



# THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1996 - 1997

## Among National Liberal Arts Colleges

### Thomas Aquinas College Ranked 12th Best Value

The top-selling college guide in America, *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges*, has ranked Thomas Aquinas College the 12th best value among national liberal arts colleges. The "best value" category was added to this year's guide to aid parents and students in their search for high quality education at an affordable price.

In the preface to the new section the editors wrote, "Because *U.S. News* believes that the best values are found among schools that are above average

educationally, **only colleges and universities in the top tier or tiers of their respective categories in the quality rankings were considered for evaluation in the [best value] lists.**" The editors compared quality rankings with the cost of tuition, room and board to determine the top 40 values among national liberal arts colleges.

The only Catholic liberal arts college to make the list is Thomas Aquinas College. Two other California colleges, Claremont McKenna and Pomona, were ranked 20th and 29th respectively.

Commenting on the College's ranking, Thomas Aquinas College President Thomas E. Dillon said, "It is gratifying to see the growing national recognition of the value of Thomas Aquinas College's educational program. What is most important, however, and what we are particularly proud of, is what we are accomplishing in the classroom day by day: cultivating intellectual virtue in our students, developing their minds through rigorous seminars on the greatest books, and giving them a good beginning in their pursuit of wisdom."



## U. S. Supreme Court Justice on the Constitution

### Justice Antonin Scalia Addresses Students

Thomas Aquinas College was privileged to welcome Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia on January 24 to deliver a lecture to more than 500 students, faculty and guests in St. Joseph Commons. Justice Scalia found an attentive forum for presenting his views regarding strict Constitutional interpretation.

Justice Scalia was introduced by the Honorable William P. Clark, himself a former Justice of the California Supreme Court and member of President Reagan's cabinet.

Although the day marked the beginning of semester break, virtually the

it did then. Today, he opined, the duties of the Constitutional Congress would be relegated to aides; then, the founding fathers worked long and hard themselves and allowed no "leaks" in the process.

Justice Scalia lamented the current practice of judicial activists wherein the Constitution is used to invent new rights never intended by the founding fathers. In the good old days, he said, people might complain, "There ought to be a law!" Nowadays, "It's unconstitutional!" is the cry of many. The broadening of constitutional rights diminishes the rights of the majority and removes one

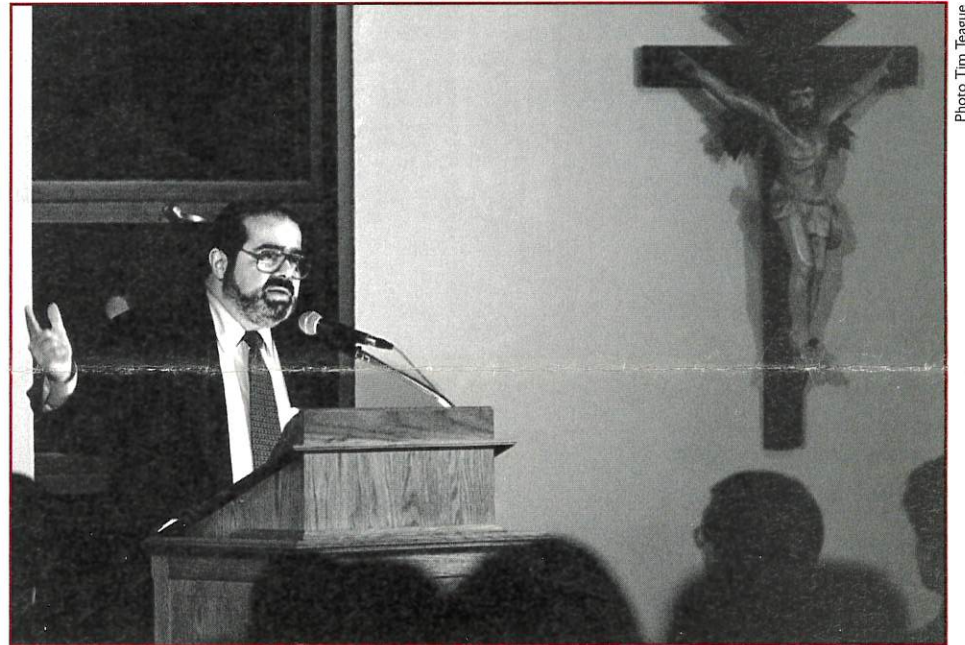


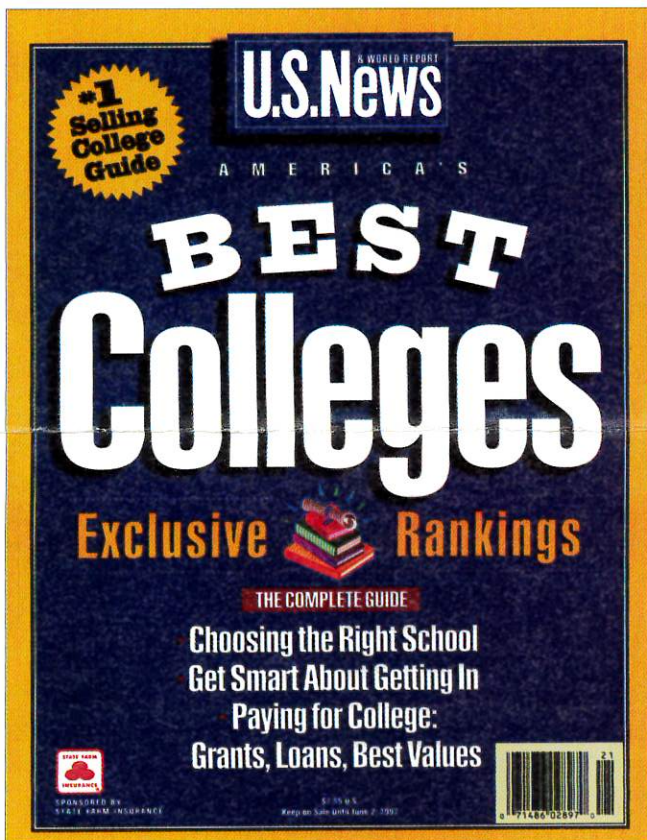
Photo: Tim Teague

Justice Antonin Scalia delivers a lecture to students and faculty at Thomas Aquinas College. The entire Thomas Aquinas College student body was on hand for a riveting civics lesson. The Justice reviewed the unique process through which the United States Constitution was created, a process which, he said, could not now unfold as

thing after another from the political process, the Justice asserted.

Speaking before an audience that knows the merits of studying original texts, Justice Scalia characterized himself as "a textualist, an originalist." The

*Continued on p. 4*



This *U.S. News & World Report* publication lists Thomas Aquinas College as among the best values in the U.S.

### In This Issue

College Named Top Value by U S News & World Report .....	1
Supreme Court Justice Scalia at Thomas Aquinas College .....	1
From the President .....	2
Francis J. Milligan, Robert H. Furey Remembered .....	2
Campaign Updates .....	3
President's Council News .....	3
On Campus News .....	4
The Class of 2000 .....	4

805/525-4417 • FAX 805/525-0620

### Calendar of Events

March 7, 1997 Friday Night Lecture Dr. Ralph McInerney University of Notre Dame	March 21, 1997 Friday Night Lecture Dr. Ronald Richard
March 18, 1997 President's Council Awards Reception Tacoma, Washington	April 11, 1997 Piano Recital Juana Zayas



### THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE

10000 N. OJAI ROAD  
SANTA PAULA, CA 93060-9622

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Santa Paula, CA  
Permit No. 214

# From The President's Desk

The following is the text of Dr. Dillon's Convocation address which is directed especially to the incoming freshmen at the opening of the academic year.

This past summer, I had a precious opportunity to re-read and discuss Plato's *Gorgias*, a dialogue included in our freshmen philosophy tutorial. In it, we are explicitly confronted with the fundamental question we must all ask ourselves: How ought we to live our lives? Two characters in the dialogue, Callicles and Socrates, articulate fundamentally opposed positions in answer to this question. Callicles asserts that the only acceptable life is one of unrestrained appetite and pursuit of pleasure. "A man who is going to live a full life," he proclaims, "must allow his desires to become as mighty as may be and never repress them. When his passions have come to full maturity, he must be able to serve them through his courage and intelligence, and gratify every fleeting desire as it comes into his heart." For Callicles, if there is any use for the intelligence at all, it is only to be at the service of appetite.

Socrates, on the other hand, points out that there are in fact two ways of cultivating either the body or the soul, one aimed at pleasure, the other at the best good. Arguing for the importance of restraint and self-control, Socrates maintains that more beneficial and happy than the life of insatiable self-indulgence, more beneficial and happy even than the life of politics, is an ordered life immersed in philosophy.

Callicles, as you might expect, finds Socrates' view about the importance of the philosophic life, and the earnest pursuit of wisdom which it entails, ridiculous - at least for a grown man. As Callicles succinctly puts his view, "Philosophy does have a certain charm, if one engages in it in one's youth and in moderation, but if one dallies overlong, it leads to ruin." A life devoted to phi-

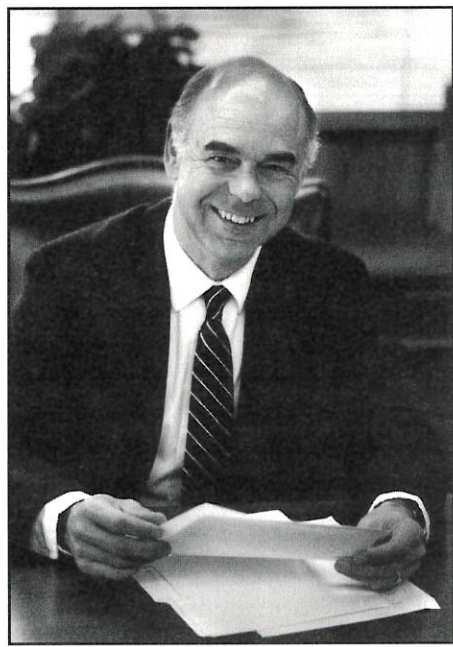


Photo: Tim Teague

College President Thomas E. Dillon

losophy, he says, puts one out-of-touch with the details of practical daily living, with day-to-day political matters, and with the variety of human pleasures. It is, in fact, disgraceful for a mature man to go faring deeper and deeper into the abyss of philosophy. Callicles advises Socrates to give up his questions and refutations and take up something that will give him a reputation for good sense.

Now if we consider the age in which we live, isn't it apparent that this is becoming more and more the age of Callicles? All around us, it seems, we are urged to pursue every pleasure, to scoff at self-control and self-sacrifice, and to follow our feelings and desires rather than our reason. The life of the mind is denigrated, the pursuit of virtue is ridiculed, and serious inquiry into truth is regarded as a waste of time and of no real consequence.

By coming to Thomas Aquinas College, by devoting yourselves to four years of liberal education, you are standing with Socrates and embracing not Callicles' life of sensual self-indulgence, but rather a life rooted in the love of wisdom and ordered to virtue, especially intellectual virtue.

Such a life is not easy. It demands discipline and self-denial, but it offers genuine freedom and self-direction rather than slavery to the passions, and it is a life that engenders true happiness.

The greatest gift God has given us is our intelligence. In engaging in intellectual activity - in knowing the truth - we are in some measure imitating God

**With Confidence and with Hope,  
let us undertake  
the noble tasks before us.**

in his own activity. Indeed, the most God-like element in us is our intelligence. Knowledge of the truth is a great human good - so good, in fact, that Aristotle was moved to say that we should strain every nerve to live in accordance with reason, that divine element in us which elevates us above the beasts and makes us most like God himself.

The pursuit of wisdom begins in wonder, and we invite you students to fully indulge your sense of wonder as you progress through the curriculum. Socrates says that the unexamined life is not worth living, and our hope is that in your four years here, you will make the most of your unique opportunity to think *reflectively* about the truly wonderful matters which make up our course of studies.

Only by asking questions, only by deep reflection on what you study, can you make these wonders your own. It is important for you to test what you think you know and to ponder what you do not know.

The mind comprehends what is true when it understands reasons and causes. Usually this does not occur except through our wrestling with problems, perplexities and contradictions. The road to wisdom is indeed fraught with many difficulties, impediments, and occasions for wrong turns, but the College can help you make at least a good beginning in your attempt to understand reality. You must keep in mind, however, that the pursuit of wisdom is the work of a lifetime.

Further, there is a great consolation for all of us who study under the light of the Catholic faith. Even though we are prone to error and uncertainty, and even though it is difficult to understand the truth about so many things, we have God's revelation - mediated through the Church - as a guide in our intellectual endeavors. Because our faith can illumine our reason, we can be confident that where our understanding is dark, it can be brought to light. After all, our Lord tells us that He is the light of the world, and if we follow that light as it is reflected in the Gospels and in the teaching Church, then we can advance in understanding, and move toward wisdom - which has God as its source and its end.

So, let us begin this, the first year in the College's second quarter century, with confidence and with hope, and let us undertake the noble tasks before us with all the energy and determination we have.



## Tuition, Fees Remain Unchanged

The College will maintain the same tuition, room and board charges of \$19,200 for a third year, agreed the college's Governors at their meeting on campus last month.

Dr. Dillon noted that the cost of providing the school's curriculum continues to exceed the income it derives from tuition. In addition, Thomas Aquinas College provides substantial institutional student financial aid. "We believe that Catholic liberal education should be available to all who desire it and who are capable of undertaking our difficult curriculum," said Dr. Dillon. "That is why we provide financial aid, and that is why we want to keep our charges as low as possible."

Because of its small endowment, Dr. Dillon said, the College will have to meet rising costs by cutting expenses where it can. "After that we will once again depend upon the generosity of our many faithful donors."

## In Memoriam



Francis J. Milligan, Jr.

& Milligan in Chicago.

He served on the Board of Governors from 1978 and was elected a Governor Emeritus a few months before his death. In 1994, Dr. Dillon presented Frank with the President's Award in recognition of his dedicated service on the Board of Governors.

Frank is survived by his wife of 42 years, Katherine; daughters, Mary Ellen (Miller) Class of 1978, Catherine, Class of 1980, Elizabeth (Colombini), Class of 1986 and Ann (Callaghan), Class of 1991; and son Francis, Class of 1985.

Calling the College "one of the cornerstones in raising our family", Mrs.

The College lost a dear friend when Francis J. Milligan, Jr., passed away in December. Frank was a senior partner in the law firm Hoogendoorn, Talbot, Davids, Godfrey

Milligan has asked that in lieu of flowers, a contribution be made to the Francis J. Milligan Memorial Chapel Fund at Thomas Aquinas College.

The many gifts already received are evidence of all the love and support for this great Catholic man.

A Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, Frank was a member of the national board of directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ). He was an advisory board member of the Apostolate for Family Consecration, a trustee of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, a director of the Serra International Foundation, and former president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago.

At the College's President's Council reception in Chicago last November, Frank delivered a ringing endorsement of the College and urged those present to carry on the great work which has begun there.

May God grant Frank his reward with the Saints.



Kay and Robert Furey

Another loss to the College family occurred November 22, when Robert H. Furey of Redondo Beach died.

"We don't know what grace impelled us toward Thomas Aquinas College, but we are awfully glad something did," wrote Bob Furey last June as he reflected on his association with the College. With a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Notre Dame, Bob worked in that field following his tour in the military service. At 44, he enrolled in law school, taking classes at night while working full-time. His career then was mostly in criminal law and he retired as a Deputy Public Defender

in 1992. Ever the traditional Catholic, Bob felt strongly about the importance of education remaining true to the Church. Typical of his willingness to serve others, in retirement Bob provided pro bono legal aid for transients with Brother Beno in Oceanside, served food to the homeless through Angel's Flight in Hollywood and tutored math and English to youngsters at Para Los Niños in Orange County.

Kay Furey has remained actively interested in the College, donating generously to the Chapel project which was so dear to her late husband. Your prayers are requested.

Please pray also for Mrs. Moses (Bridey) Gahan, mother of Maureen Gahan, Class of 1976. Mrs. Gahan passed away Jan. 25, 1997.

The intentions of all our benefactors, living and deceased, are remembered each day in the Masses and prayers of the College community. Please let us know about your special intentions.

## 25th Anniversary Campaign: Update

In the second half of 1996, donations numbered 2,765 and totaled over \$2,370,000. This brings our Comprehensive Campaign total to more than \$18 million toward the goal of \$25 million. (note graphs)

Longtime Board of Governors member Thomas P. Sullivan and his wife Bette have donated a spectacular parcel of land in the Hollywood Hills to the College. The isolated, view property has been appraised at \$860,000.

Two of our most faithful foundations have continued their support: An Anderson Foundation grant of \$250,000 brings their total giving to nearly one million dollars, while the Dan Murphy Foundation made further gifts in this time period of more than \$347,000.

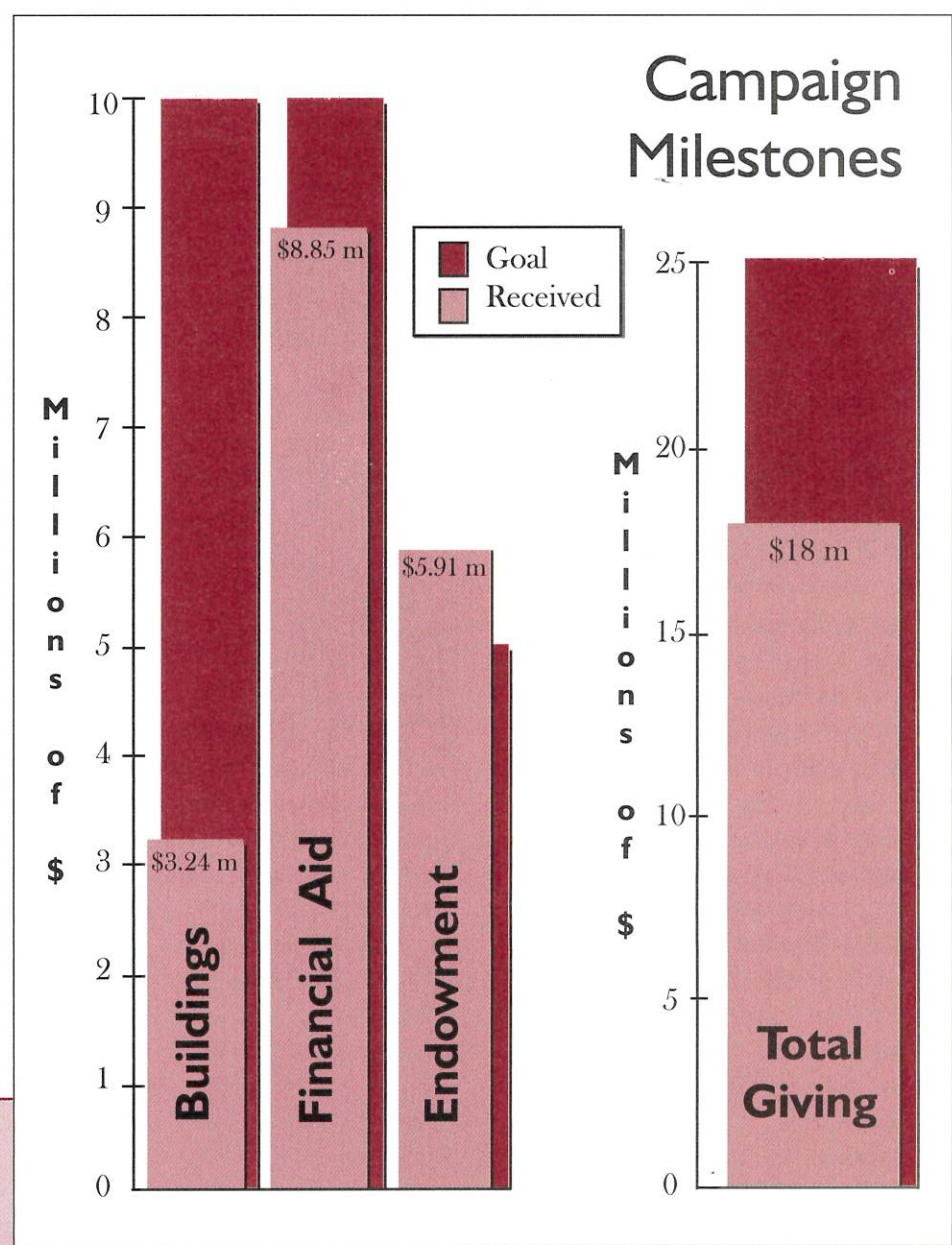
Leading by example, Campaign co-

chairman James L. Barrett and his wife Judy have continued their generous giving, this time with a gift of \$85,000. We are also grateful for a major gift from the Honorable William A. Wilson.

The Homeland Foundation, the John M. Olin Foundation and the Henry Luce Foundation gave \$40,000, \$50,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

Generous donations of more than \$30,000 were graciously given by Mr. & Mrs. John B. Friedrich as well as the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

Finally, gifts to the College of \$25,000 each were received from Mr. & Mrs. James E. Holman, Mrs. Ray Hommes, Dr. & Mrs. William W. Smith, The Odell Fund and the Estate of Abas Neale.

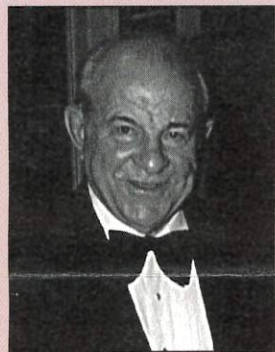


### 25 Years Ago . . .

In 1971, the very first College newsletter reported that a benefit luau held at the Brentwood home of Mr. and Mrs. Parker C. Smith raised \$1,750 for scholarship purposes. For over 25 years, friends have found unique, specific, creative ways to help in the mission of Thomas Aquinas College.

## President's Council

### A Message from Carl N. Karcher, Chairman



My friends: Since the President's Council was first founded in 1978, it has been a mainstay for Thomas Aquinas College. For almost twenty years, the members have made an annual gift of \$1,000, principally to provide financial aid for needy students. In my nineteen years as chairman of this great group of people, I have gotten to know so many fine stu-

dents, teachers and friends of the College. They are really the salt of the earth. They are making a great difference in our Church and in our country.

I will never forget seeing sixty young men ordained in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by our Holy Father, John Paul II, in the order of the Legionaries of Christ. Four of the new priests were alumni of Thomas Aquinas College. You can imagine how happy and proud I was to have been a part of that great achievement.

We need more achievements like this. The world has not become more Catholic in the last twenty years, and, in case you haven't noticed, things haven't gotten less expensive. The cost of providing student financial aid, which was a few hundred thousand dollars in 1978, this year is nearly \$2.4 million. That's why I've asked Dr.

Dillon to establish within the President's Council some new groups to encourage those who can to sacrifice even more to provide this vital help to students. You'll be hearing more about this in coming months. I hope you will accept my invitation to get involved in the President's Council yourself. If you are already a member, please consider increasing your gift to help us at this crucial time.

As you consider my invitation, I'm sure many thoughts move through your mind. Without doubt you are thinking about our sons and daughters, the young people in our families. I imagine that you are also thinking about the state of education these days. And surely you are thinking about the well-being of the Church.

You and I know that new strength

must be given to education and to Christian life. We ourselves can provide this new strength. We have the means and the know-how to make sure that this College thrives and has the financial security and peace of mind needed to do its work: educating young people who will bring new conviction and action into our nation and the Church.

The faculty and students at the College need us - and we need them. The Church and the nation are looking to all of us who have gathered around Thomas Aquinas College. I sincerely invite you to join us.



### Receptions Bring Friends Together, Advance College

We are off to a great start with four President's Council Awards Receptions in just two months. Each event was an opportunity to meet new friends, to share news about the College's progress, and to honor those who have shown outstanding support of the College through their donations and friendship.

More than eighty guests gathered in Santa Barbara, California on Friday, October 11, 1996, for our first reception. Miss Rosemary E. Donohue and Mrs. Jerome K. Doolan hosted this event at the Birnam Wood Golf Club. After the guests mingled and enjoyed the hors d'oeuvres, they were treated to a small concert of Mozart opera excerpts by members of the Grimm family. Honored were: Mrs. Jerome K. Doolan, Sir Daniel Donohue, and the Honorable and Mrs. William P. Clark, as well as other President's Council members from Santa Barbara. Dr. Dillon surprised our ever-faithful Miss Rosemary E.

Donohue with the President's Award for her sixteen years of devoted service to the College, including ten as a Governor of the College.

The historic Union League Club in New York City was the site of the next event, hosted by Mr. and Mrs.

John P. Heffernan on Wednesday, October 23, 1996. Seventy President's Council members and guests gathered to help honor extraordinary friends Miss A. Patricia McDonough (in memoriam), St. Agnes Parish, The Homeland Foundation, the John M. Olin Foundation, and Mr. and Mrs. John P. Heffernan. It was heartening to hear the honorees give impromptu remarks about their involvement with the College. Jim Piereson of the Olin Foundation expressed his admiration for Dr. Dillon's leadership in accreditation by quoting Abraham Lincoln's words, "I can't spare General Grant. He fights!"

Mr. and Mrs. Carl N. Karcher hosted



Jacqueline Slay and  
Virginia Mortensen  
Our Special Events Team



the next reception at the Pacific Club in Newport Beach, California on October 28, 1996. The guests were tickled to find mini Carl's Jr. hamburgers, chicken sandwiches and hot dogs along with the cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. College choir members

entertained the guests. During the formal program, awards were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Karcher, The Most Reverend Norman F. McFarland, Bishop of Orange, and Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. DeLuca, Sr., for their support and friendship to the College for many years. Mr. Karcher also received the President's Award for his distinguished service on the Board of Governors since 1977.

In Chicago's Tavern Club on November 21, 1996, our hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Reilly and Mrs. William J. Isaacson. We were pleased to have Mr. Francis J. Milligan there to introduce Dr. Dillon. Honored were Mr. William J.

Isaacson (in memoriam), Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Kraychy, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Milligan, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Reilly.

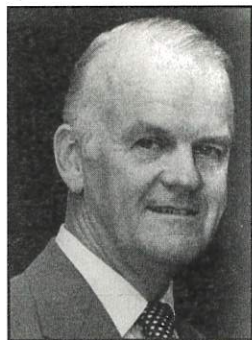
Participants at the President's Council receptions share different facets of the College - our unique Great Books program, the determination to remain true to our founding principles, the spiritual life on campus, and personal anecdotes about the influence of the education received. Our old friends and new acquaintances are enthused to hear about the plans and progress of the College.

After each reception, many guests linger to visit with the College representatives. We enjoy the chance to meet so many of the people whom we have come to know through correspondence.

If you are interested in hosting or attending a reception in your area please call Mrs. Jacqueline Slay or Miss Virginia Mortensen.

Santa Barbara,  
New York,  
Newport  
Beach,  
Chicago

## William Bentley Ball Elected to Board of Governors



William Bentley Ball

Mr. Ball, a Constitutional lawyer noted especially for his defense of religious liberty, has been elected to the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors. Mr. Ball has been counsel in 25 constitutional litigations in the United States Supreme Court, including such landmark cases as *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, *Meek v. Pittenger*, *Bob Jones University v. United States* and *Zobrest v. Catalina Foothills School District*, as well as chief counsel in constitutional litigations before 12 state Supreme Courts and various federal and lower state courts. He received the J.D. degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*.

A partner in the law firm of Ball, Skelly, Murren & Connell, Harrisburg, Penn., Mr. Ball is also adjunct professor at Dickinson Law School, in the area of religious liberty. He has lectured and debated on constitutional law issues at numerous colleges, universities and other public forums and has authored a number of books—most recently *Mere Creatures of the State*—and articles on various legal, educational and moral issues.

Mr. Ball has received honorary LL.D. degrees from numerous universities and schools of law and serves on various boards, including the Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy; Center for Law and Religious Freedom; and Christianity Today Institute.

Commenting on the election of Mr. Ball to the Board, College president Thomas E. Dillon said, "William Bentley Ball is a nationally recognized leader in his field and he brings decades

of advocacy on behalf of religious liberty and Catholic higher education to us at Thomas Aquinas College. We are privileged to have a man of his stature on our Board of Governors."

## Benjamin Wiker, Ph.D., joins Faculty



Dr. Benjamin Wiker

Dr. Wiker received his Ph.D. in Theological Ethics from Vanderbilt University in 1994, writing his dissertation on the interdependence of ethics, politics, physics and metaphysics in Aristotle. He earned his MA in Religious Studies from Vanderbilt in 1986 and his BA in Political Science from Furman University in 1983. Since 1990 he had been at St. Mary's College of Minnesota as Assistant Professor of Philosophy. He had also been teaching in and helping to develop the interdisciplinary CORE program at St. Mary's.

Dr. Wiker, his wife Teresa and their four children have made the transition from Winona, Minnesota to their home in Santa Paula.

Dr. Wiker long hoped to teach at the College and describes the process of co-discovery here a "humbling experience", the Great Books "an intellectual feast", and the students "outstanding! Instead of having to beg students to buy or borrow, let alone read, their texts, these students read them and ask for more."



Lucinda Anderson

## Bon Appetit!

Bon Appetit, the new food service provider on campus, has been winning rave reviews from students and visitors. Under the direction of Lucinda Anderson, 232 students, plus faculty, staff and guests are served daily in St. Joseph Commons. In addition Mrs. Anderson caters special luncheons and banquets on campus.

## New Collection of Saints and Stations are the Gift of Edward & Delores Mills of Wisconsin

On a bright, January day between winter showers, the Berlinger company of Peoria, Illinois, delivered sixteen beautiful travertine marble statues to the College. Salvaged from St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Milwaukee, where they stood for nearly a century, the five-foot high statues of saints are destined to inspire anew from their new home on the campus.



Mr. Mills, a member of the College Board of Governors, came over from his winter home in nearby Carpinteria to watch as the heavy pieces were maneuvered safely into storage. The Mills' gift included an equally inspiring set of carved stone stations of the cross. According to Mr. Mills, the statues came from a church which was being sold to the city of Milwaukee. Not until he was on the way to view them for the first time did Mr. Mills learn that the church was named for St. Thomas Aquinas. What better setting for them now than at the College dedicated to that Saint's honor?



L to R: John Lingenfelter of the Berlinger Co.; Pierre Rioux, Building Maintenance Supervisor; Edward Mills and John Blewett, Vice President for Building & Construction

## Justice Scalia, continued from p. 1

Justice protested those colleagues who advance an agenda through creative constitutional interpreting.

Noting that the issue of original interpretation transcends liberal-conservative lines, Scalia pointed out that he has been criticized by both sides. While liberals accuse him of pushing conservative ideals on the country, conservatives at the same time fault Justice Scalia for not finding in the Constitution their own specific agenda.

Justice Scalia said, "It [broadening the Constitution] is a terribly seductive philosophy. It's wonderful to think that whatever you care passionately about is in the Constitution, especially for judges, because then whenever you decide a case, you're happy. Because, by definition, the answer is what you feel good about. I, on the other hand, don't feel good about some of my decisions. I sometimes wish the answer was something else."

In answer to questions from students, Justice Scalia amplified upon his theme. Some questioners indicated discomfort with the narrow role Scalia claimed was his. The Justice said that his job was to interpret that body of laws that make up the Constitution and no more. "I don't deal in Natural Law. I'm an American judge interpreting American laws. I have my notions of what is moral and immoral and at the point where American law requires me to do something I believe immoral, I will resign. But I will not alter the meaning of a law that's been enacted on the basis of my notions of Natural Law."

In response to a query regarding how to rectify the recent mistakes of the Court, Scalia told his audience that sound judicial principles argue against throwing out all those decisions wholesale. "Although a textualist, an originalist," he laughed, "I am not a nut!" Afterward, Justice and Mrs. Scalia joined the College governors and guests for a dinner in St. Bernardine Library. In remarks following dinner, Justice Scalia, the father of nine, including one ordained as a priest, encouraged the College in its mission to provide a strong Catholic education in a hostile world.

## Freshman Class of 2000 Enters

### Diversity of Experience a Hallmark of New Class

Seventy freshmen from 20 states and four foreign countries joined the student body at Thomas Aquinas College this year. From the four corners of the United States (from Spokane, WA to Madawaska, ME to Augusta, GA to San Diego, CA) and from four continents they came to begin their search together. In many ways they are not alike. Their ages range from 16 to 36 and they come from city and town and farm. Most are steeped in the Catholic faith, some are still searching. Some have nearly a dozen siblings, some are 'only children'. Twenty-five have attended colleges prior to their enrollment here. Yet they have scores in common than their high SAT scores. The high expectations they share are equally impressive.

Jeff Stouffer of Bellingham, Washington feels that others are educated to fill niches while Thomas Aquinas College educates a man to make his own niche.

Nathan Schmiedicke of Greenville,

"God has a special plan for me. I expect to grow into a leader having truth, justice and God leading my way." —Jeff Stouffer, Class of 2000

Michigan expects that his education, which started with home schooling, continued at a large university and now has led him here, will lead him into the priesthood. "When I heard that Thomas Aquinas College had small group guided discussions of the classics instead of lectures I was immediately and excitedly reminded of what Cardinal John Newman said (in "The Idea of a University") about the free exchange of ideas as being the best ways to educate and form truly good men."

Maria Nyambu of Nairobi, Kenya, had a spiritual awakening which made her dissatisfied with the university she was attending. At Thomas Aquinas College, Maria expects "to benefit both academically and spiritually, and that is a

hard bargain to achieve in today's colleges."

Jonathan Bingham, Augusta, Georgia, chose the college because of its educational philosophy and methodology, and the deeper insights to be gained. Jonathan expects to "explore the truth, gain the necessary techniques for deeper understanding and grow closer to Christ."

James Chastek of St Paul, Minnesota says. "I am unsure which excites me more; the truth that at (the College) I would get to read the greatest books of all time, or the truth that I would be surrounded by others who wish to discuss them voluntarily."

Another foreign student is Theodore Christov of Bulgaria, who was disappointed in his previous American educational experience. So he started looking for a fine liberal arts college where he could get personal attention and classmates who shared his appreciation for learning and not just being "degreed". Theodore's goal is to work with international peace missions.