supporting Darwinian evolution is dissolving and that the theory of natural selection is fundamentally unscientific because it is unfalsifiable. Mr. Kolbeck presented a summary of the arguments from natural science for the existence of God.

Dr. Dwayne Berquist, brother of College tutor Marcus Berquist, presented the St. Thomas Day lecture. His talk endeavored to show that pride is "The Root of All Error". For the Presidents Day lecture, Dr. Marlo Lewis, Claremont College, spoke of Adam Smith's theory of moral sentiments as a possible underpinning of the natural law and natural rights doctrines that are presumed in the American republic.

Remaining lectures include Dr. Henry Veatch (May 4) speaking on the question, "Who Says a Knowledge of Nature is Necessary for Ethics?" and Tutor Michael McLean (May 18) talking on "Faith and Reason".

## DAVID RIOUX: VIET- NAM SERVICE IN "CHARLIE COMPANY"

In 1969, David Rioux (Class of 1975) was a sergeant in "Charlie Company", Co. C, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, of the First Infantry Division in Vietnam. Later, while assigned to a 101st Airborne unit in Vietnam, he tripped a booby trap that exploded leaving him blinded, his right hand and leg impaired. Following a physical rehabilitation, he entered Thomas Aquinas College, graduated in its first Commencement, and has now completed work for the Ph.D. in philosophy at Laval University.

An account of Mr. Rioux's Vietnam service and decision to attend Thomas Aquinas is part of *Charlie Company*, a memoir of men who served in Co. C in 1968-69. The book, by Peter Goldman and Tony Fuller, was published in 1983 by William Morrow & Co., Inc., New York. Its record of Mr. Rioux's faith and patriotism will be of great interest to all friends of the College.

## BISHOP STRESSES HOLY YEAR



"The Holy Year is a pilgrimage," Most Rev. Donald W. Montrose, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles and Vicar for Ventura County, told the Thomas Aquinas College community in a sermon during his March 6, 1984, visit to the campus. By a special privilege from His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Manning, he gave the College community the opportunity to gain the Holy Year indulgence on campus that day. Bishop Montrose (third from left), is shown lunching with students and faculty after Mass. Rev. Msgr. John F. Gallagher, College chaplain, is seated at the Bishop's right; Rev. Thomas A. McGovern, tutor, to his left.

## DONALD GALLAGHER JOINS COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Donald A. Gallagher, Ph.D., vice president of DeRance, Inc., a charitable foundation headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., has been appointed to the Board of Governors of Thomas Aquinas College. He is also first vice president of the International Institute of the Heart of Jesus and president of the American Maritain Association.

In announcing the appointment, President Ronald P. McArthur said: "We are most pleased that Dr. Gallagher has joined the board. His knowledge will greatly assist the College in fulfilling its objectives."

Dr. Gallagher taught at Marquette University from 1939 to 1958 and then at Villanova University, Boston College, and the University of Ottawa. He has been a visiting professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome) and Niagara University. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy at Marquette in 1944 and holds honorary doctorates from the Catholic University of Puerto Rico and St. Louis University in the Philippines.

## ROBERT BREUNIG TO MANAGE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dr. Robert H. Breunig has been appointed Director of Development to manage the Capital Campaign and Annual Fund for Thomas Aquinas College. Since assuming his duties in February, Dr. Breunig has been working with Campaign National Chairman Carl N. Karcher, founder of Carl Karcher Enterprises, Anaheim, to build the campaign organization. Dr. Breunig has visited most of the members of the Board of Governors, several foundations, and major donors in California.

In April, Dr. Breunig prepared for President Ronald P. McArthur an interim report on the status of development at the College and a draft of the campaign plan.

Dr. Breunig has served in institutional advancement positions at state and private universities, including California State University and Antioch University. He received the Ph.D. in management and administration at Union Graduate School where he prepared his dissertation under the direction of Dr. Clark Kerr, president emeritus of the University of California.

## THIRD ALUMNI DAY HELD MAY 19; JUNE 9 DATE FOR TENTH COMMENCEMENT

Graduates and former students gathered on campus on May 19, 1984, for the College's third annual Alumni Day. Beginning with Mass at 10:00 A.M., followed by brunch, the day's program included volleyball and softball games, a variety of field events, and a picnic supper. The freshmen won the Eagle Eye Basketball Tourney. Highlight of the day was the alumni seminar on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

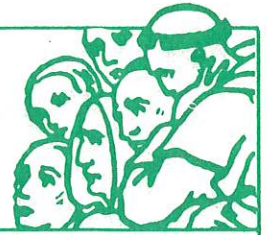
Charles H. Malik, Ph.D., of Lebanon, former president of the United Nations General Assembly and three times president of the U.N. Security Council will address the graduates at the College's tenth Commencement on June 9, 1984. Most Rev. Donald W. Montrose, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, will be the principal celebrant of the Baccalaureate Mass. Very Rev. Regis N. Barwig, Oshkosh, Wis., will give the homily.



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