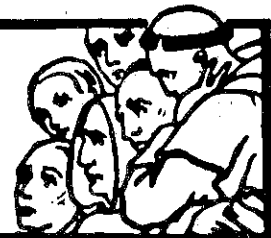




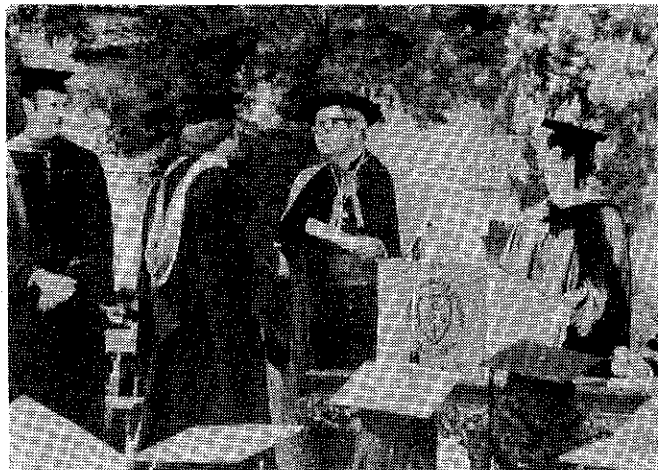
Thomas Aquinas College
NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1977

26812 W. Mulholland Hwy., Calabasas, California 91302



COLLEGE GRADUATES ITS THIRD CLASS



One June 4th, under clear, warm, sunny skies, Thomas Aquinas College conferred on its seniors the traditional baccalaureate hood signifying the culmination of their four years of study for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts.

Fittingly, the day began with the graduates, their families and friends assisting at the Baccalaureate Mass in the college chapel. Principal celebrant of the High Mass was Rev. Charles F. Taylor, Pastor of St. Barbara's Church in Powell, Wyoming and long-time friend of the college. Rev. Thomas A. McGovern, S.J., a senior tutor of the college, was the homilist.

Commencement exercises were held on the east lawn. The graduates were addressed by Rev. Christopher J. O'Toole, C.S.C., recently retired provincial of the Southern Province of the Holy Cross Order. Father O'Toole used the college's recently published pamphlet, *On the Meaning of Thomas Aquinas College; reflections on education by students and graduates*, as a springboard from which to launch into his speech entitled, "The Way to Greatness." "To be great you must strive to reach the limits of your powers," Father O'Toole said. "This means surrender of yourself to your goal in order to realize your total self.

It means making great demands on yourself; it means moral and intellectual discipline and asceticism. One striving for greatness is never content with reaching a plateau. It means saying 'yes' to everything that helps you reach your goal and saying 'no' to everything that leads away from it. It means utter sincerity — the correspondence of your actions with your thoughts and feelings. It means a continuous passage from potentiality to actuality — a continuous renewal. It means an endeavor to perfect yourself, to actuate what lies dormant within you; to realize in your life the plan of God for you. It is co-operation with, and sharing in, God's continuous creative powers. It is an effort to produce something beautiful and good; an effort to approach God Who is pure act and in Whom all that you accomplish, all the perfection, beauty and goodness of your life are found in a supremely higher degree."

Following Father O'Toole's address, Dean of the College John W. Neumayr publicly attested to the fact that the twenty-three graduates "have successfully applied themselves to philosophy, theology, mathematics, natural sciences, the arts of reason, humane letters, and Sacred Scripture, that they have passed the period of

the course in our halls, that they have been called to examination and that they have proved themselves well versed in all these studies and in the habits of learning, and, further, that they are qualified to be admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts."

After receiving their degrees, the graduates were sent forth by Dr. Ronald P. McArthur with this admonition:

You have undertaken a way of life that at once perfects you and lays upon you a great responsibility: You must combat the world, the flesh, and the devil by never letting the substitutes look true, and by advancing the cause of Christ in every way you can.

Unless you and others like you live for the truth there will be no civilization worthy of the name, no family life, no education — in short, no future we would wish to consider.

The ceremonies were presided over by Bishop John J. Ward, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, acting as the delegate of His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Manning.

PRESIDENT'S CHARGE TO GRADUATES

The following is the complete text of the Charge delivered to the Graduates by Dr. Ronald P. McArthur at the Commencement Exercises June 4, 1977.

The best of the pagan philosophers knew somehow that God ruled the world, and that men, to reach their fulfillment, must be joined to Him. Revelation teaches that God *made* the world, that everything is subject to His providence, and that men are destined to see Him face to face. It teaches further that the only means of reaching that end is through Christ and the grace He bestows.

The world, the flesh, and the devil have succeeded, through the cleverest of means, in obscuring these truths, and of finding an infinity of substitutes for them.

You have, in your labors at this college, studied these substitutes, weighed the options, and seen as few have



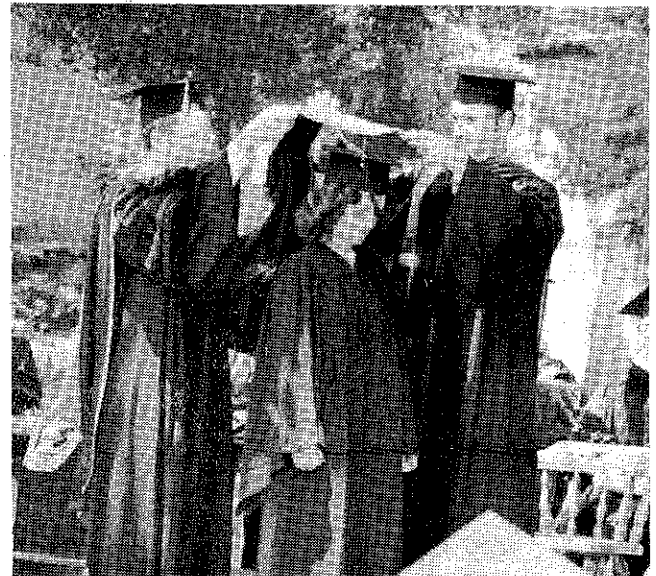
seen, the beauty and cogency of the truth. You have, further, under the patronage of St. Thomas, studied in his own works the highest truths about God Himself and about our relationship to Him.

You have undertaken a way of life that at once perfects you and lays upon you a great responsibility: You must combat the world, the flesh, and the devil by never letting the substitutes look true, and by advancing the cause of Christ in every way you can.

Unless you and others like you live for the truth there will be no civilization worthy of the name, no family life, no education — in short, no future we would wish to consider.

The burden you must carry is not yours alone, for it is just a version of the cross which, fully and graciously accepted, frees you and those you touch to live as men.

You will succeed if you show all men what you have shown each other here; by doing so, you will fulfill the obligation you incur when you say you are Christians.



REPRINT AVAILABLE

A reprint of Rev. Christopher J. O'Toole's commencement address entitled, "The Way to Greatness," is available by writing the college.

FATHER O'TOOLE AWARDED ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MEDALLION

The St. Thomas Aquinas Medallion was awarded to Rev. Christopher J. O'Toole, C.S.C., recently retired provincial superior of the Southern Province of the Holy Cross Order, during commencement exercises June 4th, 1977.

The medallion, struck in silver by the firm of Damiano Colombo in Milan, Italy, in commemoration of the 7th Centenary of St. Thomas Aquinas' death, is awarded annually by the Board of Governors in recognition of those who "have demonstrated by their life and work, an extraordinary dedication to God and His Church."

The medallion was presented on behalf of the Board of Governors by Mr. Thomas P. Sullivan, Chairman.

FACULTY PROFILE

ALUMNI NEWS



Mrs. Molly Gustin

"If you are going to read books, isn't it obvious that you should read the best ones?" So states Dr. Molly Gustin about the kind of education one receives at Thomas Aquinas College. "After all, it takes a great mind to get something out of a minor work, but anybody can learn from the great works."

Dr. Gustin, in her second tour of duty as a tutor, first came to the college in 1972. Because of previous commitments, she had to return to Portland State University at the end of the 1974 school year. She has now returned and Portland State's loss is Thomas Aquinas College's gain.

"I'm so happy to be back," says Dr. Gustin. "Thomas Aquinas College is different from other colleges in that students leave it better off than when they entered. I don't pretend to know all the reasons, but I know some. Here, everything which is dealt with is important. There is no tendency to take refuge in the trivial because it is safe. Here the intellect is valued, in marked contrast to the 'minds-off' policy that is so prevalent elsewhere. This is due perhaps to the fact that no one here doubts the existence of the goal of intellectual activity, i.e. truth, without which study deteriorates into dogmatic aimlessness and sterility, or worse."

Dr. Gustin received her Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University in 1957 and her Master's in 1958. In 1961, she received, also from Indiana, a PhD in music.

"I decided to go back to college when my children started school. What prodded me was that I wanted to find out why contemporary music sounded the way it did — not sociologically, but formally. With this study came other concerns and questions, primarily the question of order. This led me into mathematics, for in both music and mathematics, order is most easily seen. Furthermore, they are close to each other in that they have a similar history, each having deteriorated

from queen to handmaiden to... tool."

Dr. Gustin taught at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland from 1962-1967, Park College in 1967-1968, and Portland State from 1968 to her coming to Thomas Aquinas College in 1972.

"The primary reason why the curriculum at Thomas Aquinas College is important," continues Dr. Gustin, "is that it is so appropriate to our times. Today, the study of the past is more important than ever because our intellectual and moral roots are being destroyed. Life-giving beliefs and habits, previously maintained by traditions, are rapidly being eradicated. The great writers of the past can help us recover and discover intellectual substantiation for actions and beliefs whose goodness and truth have long been too obvious to be questioned, and which therefore are too often easily swept away for lack of an intellectual anchor. Such studies as we do provide this anchor, and thus free us from blind espousal of twentieth century nihilistic dogmas."

Dr. Gustin is the author of many articles and books, among them "A Theory of Roots" published by the Yale Journal of Music Theory, and *Tonality*, published by the Philosophical Library.

ADMISSIONS REPORT

The Admissions Office reports that the freshman class for 1977-1978 has been filled and applications are now being accepted for the class of 1978-1979.

Mr. Dennis Koller, Director of Admissions, has announced that he will be touring the country in October speaking about the importance of Catholic liberal education in our times. "I will spend a week on the East Coast and two weeks in the mid-West," states Mr. Koller. "If you or some group with which you are affiliated would like to hear about liberal education, please contact me. It is not too early to start organizing for the fall. Last year friends of the college sponsored my speaking engagements and the results were outstanding. I am firmly convinced that the more people hear and appreciate the importance of traditional Catholic liberal education, the better it is for them, for their children and, hopefully, for society."

1975

William Gilles is hard at work completing his Masters Degree in Business Administration at U.C.L.A. Bill and his wife Paula Petrini Gilles welcomed their first child, William Peter, last September.

Norman DeSilva has completed his course work for his Doctorate in Philosophy at Universite Laval in Quebec and has been hired as an Instructor in Philosophy at St. Foy College in Quebec, Canada. Norman and **Maureen Barlow DeSilva**, a 1976 Thomas Aquinas College graduate, just had their first child, John Gerard, on May 5, 1977.

Also in the Doctoral Program at Laval are **William Sockey**, **Michael Fox**, **David Rioux**, and 1976 graduate **Maureen Walker**.

Marya Grimm has decided to give up her teaching assignment at Divine Savior Elementary School to pursue a graduate degree in literature at U.C.L.A.

Steven Six has been promoted to Supervisor of the Pittsfield, Massachusetts branch of Service Master Company. Steven was one of forty applicants interviewed for the position.

Thomas Kaiser has been accepted to the Ph.D. Program in Biology at both U.C.L.A. and the University of California at Davis. As of this writing, he has not made his choice as to which school to attend. Tom and his wife **Paula Grimm Kaiser**, also a 1975 Thomas Aquinas College graduate, announced the birth of their first child, Thomas Joseph, born April 27th.

1976

Daniel Grimm and **Rose Teichert Grimm** welcomed their first child, Wendy Irene, into the world on May 1st. Daniel has just completed his first year at McGeorge Law School in Sacramento, California.

Martha Schaeffer is enjoying teaching sixth grade at Our Lady of Mercy School in Daly City, California.

Maureen Gahan and **Richard Cross** have just finished their first year at the University of Indiana's graduate program in history of science.

SENIOR ADDRESS

Following is the Senior Address delivered by Senior Class Representative Michael Waldstein. Mr. Waldstein will pursue graduate studies in philosophy at the University of Dallas where he was awarded a full scholarship.

Your Excellency, Reverend Fathers, Tutors and Administrators of Thomas Aquinas College, Parents and Friends:

It is a great joy for us, the third graduating class of Thomas Aquinas College, to express our gratitude for what we have received in the past four years. They have been filled in a singular way by God's gifts and blessings.

Four of these gifts seem especially worthy of note.

First, we have been blessed with a campus of extraordinary natural beauty. What a great good this is can become clearer if one considers that disregard of the divinely ordained order of nature is one of the principal defects of our age. In contrast to this it has always been held in the Catholic tradition that the order of nature is the order which roots and stabilizes our life. St. John of the Cross, for example, recommends to those who spend much time in thought and contemplation to look frequently at the things of nature in order to keep themselves sane and sound of mind.

Secondly, we have been able to live in a real community which supported each one of us with its moral goodness and love of truth. It brings to life something like the spirit of the Socratic Dialogues: the spirit of seeking earnestly and with all one's strength the things which are better than oneself in order to serve them. In this community this spirit has been formed and uplifted by common prayer and Sacramental Life, the center of which lies, not in our tutors, but in Christ our Lord.

Thirdly, through this community we have been led into that larger community of learning with which are associated the names of Aristotle, St. Augustine and St. Thomas. The tradition of this community, the tradition of perennial philosophy, is one of the greatest gifts one can receive today where often skepticism and personal whim go for profundity.



The most important aspect, finally, is that through living here we had the opportunity to grow closer to the highest community: the Holy Catholic Church. Through the study of theology we have become sharers in its wisdom and through the Sacraments sharers in its Life.

For these gifts and for many others, we thank first of all our Lord from Whom they come.

But God gives through the generosity of others. Therefore, we thank all you who have founded this college and established it in the face of great odds, all you who have supported it both spiritually and materially, and all you parents who have had the courage to send us here and made the sacrifices necessary for us to attend.

To all you we pledge to unfold more fully in our lives the seeds which you have sown.

College Appoints Resident Assistant

Miss Anne Wynne, a 1975 graduate of Thomas Aquinas College, has been retained as Resident Assistant at the college. She will work under the college's Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Miss Wynne will live on campus and will provide students, primarily the freshmen, with academic and other personal counseling to help them become acclimated to the program. In addition to this, she will have supervisory control over student prefects; help seniors with plans for graduate studies and careers; place students seeking part-time work and organize alumni affairs. She obviously will be busy.