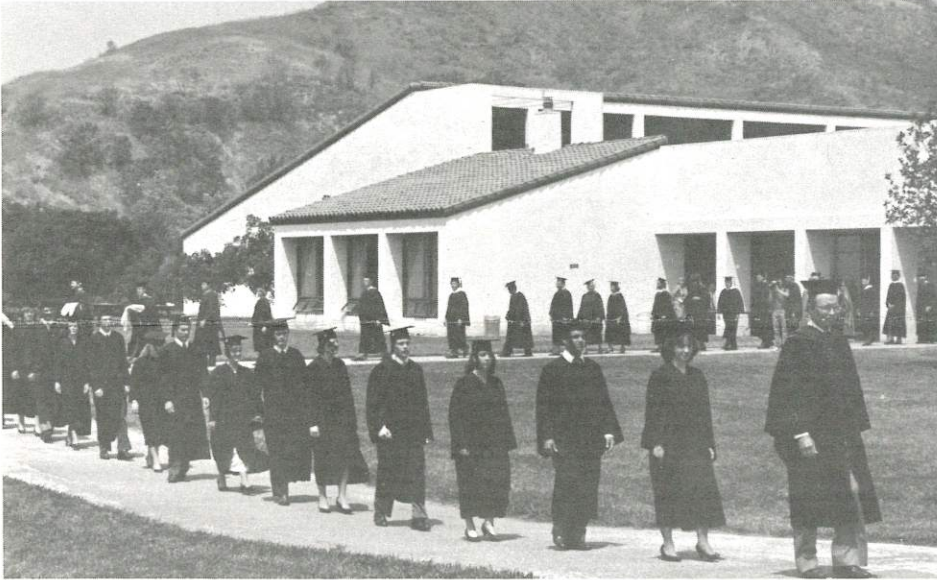
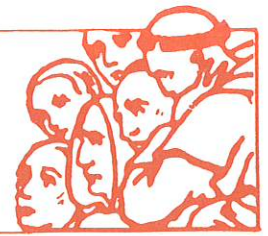




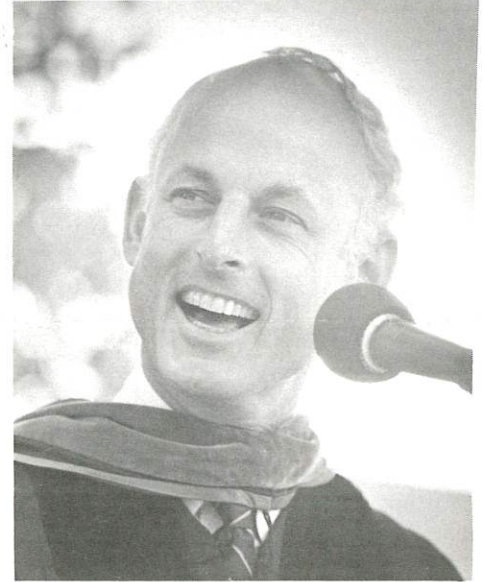
Thomas Aquinas College NEWSLETTER

Summer, 1986

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



The fanfare has been played and the academic procession — led by the senior tutor — leaves the gallery of St. Joseph Commons signaling the beginning of the Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 1986 on June 7.



Ventura (Co.) Star-Free Press photo

Lewis Lehrman called the Declaration of Independence "the irrevocable covenant of our national birth".

Lewis E. Lehrman Addresses Class of 1986

27 Receive Degrees in 12th Commencement

"You are charged, beginning this day, with maintaining, advancing, defending, and protecting your Catholic heritage — its Faith, its Hope, its Charity, and all its learning and culture," President Ronald P. McArthur told the 27 members of the Class of 1986 receiving the Bachelor of Arts degree during the College's 12th annual Commencement on Saturday, June 7.

Most Rev. John J. Ward, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was the principal celebrant of the Baccalaureate Mass on June 7 and presided at Commencement for His Excellency, Most Rev. Roger M. Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles. In his remarks during Commencement, Bishop Ward said: "The Archbishop mandated me to express his heartiest best wishes to all who would be honored today, the graduates and those who made their graduation possible."

The graduates' responsibility for maintaining and advancing our heritage as Catholics and as citizens stated in the President's charge was expressed

also in the Commencement address as well as in the Baccalaureate homily.

In his Commencement address, Lewis E. Lehrman, chairman of Citizens for America, Washington, D.C., said: "Let us pledge never to be moved from Our Lord's purpose by fear, by threats, but let us go forward. . . full in our knowledge that it is up to us, to you, the standard-bearers of faith and freedom, to make the American dream come true."

In his address, Mr. Lehrman placed fresh emphasis on the meaning of the Declaration of Independence. "The Declaration of Independence," he said, "does bind us, for it is no glittering generality, but instead the first law of the land. . .".

Calling for a national renewal originating in the principles of our faith and the American founding, Mr. Lehrman stated: "If we desire not merely success for ourselves, but triumph for all Americans who strive for independence, self-esteem and honor — and freedom for all members of the family

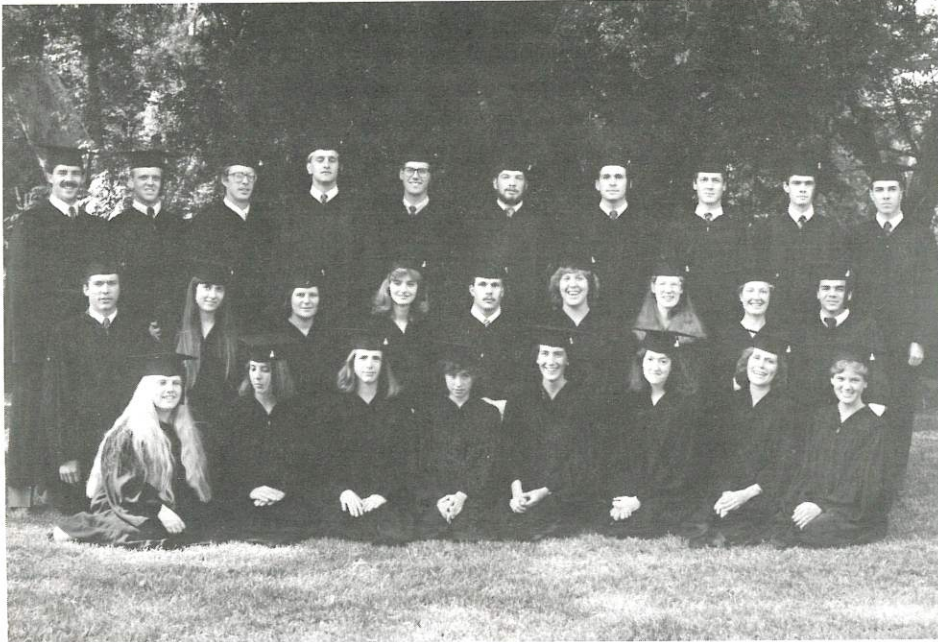
of man on earth — we must be bold. . .".

Lewis E. Lehrman, a former businessman, came close to winning the governorship of New York in his 1982 campaign against Mario Cuomo. In 1983, President Ronald Reagan chose Mr. Lehrman to serve as chairman of Citizens for America which was founded to coordinate a campaign of ideas on behalf of President Reagan's economic and national security policies.

In his homily during the Baccalaureate Mass of the Holy Spirit, Rev. Gerald A. Buckley, O.P., director of Western Dominican Preaching, San Francisco, told the Class of 1986: "You graduates of Thomas Aquinas College are bearing witness to reality; you are bearing witness to God; you are bearing witness to truth."

Fr. Buckley noted the tragedy of Western civilization in which God has been eliminated as the center of all human history. This tragedy, he said, is a victory on the part of Satan and anything that diverts us from serving, knowing, and loving God in this life is poison.

The Class of 1986



First row, left to right: Julia Brilliant, *Petaluma, Calif.*; Patricia Goyette, *Aurora, Colo.*; Regina Corley, *Fort Myers, Fla.*; Jessie Ellis, *Lancaster, Calif.*; Margaret Isaacson, *Lake Forest, Ill.*; Mary Bridget Neumayr, *Thousand Oaks, Calif.*; Elena Cervantes, *Whittier, Calif.*; Elizabeth Milligan, *Glenview, Ill.* Second row, left to right: Joseph Pfeiffer, *Racine, Wis.*; Karen Kuss, *Santee, Calif.*; Marianna Babey, *Winnipeg, Man.*; Michaela Dawson, *Olympia, Wash.*; Anton Pegis, *Riverside, Calif.*; Paula Halbmaier, *Orofino, Ida.*; Louise Schmitt, *Lancaster, Mass.*; Grace Mohun, *Novato, Calif.*; Phillip Chavez, *La Mirada, Calif.* Third row, left to right: Samuel Shaneyfelt, *Grants Pass, Oreg.*; Michael Van Hecke, *Colgate, Wis.*; Michael Walsh, *Lancaster, Calif.*; Paul Lenzen, *Sidney, Nebr.*; Philippe Moreau, *Victoria, B.C.*; Philip Carey, *Delta, B.C.*; Mark Zepeda, *Forks, Wash.*; Maximilian Mohun, *Novato, Calif.*; John Meckley, *Lake Oswego, Oreg.*; Sean Kramer, *San Francisco, Calif.*

Sean Kramer Gives Senior Address

In his Senior Address at the June 7 Commencement, Sean Kramer expressed gratitude to "Our Lord, our families and friends, and this College" for what the graduates have been given "which is bound up with our desires for eternal life in Jesus Christ", and their hope of achieving happiness which cannot be reached without Christ.

Mr. Kramer noted that there are obstacles which block men from attaining the happiness with Christ for which they have been created, chiefly man's sensory nature and the weakness of man's reason. Quoting Pope Pius XI, he said: "It is, therefore, important to make no mistake in education. . .".

Mr. Kramer marked the importance of finding "the teaching whose knowledge is life. . .". Such teaching, he stated, is the teaching of Christ entrusted to the Church and the philosophical tradition found preeminently in the writing of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Identifying the principal teachings of the philosophical tradition, among them that man becomes free by submitting to the truth that is above him, Sean Kramer said: "It is such a notion of freedom that is implied in the traditional understanding of liberal education." "The whole of this kind of education," he said, "will be for the sake of wisdom, which is knowledge of God."

Fulfilling Declaration of Independence Is Today's Great Issue: Lewis Lehrman

"The great issue before all Americans is whether we shall fulfill at home the promise of the Declaration of Independence and hold out abroad this charter of our liberties to a world longing to be free," Lewis E. Lehrman, chairman of Citizens for America, told the Class of 1986 in his Commencement address on June 7.

Examining the principles on which the U.S. was founded, Mr. Lehrman said that this country was established on religious faith, family life, the natural law, and the Judeo-Christian code.

Noting that the first principles of the American founding are contained in the Declaration of Independence, "the founding law", Mr. Lehrman said that today the country is engaged in a great civil war — "an intellectual civil war" — between those who uphold the fundamental principles of the American founding and those who counsel compromise of those principles.

Analyzing a central proposition in the Declaration, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. . . life. . . liberty. . . and the pursuit of happiness", Mr. Lehrman said that the U.S. is a nation dedicated to a religious proposition, a principle of natural theology. "Never before has an empire of freedom been conceived and consecrated to a principle of natural law applicable to all men everywhere and for all time," Mr. Lehrman said. He added that the link between religion and American politics is indissoluble because the American Revolution itself rested on the natural law.

Citing major examples of the nation's failure today to follow its founding principles, Mr. Lehrman said that despite the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 ruling in *Roe v. Wade*, the child about to be born is protected by the Declaration of

Independence. Calling the *Roe v. Wade* decision the legalization of a crime against the law of God and the supreme law of the land, he concluded that that decision has no binding authority on us as a permanent rule of law or general rule of political action.

Noting America's failure to adhere to its first principles in economics, Mr. Lehrman cited the "pathetic results" of "welfare state spending" and said that the way to full human dignity, self-esteem, and independence of the self-governing family is found in the Declaration of Independence and the natural law.

Asserting that in recent rulings the U.S. Supreme Court overthrew the objective moral order and the consensus established in law and precedent by our forefathers, Mr. Lehrman called for the reconstruction of the nation's laws and policies and the restoration of the American republic.

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion



Nine-year-old John De Silva accepts the Medallion honoring his father, Dr. Norman P. De Silva, from Frederick J. Ruopp, chairman of the College's Board of Governors.



As President McArthur looks on, Fr. Gerard G. Steckler, S.J., left, accepts the Medallion honoring Fr. Thomas A. McGovern, S.J., on behalf of Fr. McGovern's family.



The new design of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion bears the figure of St. Thomas adapted from a painting by Botticelli, circa 1480.

Presentation of the Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallions for 1986 had special meaning as the College honored during the June 7 Commencement ceremonies two of its faculty members who died in 1985: Rev. Thomas A. McGovern, S.J., and Dr. Norman P. De Silva.

The Medallion honoring the memory of Fr. McGovern paid tribute to him for having exemplified in his life and work as a priest and teacher an unfailing and unquestioned adherence to the Church's magisterium; for encouraging in his students a dedication to God and the Church similar to his own; for

his defense of the Blessed Sacrament in his writings.

The Medallion presented in honor of Dr. De Silva was awarded in recognition of his exemplary dedication to God as a Christian, a husband and father, and as a Catholic teacher, and for his having manifested in suffering prior to his death the suffering of Christ. It honored Dr. De Silva's faith, hope, and charity, and his acceptance of God's will.

The 1986 Medallions were the first of a unique design that were produced for the College this year. Struck in fine

silver, the new Medallions bear the figure of St. Thomas Aquinas and the emblem of the sun from the College shield. They carry the inscription, *In sapientia manet sicut sol* ("A holy man continueth in wisdom as the sun"), Ecclesiasticus 27:12.

Established in 1975 and awarded annually by the Board of Governors on behalf of the College community, the Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion is the highest honor the College bestows. Its recipients include Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1982) and Congressman Henry J. Hyde (1983).

Board of Governors Elects Two New Members

James P. Miscoll, executive vice president and executive officer-Southern California, Bank of America, Los Angeles, and Henry J. Zeiter, M.D., who is in practice at the Zeiter Eye Clinic which he established in Stockton, Calif., were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Governors earlier this year.

Mr. Miscoll, a member of the Bank of America managing committee and chairman of the board of BankAmerica Foundation, is a member of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce executive committee and chairman of the LA2000 Project. He holds the B.A. from Marquette University, the M.A. from the University of Wisconsin, and is a graduate of the Harvard University Advanced Management Program.

Dr. Zeiter, who received his B.A. and M.D. degrees from the University of Western Ontario (Canada), has taught at the Kresge Eye Institute and Wayne State University, Detroit, and at San Joaquin County Hospital, Stockton. A member of the American Board of Ophthalmology and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, he was a contributing author for the Time-Life publication, *The Mind*. His papers have appeared in professional journals.

In April, the Board of Governors regretfully accepted the resignation of Patrick James Kirby. Mr. Kirby, a board member since 1979, also served the College as a member of the Board of Visitors and was the 1980-81 national chairman of the President's Council.

National Press Focus on College

Articles on Thomas Aquinas College are appearing in national publications this summer and fall. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* featured the College in its July 30, 1986, issue and *National Review* will carry a report on the College in early September. For the *National Review* story, contributing editor Tom Bethell visited the campus in June to interview students, alumni, and faculty.

Columbia, the Knights of Columbus magazine, has scheduled a 3,500-word article on religious vocations that have been nourished at the College. Written by Terri Vorndran (Class of 1976), the article is based on telephone interviews and correspondence with alumni in priestly and/or religious life around the world.

Development Director's Memo

E. William Sockey III moved to California from New York to become Director of Development at Thomas Aquinas College in January. A 1975 graduate of the College, he holds the M.A. in philosophy from Laval University. Mr. Sockey served as executive director of Catholics United for the Faith for eight years before returning to Thomas Aquinas this year.

As I take up the responsibilities of Director of Development, it is encouraging to see the progress which the College has made since the first days when I attended Thomas Aquinas as a student. The students and faculty continue to be dedicated in pursuing the College's carefully thought-out educational program. The curriculum has actually been improved somewhat over the years. What is most encouraging, however, is that the College has developed a base of financial support which has finally put it within striking distance of financial stability.

The financial record shows that the contributions received by the College more than cover the difference between income from student fees and annual operating expenses. At the present time, however, the excess is absorbed in servicing the loans which the College was forced to take out in order to establish the campus at its present location after the move from Calabasas in 1978. Efforts to repay those loans continue. When this is accomplished, the College will be able to direct its efforts toward building permanent classroom and dormitory buildings.

One disadvantage under which we labor is our lack of a large base of older alumni, an important source of contributions for most colleges. Although almost 50 percent of our alumni contribute to the College — and this is a much larger percentage than at most colleges — there are only 400 Thomas Aquinas alumni, almost all of whom are under 40. This situation will, of course, improve with time.

In the past year, the College's small-donor base has increased by one-half to nearly 1,500 contributors and the President's Council has increased by eight percent to 130 members. The outlook for the College remains bright and in the meantime the academic program remains a great success. Yet there is much work to be done in establishing the College on a firm financial foundation that will enable it to develop to-

ward its goal of accommodating 350 students.

I would like to enlist the aid of *all* who believe in Thomas Aquinas College to help us achieve the financial stability needed for the College to grow and prosper. Your generous contributions are always gratefully appreciated. We would also appreciate anything you can do to help us contact new contributors, particularly those who may be in a position to make very large donations.

Free literature about the College is available for your use on request. We are more than willing to travel to meet any potentially large contributors who may wish to learn more about the College. If you have any ideas on how you may be able to help, please let me know. The College telephone number is (805) 525-4417.

E. William Sockey III

1986 Commencement Audio Tapes Available

Audio tape cassettes of the 1986 Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement may be ordered in the following formats: Cassette #1, the Baccalaureate Mass (including the homily by Rev. Gerald A. Buckley, O.P.); Cassette #2, the Commencement ceremonies (including the Commencement address by Lewis E. Lehrman and the Senior Address). A donation of \$5.00 is requested for each of these cassettes. To order: Please write to the Director of Public Affairs, Thomas Aquinas College, making your check payable to Thomas Aquinas College.

Your Prayers Are Requested

Please pray for the repose of the souls of these friends and benefactors of the College: **Mrs. St. Aubyn**, San Francisco, Calif.; **Mrs. Gertrude Mary Berquist**, St. Paul, Minn., mother of Mr. Marcus R. Berquist, tutor and member of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors; **Mrs. Emma Bauer**, Phoenix, Ariz.; **Rev. Frederic A. Bieter**, St. Paul, Minn.; **Rev. William J. Borer**, Tekamah, Nebr.; **Mr. Dan Coleman**, Greenbrae, Calif.; **Dr. Jeremiah Dailey**, Wahiawa, Hawaii; **Mr. Charles Dunn**, Los Angeles, Calif.; **Mr. Charles R. Eldridge**, Newport Beach, Calif.; **Rev. L. J. Fisher**, S.A., Garrison, N.Y.

You Can Help With Admissions

Most of us who have attended Thomas Aquinas College are convinced that our lives are better for that attendance. This unique curriculum of Catholic liberal education aims at improving the student as a human being, a Catholic, and a citizen. It succeeds in almost every case.

As the College's Director of Admissions, my responsibility is to bring this academic program into the lives of those young men and women who will want it if they know it exists. This is a surprisingly difficult and — sometimes — frustrating task, but it is most worthwhile.

Having been in this position for a number of years and having encountered, several years after their graduation, those whom I helped through the admission procedures, I know the value of my work. Bringing a knowledge of Thomas Aquinas College to young men and women benefits them, the Church, and the country.

Please help me in this effort by using the form enclosed with this *Newsletter* to obtain literature on the College for distribution to young people who will be most interested in it.

Thomas J. Susanka
Director of Admissions

New Video Based on Mother Teresa's Visit

The visit of Mother Teresa of Calcutta to Thomas Aquinas College at Commencement, 1982, has provided the basis for a powerful new television program, *Mother Teresa: A Ray of Light*. This 46-minute broadcast-quality videotape gives an intimate view of Mother Teresa and her work. Mother Teresa's response to abortion and family-planning is clear in this full-color video presentation.

This videotape combines film of Mother Teresa's visit to the College with rare footage of her first home for the dying. Its sound track blends the music of sitars and tabla drums with the joy of the Grimm Family Choir.

Produced by Jim Drewry with permission of the Missionaries of Charity, this videotape may be ordered direct from: Jim Drewry Productions, P.O. Box 1779, Santa Monica, CA 90406-1779. Please make checks payable to Jim Drewry Productions. Price per tape: \$49.95 plus \$3.00 handling. California residents add 6% tax. Request Beta or VHS format.