

# THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2019

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 1

### Branching Out

#### Accreditation Secured, Faculty Assembled, Sophomores Committed for New England Campus

In late January, the WASC Senior College and University Commission granted its final approval to Thomas Aquinas College's plan to launch a second campus in Northfield, Massachusetts. With accreditation now secured, Thomas Aquinas College, New England, is one step closer to opening its doors this fall.

"We have been in the process of extending our California accreditation to New England since October, when we received the authorization of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to establish the second campus," explains Admissions Director Jon Daly. "Now that we have WASC's approval, we can formally admit the first freshmen to Thomas Aquinas College, New England — the East Coast members of the Class of 2023."

#### The People

When those new students arrive, they will not be alone. "We have a group of 34 eager freshmen here in California who have signed up to transfer to Massachusetts for their sophomore year," says Mr. Daly. "They will serve as mentors and guides for the new freshmen and, by God's grace, they will go on to become the first graduating class of the New England campus."

Joining the students will be a team of eight tutors who have committed to relocating to the new campus, plus an as-yet undetermined number of administrators. The College has also tapped three members of this year's Senior Class and



one recent graduate to serve as the first resident assistants in New England. "Our goal is to create a sense of continuity between the two campuses," says President Michael F. McLean. "In time, I am sure, New England will develop its own customs, but the two campuses will be united in faith, in spirit, and, of course, in curriculum."

#### The Place

In May 2017 the National Christian Foundation gave the College the beautiful former campus of a preparatory school in Northfield that had been shuttered since 2005. The historic property, located near the Connecticut River, consists of some 100 acres of land and includes residence halls, a library, a chapel, a gymnasium, and ample classroom and administrative space.

Work is under way to prepare the campus for the 2019–20 academic year. "Thanks to the generosity of the College's loyal benefactors, we have raised the funds to prepare our initial classroom building as well as our first men's and women's residence halls," says Vice President Paul J. O'Reilly. "We have also been blessed with a \$1 million gift that will allow us to adapt the chapel for Catholic worship, and we have hired contractors to renovate the gymnasium and indoor pool."

#### Looking Forward

Beyond the renovations, these next few months will make for a busy time in Northfield. "We have two Admissions counselors on site who are available to give tours and to answer questions," says Mr. Daly. The campus chapel is now hosting Mass each Saturday morning,

followed by informal receptions. Additionally, the College will replicate its popular High School Program and Summer Seminar Weekends in New England.

Meanwhile, a date has been set for Convocation, marking the formal start of the first academic year on the new campus: August 24, 2019. The Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield, Massachusetts, will offer the opening Mass of the Holy Spirit and preside at the Matriculation ceremony.

"We are excited to be moving forward, and we are gratified at how warmly we have been welcomed to the region," says Dr. McLean. Among those who have offered kind words is Bishop Rozanski himself. In December His Excellency endorsed the College's eastward expansion on a local television program. "The Catholic faith really pervades the campus. It pervades the campus in the life that will be there, in the studies that will happen," he said. "Franklin County will have a wonderful educational presence for not only the people of Franklin County, but really, well beyond."

#### More:

- Dr. McLean on the new campus.. p.2
- Meet the New England faculty..... p.5
- Our pioneering students..... p.6
- First administrators and RAs..... p.8
- Summer events on both coasts..... p.9

### Commencement 2019

#### Bishop Barron to Serve as College's Speaker

The Most Rev. Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, has accepted President Michael F. McLean's invitation to serve as Thomas Aquinas College's 2019 Commencement Speaker.

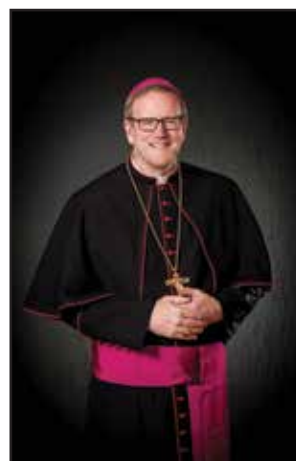
"We are grateful that Bishop Barron, who has been a faithful friend and champion of the College ever since he became our regional bishop in 2015, has agreed to join us for our 45<sup>th</sup> Commencement exercises," says Dr. McLean. "We are honored that he will be part of this important day in the life of the College and for the members of the Class of 2019."

As the Episcopal Vicar of the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region, His Excellency is responsible for overseeing the portion of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that includes the College's California campus. In that capacity, he has visited the campus several times, notably serving as the College's 2016 Convocation Speaker. "It is always a joy to come here," he said during that visit, calling Thomas Aquinas College "one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the country and the pride and joy of the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region."

Bishop Barron is best known as the founder of the Word on Fire media ministry, which has produced hundreds of YouTube videos, garnering some 35 million views worldwide. In addition to publishing numerous books,

essays, and articles on theology and the spiritual life, he has produced and hosted several award-winning documentary series, including *Catholicism*, *The Mass*, and *Catholicism: The Pivotal Players*. In light of his success as a teacher of the Faith, his brother bishops elected him in 2017 to chair the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis.

A devoted disciple of St. Thomas Aquinas, Bishop Barron received a master's degree in philosophy from the Catholic University of America in 1982. After his ordination to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1986, he served for three years as associate pastor at St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Park Ridge, Illinois. In 1992 he earned a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Institut Catholique de Paris. He then joined the theological faculty of Mundelein Seminary, where he served as rector from 2012 until his appointment to the episcopacy in 2015. His Excellency has also served as a visiting



professor at the University of Notre Dame (2002) and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (2007), as well as Scholar in Residence at the Pontifical North American College (2007 and 2010).

"As a priest, bishop, and leader in the U.S. episcopacy, Bishop Barron has been a tireless voice of the New Evangelization, bringing the salvific word of Christ to audiences that might otherwise never encounter it," says President McLean. "We all look forward to hearing the words of wisdom he has to share with our graduates and their families."

At Commencement, His Excellency will serve as the principal celebrant and homilist at the morning's Baccalaureate Mass, then deliver the Commencement Address at the graduation ceremony for the members of the Class of 2019, who hail from across the United States and abroad. Having completed the College's rigorous, four-year curriculum — which includes mathematics, natural science, language, literature, philosophy, and theology — each graduate will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts. These new alumni will go on to a wide variety of pursuits, including law, medicine, business, military service, education, public policy, and journalism, as well as the priesthood and religious life.

# From the Desk of the President

## The Long and Winding Road to New England

The establishment of a second campus marks a milestone in the history of Thomas Aquinas College and is the result of much work by the College's faculty, staff, and Board of Governors, as well as gifts from many generous benefactors.

As you know, the College was founded to guide students to the truth through reading and rigorous discussion of the Great Books conducted under the light of the Catholic faith and in discipleship to our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas. Our program requires students to take an active role in their own education, and it provides as guides the authors of the Great Books: men and women who have thought deeply about life's fundamental questions, and whose answers have shaped our civilization.

The College is small by design, in order to ensure that every student's voice is heard in the classroom and to encourage a close community life. For quite some time we have had many more applicants than we can accept, and we have discussed ways in which we can help more students benefit from our program without diluting the elements that make it so successful in the first place.



### A Second Home

Not wanting to undertake the development of a second campus from scratch, and not wanting to spend a large amount of money purchasing a second campus, the College looked for opportunities to acquire a campus at minimal cost. In 2017 the National Christian Foundation gave us a unique opportunity to expand when it gifted us with most of a campus that once belonged to the Northfield Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts.

The Foundation reviewed more than 100 applications for the property, and in selecting Thomas Aquinas College praised our "commitment to academic excellence" and our "strong leadership." What made the gift even more attractive was the NCF's matching gift pledge of \$5 million over five years to help us prepare the campus and begin operations there. Thanks to the generosity of our Board of Governors and other donors, we are close to having already matched the \$5 million in cash and pledges.

The Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies (which later merged with the Mount Hermon School for Boys) was founded on the site in 1879 by the noted Protestant evangelist Dwight Lyman Moody, who was born in Northfield. His gravesite is on the portion of the campus that will be occupied by the Moody Center, a Christian nonprofit dedicated to preserving his legacy.

Numerous visits to the campus have



convinced us that it is in generally good condition and well suited to our purposes, even though much of it is a century old. We know we will have to do some renovations to the buildings — always with great respect for their heritage — to prepare them to welcome the first students of Thomas Aquinas College, New England.

The acquisition of the New England campus will allow us, in time, to double our enrollment. In keeping with the evangelical nature of our vocation as Catholics, we want as many students as possible to be able to receive the formation that we offer. Beyond that, we hope and expect that the campus will become a focal point for the East Coast, offering intellectual and spiritual resources to help those wishing to strengthen and spread the Catholic faith. The Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield, the diocese in which the New England campus is located, is eager to welcome us to the region, as are the Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, Bishop of Worcester, and His Eminence Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston.

### The State of Affairs

After a lengthy and rigorous process, last October the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education gave unanimous approval for Thomas Aquinas College to open and grant degrees on the New England campus. This process was not without the challenges posed by the political climate in the state of Massachusetts.

To secure the religious liberty protections provided by Massachusetts statute and legal precedent, we will be limiting our enrollment in Massachusetts to Catholic students only. This represents a departure from our practice in California and was not agreed to until it was carefully considered by our faculty and Board of Governors. We are confident that many Catholic students will apply for admission, and we intend to offer them the same acclaimed liberal arts education that we have been successfully providing in California for nearly 50 years — and that, thanks to our alumni, has served the country and the Church so well. Non-Catholic students will still be welcome



to apply for admission to our California campus.

Now that we have received approval from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and the WASC Senior College and University Commission has extended our accreditation to the New England campus, we plan to begin operations in August of 2019.

One of the most rewarding aspects, for me, about this project so far is the enthusiasm I see in the 34 freshmen currently enrolled on our California campus who are slated to transfer to the New England campus as sophomores. They are very excited to be a part of the pioneering group of TAC students. Their commitment to our eastward expansion has been especially gratifying because it has come well before we have actually launched our program on the campus and because these are students who — absent the existence of our New England campus — would not have had the opportunity to benefit from our unique Great Books curriculum.

We have also recruited eight very qualified faculty members who will move to Northfield before August, and we are presently putting together the staff that will help to manage the campus and serve the students. We are also recruiting 35 additional students who will matriculate as freshmen in New England in August. Judging from the interest we are already seeing, I am confident that in the next eight to ten years we will grow to our full enrollment of between 350 and 400 students. To this end, we are planning to hold our first New England two-week high school program late in July. This program has been a very important part of our student recruitment effort in California.

**"We hope and expect that the campus will become a focal point for the East Coast, offering intellectual and spiritual resources to help those wishing to strengthen and spread the Catholic faith."**

### Looking Ahead

Many people have asked about the official relationship between the two campuses. Our intention is to establish a second campus, the purpose of which will be identical to that of our California campus — viz. to provide Catholic liberal education in accordance with the College's founding and governing document, *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic*

*Liberal Education*. The campus will be governed by the same polity and bylaws that govern Thomas Aquinas College in California.

In its initial phase, the campus will be administered by an associate dean responsible for academics and a senior tutor responsible for student affairs. Both of these officers have been appointed from among the faculty of the California campus. The senior tutor will report to the associate dean, who, in turn, will report to the dean, and ultimately the president, at the California campus. A chaplain will be appointed who will also report to the associate dean.

The second phase will be marked by the appointment of a president and dean of the second campus in accordance with the provisions of the Polity and whose duties will be those outlined in that document. This phase will occur when there are enough experienced faculty on the second campus from which to choose these officers and when the campus has reached a size requiring their leadership and this level of organization. Throughout this phase, the two campuses will be part of the California corporation. The dean of the second campus will report to the president of the second campus who, in turn, will report to the president of the California campus and to the Board of Governors of the California corporation.

We will gain a great deal of evidence in the next few years to judge how the two campuses will best work together. No definite decision about the ultimate relation of the two campuses can take place until the second campus has the human and financial resources it needs. At that time, and in light of the experience of Thomas Aquinas College as one college and two campuses, the Board of Governors, in consultation with the faculty of both campuses, will determine how the corporation will be organized.

### The Unfolding Story

These are exciting and promising times for Thomas Aquinas College and, we hope, for the town of Northfield and the broader New England area. We hope our presence in the area will draw interest from a broad range of Catholic students on the East Coast and so be of potential benefit to our friends at Northeast Catholic College and Thomas More College as well. Each of our colleges occupies its own niche, and I am confident that there are more than enough students to go around.

It has been a long and winding road to this point for Thomas Aquinas College, but this is because there are many moving parts to a project of this magnitude. Together with our friends at the Moody Center, we are grateful for the opportunity to occupy the New England campus and return it to its educational purpose. It is truly a campus of great beauty and tradition, which many of us at the College have grown to love — a campus which many students, faculty, and staff will grow to love as well as the story of Thomas Aquinas College, New England, unfolds.

# Campus Update

## Recent Events and Happenings

### Tech Entrepreneur Offers Career Advice

Software entrepreneur and philanthropist Michael Ortner visited Thomas Aquinas College on January 28, presenting a talk entitled, “How to Connect Your Liberal Arts Education with IT Software & Business.”

The founder and former CEO of Captterra, an award-winning technology firm, Mr. Ortner assured students that a liberal arts education is good preparation for the business world. “I did not go to college here, but I am a huge fan of the College,” he began. “I learned more in each month on my first job than I did in my entire four years as a business major. So, to me, if you’re going to spend four years studying something, study something like this, what you guys are doing.”

Among his current endeavors, Mr. Ortner is chairman of Cana Academy, a nationwide organization that supports classical educators at all levels with resources and training. “The beautiful thing about the liberal arts is it feeds into a couple of huge skills that are greatly needed, particularly in the business world, particularly in the tech world,” said Mr. Ortner. “The more you can understand the nature of humanity, that is only going to help you in building products that better serve man.”

Mr. Ortner’s visit was sponsored by the Thomas Aquinas College Business Club. “You’re a thinker when you’re here at school,” he told the group. “Now you have to convert yourself into a *doer*, being a person of action. To me, the ideal person of action is also a person who is a good thinker.”

### The Thomas Aquinas College Choir

Although the primary work of the Thomas Aquinas College Choir is done on Sunday mornings in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, last semester the Choir additionally had two notable performances: The first came on the afternoon of Sunday, October 14, when St. Cecilia Hall hosted a concert featuring Italian tenor Luciano Lamorarca, whom the choir joined onstage for his final two numbers. Then, two weeks



later, the Choir participated in the first-ever Gold Coast Christian College Fest, held on the College’s California campus, where it sang “Adoro Te Devote” and “The Shepherd” alongside its counterpart from Westmont College.



### Walking for Life

Members of the Thomas Aquinas College community — students, faculty, alumni, and Regents alike — came together at pro-life events throughout the country in January to mourn the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and to witness to the Culture of Life.

On January 18 the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents led a spirited group of alumni at the March for Life in the nation’s capital. The next day, dozens of Thomas Aquinas College students traveled to Downtown Los Angeles for OneLife LA — the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ annual event to promote the beauty and dignity of all human life — where they helped the event’s organizers form the front of the walk and maintain order along the route. Then, on January 22, students drove to Ventura for the local walk for life, marching from the county government center to a nearby Planned Parenthood, praying all the way.

Finally, on January 25, some 230 students made their annual, 375-mile trek to San Francisco for the next day’s Walk for Life West Coast. At the request of the Walk’s organizers, the College’s students once again took on volunteer positions, directing traffic and crowds, as they helped lead the way through the city’s streets. Clad in their red sweatshirts, they all prayed, sang, and peacefully called for an end to abortion alongside more than 50,000 fellow walkers. The *National Catholic Register* later featured their participation in a story under the headline: “College Students Lend Joyful Witness to Walk for Life West Coast.”

## St. Vincent de Paul Lecture and Concert Series

Endowed by Barbara and Paul Henkels

### Highlights from the Last Quarter

- On October 26 **Dr. Richard F. Hassing**, research associate professor of philosophy at The Catholic University of America, spoke on the subject, “Aristotelian Intelligible Form and Cartesian Imageable Quantity: *Phys. 2.1 vs Rule 14.*”
- The **Thomas Aquinas College Choir and Orchestra** performed Handel’s *Messiah* at their fall concert on November 16.
- **Mr. Dana Gioia**, the Judge Widney Professor of Poetry and Public Culture at the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy, presented a November 30 lecture titled, “On Poetry and Liberal Education.”
- The first lecture of the new semester, “Science: From Plato to Aristotle to Us,” was presented by **Dr. R. Edward Houser**, a professor of philosophy at the University of St. Thomas, on January 18.
- This year’s St. Thomas Day lecturer, the **Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores**, Bishop of Brownsville, Texas, spoke on the subject, “Prophets and Kings Longed to See what you See: St. Thomas on the Prophetic Character of the Scriptural Revelation.”
- One Friday night each semester, the student body and teaching faculty gather for the **All-College Seminar** — simultaneous meetings of small groups (about 20 students, drawn from all classes, and two tutors) to discuss a pre-selected reading. The text for this spring’s February 8 seminar was the College’s founding and governing document, *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education*, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.
- For the 2019 President’s Day Lecture, tutor **Dr. Richard Ferrier** presented “Socrates in Peoria: Lincoln’s Rhetoric and Plato’s ‘Gorgias.’”

Text and audio from select lectures and concerts are available at [thomasaquinas.edu/lectures](http://thomasaquinas.edu/lectures).

## Faith, Scholarship & Affordability

- The **American Council of College Trustees and Alumni (ACTA)** has released its annual report on the curricular strength of American institutions of higher learning, and, once again, Thomas Aquinas College is at the very top of the list. For the tenth time in as many years, ACTA has given Thomas Aquinas College a grade of “A,” placing it among the top 2 percent of American colleges and universities. Moreover, the College is one of only four schools, or the top 0.4 percent nationwide, to earn a perfect score for the strength of its curriculum.



- The **National Catholic Register** has selected Thomas Aquinas College as one of only 38 faithfully Catholic colleges and universities included in its “Catholic Identity College Guide 2018.” The guide is based on the schools’ responses to 10 questions which, the *Register* explains, are designed such that “a ‘YES’ answer reflects essential elements of the renewal of Catholic identity called for by Pope St. John Paul II’s 1990 apostolic constitution on higher education, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (Out of the Heart of the Church), its 2000 ‘Application to the United States,’ canon law, and other relevant Church documents.”



- **College Factual**, a statistics-based guide that aims to “help students find and get great deals on the best-fit colleges for them,” has ranked Thomas Aquinas College as No. 8 on its list of the 1,510 “Best Colleges for the Money.” For academics, the guide describes the College as “one of the best in the country when it comes to freshman retention.” As for affordability, it calls the College “an excellent value,” placing it within the top 1 percent on the guide’s “Best for the Money” (overall) and “Best for the Money Without Aid” lists, as well as the top 5 percent for “Best for the Money with Aid.”



- **College Consensus**, a new online aggregator of college-review guides, has ranked Thomas Aquinas College No. 18 on its list of 50 “underrated” colleges “doing great things” — schools whose methods “are worth imitating, emulating, and spreading far and wide.” The College is the only Catholic institution to be included on the list. “While other schools seek recognition as the most innovative colleges in America, Thomas Aquinas innovates by looking to tradition,” the guide observes. “A fully integrated approach makes Thomas Aquinas one of the best hands-on learning colleges in the U.S.”



# Senior Reflections

## From TAC to the DOJ

By **Sophia Dufau** ('19)

*Note: The following essay is adapted from remarks made to the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors at its fall 2018 retreat.*

Ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Governors, I want to begin by thanking you for including me today. It is truly an honor to be surrounded by such kind and intelligent people.

My journey to Thomas Aquinas College has been entirely providential. The summer after my junior year of high school, my mother mentioned to me the possibility of attending the High School Summer Program. I had heard of the College before, but I had never considered the possibility of going to school there, or even to a two-week summer program. But I decided to take a chance, and I enrolled in the program for the summer of 2014.

I cannot put into words the way I felt at the High School Great Books Summer Program. It was as if my eyes were opened to a world I never knew existed. Reading and analyzing various texts really did produce wonder in me, and in my peers, as the Summer Program intends. I left the program with a passionate desire to read and discuss everything and anything, just to seize the truth about things. Within a few months it became clear to me that this was God's plan for me. I was *meant* to go to Thomas Aquinas College.



Since I have been at the College, I have found purpose, and I have witnessed others find purpose, too. We, the students of Thomas Aquinas College, are incredibly blessed to live the lives we do, in and out of the classroom. In class, we are allowed the opportunity to discuss the greatest works ever written and to come up with various opinions about the biggest questions ever asked. We are given assignments for which we are to prepare by closely reading and annotating, but most importantly, by *wondering* about. When we come to class, we are prompted by our tutors and we delve deep into the text, digging and searching for the truth in the words we see written on the page.

Each and every class, each and every section, comes up with something wonderful, and the beauty isn't just contained in the classroom. Because we all read the same works and take the same classes, the conversations don't cease when we leave the large wooden tables or blackboards. They transfer to our dorms, the Commons, even off campus. Some of the best talks I have had, with the best friends, have begun with someone bringing up a problem encountered in Philosophy class, or an aha moment that occurred during Theology. It is truly an amazing life to live, and though some days I cannot wait for graduation, I know that these four years will be some of the best of my life.

So where do I go now? I have been fortunate enough to have participated in an internship at the Department of Justice this past summer, continuing currently throughout the school year. When I got the internship, I was shocked. I had applied knowing how competitive it was, so I didn't expect to receive a job offer. However, I was contacted by the internship coordinator and, after an extensive background process, including a polygraph and several interviews, I received a job offer.

Looking back now, I see that the reason I got the offer

**"Looking back now, I see that the reason I got the offer was because of my education at Thomas Aquinas College. The required skills listed in the application mirror almost exactly what TAC promises to develop in its students, including analytical thinking, attention to detail, critical thought, interpersonal skills, and problem solving."**

was because of my education at Thomas Aquinas College. The required skills listed in the application mirror almost exactly what TAC promises to develop in its students, including analytical thinking, attention to detail, critical thought, interpersonal skills, and problem solving. I am now in the hiring process to come on as a full-time employee after graduation, working any job in any city the Department of Justice sees fit. My TAC education made me an attractive applicant to the DOJ; they need people who are good at finding the truth, something you may have heard the College also likes.

Now, armed with logic and rhetoric and my new ability to think, I am ready to step out into the world and represent our community well. My fellow students and I will not disappoint; we are ready to seize the truth and bring discussion and goodness to all that we do.

We are all deeply indebted to Thomas Aquinas College and you, the Board of Governors. There is no way we can repay what you have done for us. The best I can promise is that I, and the other graduates of the Class of 2019, will not put away our Aristotle and Euclid on our shelves, but we will continue to actively search for the Truth in every way possible.

*Miss Dufau is from Camarillo, California.*

## Inspired by Reverence, Grounded in Intellectual Humility

By **Isaac Cross** ('19)

*Note: The following essay is adapted from remarks made to the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors at its fall 2018 retreat.*

From as early as I can remember, my mother and father were adamant about the importance of family dinnertime. Every night, with all my siblings gathered around the table, my parents would foster philosophical and theological discussions, with a healthy dose of football and politics as well. From an early age I found joy in struggling with philosophical questions, and this disposition attracted me to Thomas Aquinas College.



Looking back, I was perhaps too confident when I started as a freshman. My father was a member of the College's first graduating class, and I had attended a classical high school, so I thought I knew what was coming. But as I dove further into the curriculum, I realized how my initial expectations were grossly inaccurate.

Over the past four years, my fellow classmates and I have studied the essential ideas and traditions of Western civilization, spanning more than 2,000 years. The scope is astonishing. Whether we are studying Euclid's propositions early in the morning or fighting to complete long seminar readings before class, amidst all the toils of our academics, we have been bound to recognize with reverence the treasure of knowledge that God has allowed mankind to attain.

This reverence is one of the greatest gifts that Thomas Aquinas College has given to us, not just in itself, but because among its fruits is intellectual humility. A virtue required outside as well as inside class, intellectual humility stems from the reverence we have acquired for Western tradition. For by understanding our insignificance in the face of Western thought, we have come to realize that when we rely on our own ideas, we are often wrong. Moreover, in the classroom we have learned to submit our ideas to the censure of others, which has taught us that we can only make progress with the help of others.

Something in particular that has struck me is that this help can come from anybody. Often it is the case that the person whom you helped through math is the person who helps you get through philosophy class. And sometimes the smartest person in the class can be corrected by the most timid student with a simple objection.

Sharing our academic struggles with humility has helped each of us progress further in our intellectual formation, but it has also taught us something important about the contemplation of the truth: that it is a common good, meant for every man, and that the joy of understanding is all the more great when it is shared with others and not just kept to oneself.

Our reverence for Western tradition has also helped us to realize that so great a good should not be kept in the shadows. It is with this in mind that my fellow classmates and I prepare to move beyond college and lead independent lives. Our vocations and professions will be diverse, but in all cases it will be our desire and our duty, blessed by God with this education, to share its fruits with whomever He puts in our lives.

I have always been rather patriotic, and this has given me the desire to spread the goods of my education to the American public at large. I will be pursuing this goal as a journalist and hope eventually to become a political or

**"Whether we are studying Euclid's propositions early in the morning or fighting to complete long seminar readings before class, amidst all the toils of our academics, we have been bound to recognize with reverence the treasure of knowledge that God has allowed mankind to attain."**

social commentator.

During high school, my father strongly encouraged me to consider Thomas Aquinas College, and since then, when I have asked him why, he has told me that, in the face of a declining culture, there is no better place to receive the principles of Western tradition than at this school. Having experienced the education here, I now see what he meant and recognize all the more the importance of spreading the truth to a society that desperately needs it.

Though my particular career choice may change, I have this greater purpose of spreading the truth that will inform my life. I am thankful to you all here because it has been through your guidance and support that my education has helped me to this realization. And it is not just I, but also all of my classmates — we are indebted to you for your generosity. You have graciously given of yourselves for the purpose of our intellectual formation, and in honor of the faith that you have placed in us, we will endeavor, inspired by reverence and grounded in intellectual humility, to support the growth of the truth in others, just as you have done for us. Thank you, and God bless.

*Mr. Cross is from Leominster, Massachusetts.*

# “A Calling and a Privilege”

## Meet the Eight Tutors who will Establish Thomas Aquinas College, New England

### Dr. Thomas J. Kaiser

Leading the team on the New England campus will be the associate dean, Dr. Thomas J. Kaiser, a 37-year member of the teaching faculty who oversaw the College’s natural science laboratories for 20 years and served for eight years as assistant dean. A member of the College’s first graduating class, Dr. Kaiser earned his doctorate in biology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He holds the distinction of being the first member of the faculty to have taught all 23 courses in the College’s classical curriculum.

“As a member of the first class on our original campus, I know what it will be like for our first students in New England, and that should be helpful in getting us off to a good start,” says Dr. Kaiser. “I think it will be an adventure and a challenge. It’s going to be a sacrifice for my wife, Paula, and me to be away from our 11 children and 26 grandchildren, who mostly live here in California, but I think it will be exciting to be among the founding faculty of the new campus.”



### Dr. Michael A. Augros

A New England native, Dr. Michael A. Augros is a graduate of the College who earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy at Boston College. “My wife, Amy, and I both grew up in Merrimack, New Hampshire, about an hour’s drive away, and our parents still live there,” Dr. Augros reflects. “That’s part of why I volunteered to go — but only part. I also want to contribute what I can to help make this new venture a success.”

Dr. Augros taught at Thomas Aquinas College from 1995 to 1998, then moved back east to teach for 11 years at the North American campus of the Pontifical University Regina Apostolorum, before returning to the California campus in 2009. He is the author of two books, *Who Designed the Designer: A Rediscovered Path to God’s Existence* (2015) and *The Immortal in You: How Human Nature is More Than Science Can Say* (2017). He and Mrs. Augros are the parents of three children: one a graduate at the College, the other two, students, the younger of whom — Ben (’21) — is a fellow pioneer who will be transferring to the New England campus with them.



### Dr. Sean B. Cunningham

This fall Dr. Sean B. Cunningham will leave a successful law practice to become a tutor at Thomas Aquinas College — again.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Dr. Cunningham holds a master’s degree and a doctorate in philosophy from The Catholic University of America as well as a *juris doctor* from the University of Texas School of Law. In 2013 a long-standing passion for philosophy, coupled with a yearning to teach, inspired him to leave his position as a partner at an 800-attorney law firm in Washington, D.C., and join the College’s teaching faculty.

Two years later, however, one of his four young daughters faced a dire medical condition that required



Dr. Cunningham and his wife, Joanna, to bring their family back to the East Coast, where he resumed his legal career. “Thankfully she got through the crisis,” he says, and with the College opening a campus closer to home, he is now able to return to teaching. “Being a tutor at the College was a calling and a privilege, to which I am very happy to be able to return.”

### Dr. Josef C. Froula

“As a student, the spiritual and intellectual richness of the College completely transformed my life,” reflects Dr. Josef C. Froula. “I looked forward to attending every class, and I never had a single bad experience” — well, save for one: “I remember my graduation was a very sad day for me,” he continues. “I didn’t want to leave.”

Yet leave he did, making the most of the subsequent 26 years before returning to his alma mater as a tutor in 2018. Dr. Froula married classmate H el ene (Augros ’92), and the couple has welcomed 10 children. He earned master’s degrees in dogmatic theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary and humanities at California State University, Dominguez Hills, as well as a doctorate in educational leadership at Southern Connecticut State University.

“The New England location will allow the College to offer more students the intellectual and spiritual life that characterizes the West Coast campus,” Dr. Froula says. “I am excited to be a part of this effort and inspired by the zeal and commitment of the faculty, students, and benefactors who are making it happen.”



### Dr. Patrick M. Gardner

Like several other members of the New England-bound faculty, Dr. Patrick M. Gardner has ties to the region, having earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard University before obtaining his master’s and Ph.D. in medieval studies at the University of Notre Dame. It is the example of the College’s founders and early students, he says, that has inspired him and his wife, Kate, to move across the country, along with their six young sons.

“We had it easy in our own journey to Thomas Aquinas College,” Dr. Gardner reflects. “We didn’t have to make the tremendous leap of faith that, in the early years of the College, both tutors and students had to make. We came later, when the goodness and greatness of the founders’ vision and God’s blessings were already manifest. This fact has ever deepened our gratitude for the pioneers of the College, as our love for this community and this education has grown. So when the New England opportunity arose, and the prospect opened — both exhilarating and a bit frightening — of being, in a very secondary way, a pioneer myself, I thought, ‘How could I refuse?’”



### Dr. Margaret I. Hughes

“I grew up in Connecticut, and so feel very much at home in New England,” says Dr. Margaret I. Hughes. “It is a great privilege for me to be able to be part of bringing Thomas Aquinas College to my home. It is the meeting of a place and an institution which are both very dear to me.”

A graduate of the University of Chicago, Dr. Hughes earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy at

Fordham University, where she taught undergraduate philosophy, and then served for six years on the faculty of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in New York. She joined the College’s faculty last fall and has spent the last year teaching on the California campus in preparation for her move to Massachusetts.

“I am especially looking forward to being able to share aspects of what I love about New England with my students,” she says. “These include the wonderful museums and concerts there, as well as the New England woods, which, because I grew up around them, seem to me the most beautiful in the world.”

### Dr. Paul K. Shields

“When I finished my graduate studies at Ave Maria University in 2013, I felt something of a missionary spirit,” recalls Dr. Paul K. Shields. “I made a commitment that I would be willing to teach anywhere God wished to send me — so I was pleasantly surprised to wind up here.” Six years later, when the College was looking for volunteers to go to New England, he says, “I felt that missionary spirit revive within me.”

A Thomas Aquinas College graduate, Dr. Shields is married to a classmate, Mary (Coughlin ’07), whose father, Dr. Glen Coughlin, is a senior member of the teaching faculty. Dr. and Mrs. Shields anticipate that their life in Massachusetts — and that of their five children — will be much like Mrs. Shields’ childhood as a member of a tutor family during the College’s formative years.

“Frankly that is part of what made New England attractive to us,” Dr. Shields says. “We look forward to experiencing an extra sense of camaraderie with all the students, staff, tutors, and families who are undertaking this adventure together.”

### Stephen F. Shivone

Prior to coming to Thomas Aquinas College, Stephen F. Shivone taught, over the course of 15 years, in Alaska, Texas, Arizona, and North Carolina. Yet when the opportunity to become a TAC tutor presented itself, he decided that it would be worth the burden of another move — or even two.

In 2017 he joined the faculty in California with the intention of transferring to New England when the new campus was ready. With that moment at hand, Dr. Shivone now finds himself thinking of a favorite quotation from Bl. John Henry Cardinal Newman: “Therein lies the nobility of the Faith, that we have the heart to venture something.” As Dr. Shivone describes it, “This is a venture of faith on the part of the College. It is undertaking something bold and difficult, and we feel blessed to be part of it.”

Dr. Shivone earned his undergraduate degree at the erstwhile College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth, Texas, and his master’s and doctoral degrees in literature at the University of Dallas. He and his wife, Mary Ann (Hastings ’03), are the parents of five children.



# First Class



## Meet some of the 34 California Freshmen who plan to Transfer to New England in the Fall

### **Nathanael Cassidy** *Norfolk, England*

“I see transferring to the new campus and being part of its first graduating class as a God-given opportunity to hand on something that we have been given and are blessed to have,” says Nathanael Cassidy. “So I decided to take the opportunity, because it seemed like it was the best thing to do, even if it wasn’t the easiest decision.”

Having moved many times before — he had lived with his family in Austria, Northern Ireland, and England before coming to California last fall — Nathanael is unfazed by the prospect of one more relocation. “I have a couple of good friends whom I will be leaving behind, and that will be hard,” he admits. “But having friends who are of the same faith helps, as you can always be with them in the Eucharist, sharing the Body of Christ; that is a great comfort.”

As the year comes to an end, and the time to say goodbye draws near, Nathanael remains steadfast. “I haven’t wavered,” he says. “Ever since I said ‘yes,’ I have dedicated myself to this, because I firmly believe that it is God’s will. Even though it will be hard to tear ourselves from our classmates here, this a great opportunity to grow in maturity and virtue.”

### **Clotilde Cecchi** *Cazenovia, New York*

The daughter of two alumni, Clotilde Cecchi always figured she would come to Thomas Aquinas College. “But as I grew older, I realized that I should not choose a college just because my parents went there,” she says. “I came to learn

that what make this school special are the Discussion Method and the Great Books, and that is ultimately why I chose to come.”

Still, there was a sense of reluctance. Living in Cazenovia, New York, the thought of leaving her parents and four younger siblings 3,000 miles behind was daunting. “We would always say, ‘Wouldn’t it be nice if a TAC East would open up?’” she remarks. “But I never thought it would happen in my lifetime. I was so very glad when it actually did!”

As Clotilde neared the end of high school, the College acquired the Massachusetts campus but was still obtaining state approval to begin operations there. So, after she applied and was accepted, she delayed her admission for a year, then enrolled on the California campus with plans to transfer after freshman year. She now will reduce the distance from college to home by 95 percent — and her younger brother, a high school junior, hopes to join her on the New England campus in 2020.

### **Sean Callaghan** *Lake Zurich, Illinois*

One evening last fall, encouraged by a friend, Sean Callaghan attended a meeting that College officials were offering for freshmen who were interested in transferring to the New England campus. “It was a rough sketch of what life would be like there and what the campus is like,” he remembers. “It gave me a



more in-depth idea of what to expect: the small community, closeness with our tutors and their families, and growing the culture of the new school.”

He thought and prayed about all that he had learned. “For the next four to five days, I had a hard time trying to stay focused on academics,” he says, because his mind kept wandering to Northfield, Massachusetts. After letting the idea sit for a few days, he went to the dean’s office and signed the transfer papers.

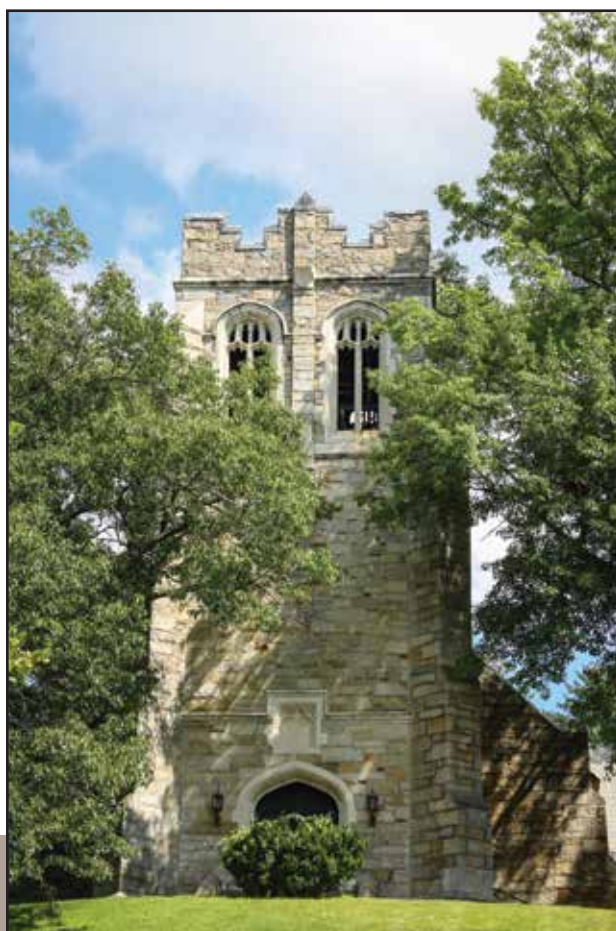
“I think going to New England will stretch me in the sense that not everything is set in stone,” says Sean. “We are going to have a big responsibility: How can we lay the foundation for the freshmen, and for the future classes? For me, personally, I think that the experience will help me to become a better man over these next three years.”

### **Mary O’Reilly** *Santa Paula, California*

When she first began to consider transferring to Thomas Aquinas College, New England, Mary O’Reilly sought the advice of her



freshman Natural Science tutor, Dr. Thomas J. Kaiser (’75), the associate dean for the East Coast campus and a member of the College’s first graduating class. “Dr. Kaiser said that the school needs energetic people to get out there, go out into the town, tell people about what we are all about, and start the traditions that will sustain us for generations,” she recalls. “That was eye-opening for me.”





The reasons she had for remaining in California — being close to her family’s home, just a few miles from campus, and staying with friends — “were all for *me*,” she realized. Heading east, on the other hand, “would be for the school,” to which, after less than a year, she already considers herself profoundly indebted. “I decided to go because the school needs people out there.”

Of course Mary can cite some personal reasons for going, too, including the seasons, the campus’ many tennis courts, and the honor of being a member of the first graduating class. All of these, however, are secondary. “I’m looking forward to snow and pine trees and skiing,” she says. “Mostly, though, I’m looking forward to making the campus a success.”

**Jean Guerreiro**  
*Santa Catarina, Brazil*

For Jean Guerreiro, coming to Thomas Aquinas College meant traveling more than 5,000 miles and leaving behind all he knew in his homeland of Brazil. Compared to that, what’s a mere cross-country trek with some friends?



Jean first learned of the College three years before he enrolled, but assumed he could never attend because he was not proficient in English. Upon learning the language, however, he came north for the High School Summer Program. Less than a week after the program, he submitted his application and completed his financial aid

paperwork. A few weeks later, he enrolled as a member of the Class of 2022.

“It has been fantastic,” he says of his freshman year. “It has surpassed all my expectations. Every day I am amazed at how wonderful it is to be living here and studying here. I am so happy I made this choice. It is the best thing I have ever done.”

As for New England, “It might not be as good there as it is here, but it also might be better,” says Jean. “I’m just taking a risk, as I did when I left my country, my family, my friends, and came here. Every life worth living requires taking some risk.”

**Anna Santine**  
*Macomb, Michigan*

When Anna Santine first learned about the New England campus at the High School Summer Program, she knew it was not for her. “I remember thinking, it looks really pretty — but no way,” she says. “I wanted to go somewhere familiar, somewhere established.”

Then she started hearing from friends who were planning to make the move, and her resolve began to weaken. “I didn’t want to consider it, but once I did, I knew I would regret it if I didn’t go.” Beyond the thrill of being part of the first class, Anna found the prospect of being close to mem-



bers of the teaching faculty — all of whom will live, with their families, on campus — appealing. “The lineup of tutors who are going was huge for me because I love all of them,” she says. “The thought of living in a small, close-knit community with these families sounded like a wonderful way to spend the next three years.”

The hard part, of course, will be saying goodbye to so many other beloved friends and tutors in California. “It’s hard to leave something so good, even if it’s for something else so good,” Anna observes. “It’s the same thing, only different, and I’m excited to see what the differences are.”

**Jeff Healey**  
*Napa, California*

Jeff Healey first began thinking about New England when he attended the College’s High School Summer Program. “There was a presentation about the new campus, with lots of gorgeous photos of the buildings and facilities,” he recalls. “The idea of being the first class seemed like an awesome opportunity.”



For Jeff, it was a best-of-both-worlds proposition. “To get a school with an established curriculum, one that has already proven to be successful and trustworthy, while at the same time starting a new campus — that’s an opportunity that

doesn’t come along very often,” he says. “I decided I had to be part of it.”

Being a resident of Northern California, going to school in Northfield, Massachusetts, requires traveling much farther than he does now, but Jeff regards the tradeoff as worthwhile. “I’ve lived in California for 19 years and I’ve only been out of state a few weeks total,” he says. “Going out to the East Coast for the next few years will allow me to experience a different part of the country. I look forward to that.”

He also hopes to continue his student-scholarship job — part-time librarian — on the New England campus. “We’re prepared to do all we can to get that library running and up to speed.”

**Sophie Steigerwald**  
*Elm Grove, Wisconsin*

Like many of her fellow pioneers, Sophie Steigerwald cites familiar reasons for her decision to venture eastward — affection for the faculty members, changing seasons, shaping the culture of a new campus. Paramount in her consideration, however, were beauty and community.

“I guess I really like how beautiful it is out there; it is such a beautiful campus,” she says, noting the 100-year-old buildings settled among the rolling green hills, evincing an old-world sensibility.

Amid this bucolic landscape abides a deep-rooted community, one that Sophie is eager to come to know. “The local community seems to be very warm and welcoming. It’s a small community, and I have heard that they are excited to have us, to have students on campus once again, because the property had been vacant for so many years.”



Then there is gratitude. “We recently had a dinner for all the faculty and students who are going to Northfield, and President McLean spoke about how many years the College has been working on this project — getting the campus, getting it approved, getting it ready — and how much work all have put into it,” she says. “They have set up this opportunity for us, and I’m grateful for that. It’s an honor to be able to go.”



# “Upperclassmen” ... Without Homework

## Four Recent Graduates to Serve as Resident Assistants on New Campus

For the first year at Thomas Aquinas College, New England, there will be no upperclassmen, as the students will all be freshmen and sophomores. There will, however, be some young mentors to guide the first two classes on the new campus: four resident assistants, who will play a vital role in the College’s expansion.

“Because we will, at first, have no upperclassmen on the new campus, we perceived a need to fill the roles that, in California, are largely covered by student prefects with the help of student activity and athletics directors, plus one fulltime resident assistant,” says Dean John J. Goyette. “So, for the first year in New England, we have hired four resident assistants. They will live in the residence halls and aid the assistant dean in fostering a vibrant campus culture. They will also work part-time in the College’s various administrative departments.”

The four RAs — three members of this year’s graduating class and one member of the Class of 2018 — have all served as prefects on the California campus. All are eager to take part in this adventure.

### Isaac Cross ('19)

In helping to establish the College’s second campus, Isaac Cross is walking in the footsteps of his father, Rick ('75). “My dad was a member of the College’s first class,” he says. “It’s meaningful for me to do in Massachusetts what he did in California.”

Adding to the appeal is the new campus’ location, less than an hour from Isaac’s hometown. “It will be useful to know the area,” he says, especially in his work with the Development Office as it cultivates new benefactors in the region. “It will be special to bring back home the education that I have received here.”

Isaac was the student athletics director on the California campus last year, organizing intramural games and tournaments — a duty he looks forward to taking up

back East: “I am excited to play a part in building up the spirit, the life, and the vibrancy of the new campus.”

### Mary Catherine Froula ('19)

“We will be filling the role of upperclassmen,” says Mary Catherine Froula of the New England RAs, serving as proof that working hard is worth the effort. “Except we won’t have homework, so we’ll have more time to help them with their studies and share in their intellectual life.”

That, however, is only one element of what she calls the RAs’ “jack of all trades” position. In addition to working part-time in the library, she is “ready to do anything that’s needed,” whether that’s “maintaining morale, organizing student activities, or shoveling snow.”

Raised in Waterbury, Connecticut, Mary Catherine is returning to a familiar part of the country, with familiar people. Her father, Dr. Josef Froula, is a new member of the teaching faculty, who spent the last year on the California campus. With the rest of the family, he, too, will be heading eastward this fall. Says Mary Catherine, “I feel like I’m coming home.”

### Thomas Moore ('19)

Thomas Moore plans to spend part of this summer re-reading *The Iliad* and *The Aeneid* — the first works that Thomas Aquinas College freshmen and sophomores study in their respective seminars.

“When I was an underclassman, it was great having upperclassmen there to show us how beautiful the program is,” he says. “I want to do that for our New England students. Having someone who has done it before, someone who can help you with that Euclid prop, or explain something from Ptolemy, or can help you decline a noun in Latin, is invaluable.”

When he’s not assisting students with their classwork, he will be supervising student-scholarship workers in the



Thomas Moore ('19), Isaac Cross ('19), and Mary Catherine Froula ('19); not pictured: Barbara O'Brien ('18)

dining hall with his unflagging can-do spirit. “We need to roll with the punches,” he says. “And if and when something goes wrong, we’re just going to have to fix it, do it joyfully, and make it happen.”

### Barbara O'Brien ('18)

A member of last year’s graduating class, Barbara O'Brien has worked for the last year in the South Bronx as a teaching assistant and catechist for Seton Education Partners. “I love it,” she says of her yearlong position. “It’s very hard, but it’s one of the most joyful things I have ever done.”

Nonetheless, as a farm girl from Wisconsin, she yearns for a more pastoral setting. “I am very attached to my students, the teachers I work with, and the people I live with in community,” she says. “But I’m ready once again for open spaces and a clear skyline!”

In New England Barbara will assist the Admissions Department, working on the High School Summer Program and recruitment. “I am happy to have the opportunity to bring more students to the College,” she says, “so they, too, can experience this education.”

## Paving the Way

### Kimberly Begg, Jim Link Join Development Team for New England

#### Kimberly Begg

Kimberly Begg was eight months pregnant with her fifth child when she was asked to serve on Thomas Aquinas College’s Washington, D.C., Board of Regents. As a wife, mother, and vice president and general counsel for Young America’s Foundation, she considered herself “too busy” for any more volunteer opportunities. Yet she enthusiastically agreed.

“Thomas Aquinas College was different,” Mrs. Begg explains. “I felt compelled to help young people pursue the College’s authentically Catholic, Great Books education.”

The experience, she found, was transformative. “I loved getting to know alumni of the College and their families,” she says. “What impressed me most is their shared sense that they have received a truly unique education — one that has deepened their Catholic faith, nurtured their intellects, and set them on a path to grow in virtue throughout their lives.”

When Mrs. Begg learned about the College’s plans for a New England campus, she knew it was a “game changer” for Catholic education — and for herself.

Throughout her tenure at Young America’s Foundation, she served as the director of planned giving and a major gifts officer. She helped build the Foundation’s planned-giving program, which today is a significant source of support to help college students across the country attend YAF’s educational programs. She now sees her new role — as the East Coast director of gift planning for Thomas Aquinas College — as a natural next step in her life and career.

“I cannot help but think it has always been God’s will to use my experience to help the College’s students and benefactors,” she reflects. “In working on behalf of



college students at Young America’s Foundation, I saw all too clearly how administrators and faculty at most schools — including many Catholic colleges and universities — are hostile to Catholic teaching. The need for the faithful, grounded sort of education that the College has to offer has never been greater.”

Mrs. Begg, her husband, Ian, and their five children live in Great Falls, Virginia, where she works from her home office. “We are blessed to have Kimberly join our team,” says Vice President for Development Paul J. O’Reilly. “She has legal acumen, an expertise in planned giving, and an understanding of higher education that are invaluable. I think friends of the College will enjoy getting to know her and working with her to support our program of Catholic liberal education to the East Coast.”

#### Jim Link

When Jim Link learned that the founders of Hobby Lobby had purchased the former campus of a boarding school in Northfield, Massachusetts — and that they wanted to give it to a Christian ministry to use for educational purposes — he immediately thought it would be

perfect for a faithfully Catholic college. Concerned about the rise of secularism in the region, Mr. Link thought such a college could help re-Christianize New England. Little did he know he would become deeply involved in the project.

Mr. Link spent three decades raising funds for schools and colleges in the Northeast. He served as assistant headmaster at Iona Preparatory, regional director of major gifts at Dartmouth, vice president for advancement at Iona College, and president of the Coast Guard Academy Foundation.

After attending a Summer Seminar and reading the College’s founding documents, he was hooked. “The more I learned about Thomas Aquinas College, the more impressed I became,” he says. “I realized that the College was more successful than any school I knew. Students pursue truth, beauty, and wisdom in a community that embraces Catholic thought in all its richness. In the process, they grow in virtue and holiness.”

A member of the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents, Mr. Link serves as director of East Coast development. “Jim has been a tremendous asset to the College,” says Dr. O’Reilly. “He has introduced us to many of the most active and generous Catholics in the Northeast, including a couple that has made the largest individual gift toward the New England campus.”

For his part, Mr. Link reports that he is honored to help advance the College’s mission. “My best hope of attaining salvation lies in associating with the finest Christians I’ve ever known — the alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and benefactors of Thomas Aquinas College,” he says. “It’s a privilege to help renew the Faith by preparing saints and scholars in what has become mission territory.”



# Summer of Learning — East and West

## College to Offer Summer Seminars, High School Program on Both Coasts

For more than 20 years, summers at Thomas Aquinas College have been highlighted by two events on the California campus: Summer Seminars for friends and benefactors, and the High School Program for prospective students. This summer the events will be offered, as usual, in California, but also — for the first time — at the College's new campus in Northfield, Massachusetts.

"Our primary reason for establishing a second campus is to make our program of Catholic liberal education available to more people," says President Michael F. McLean. "So it follows that our New England campus should offer the same summer events that, for years, have so successfully introduced newcomers to the work of the College in California."

### Summer Seminars

Summer Seminar weekends allow attendees to get a firsthand experience of the day-to-day life of Thomas Aquinas College students — the intellectual life, the spiritual life, and the friendships rooted in a shared experience of the true, the good, and the beautiful. Participants read passages from the Great Books of Western civilization, then discuss those readings in seminars led by senior members of the teaching faculty. Together they work to understand the meaning of the texts and to discern the truths these works contain. Between seminars, guests also enjoy delicious meals served both indoors and outdoors, as well as daily Mass and confession offered by the College's chaplains.

The theme for this year's weekends will be "The Search for Happiness." Attendees will discuss Gustav Flaubert's "A Simple Heart," Epictetus' *Enchiridion*, and St. Thomas Aquinas' consideration "Of Those Things in Which Happiness Consists" from the *Summa Theologiae*. "What does it mean to be happy, and how is happiness attained? These are questions that men have posed throughout history," says Dr. McLean. "There is a great tradition in the Western canon that points toward answers to these questions, helping to lead man to true joy. We will explore that tradition at this year's weekends, which I expect to be deeply rewarding for everyone involved."

The first of this year's two weekends, taking place from June 21-23, will also be the first ever held on the New England campus, set in Western Massachusetts' historic Connecticut River Valley.



Attendees enjoy dinner and student entertainment at a Summer Seminar weekend.

"Although open to everyone, the Summer Seminars are largely attended by members of our President's Council," says Vice President for Development Paul J. O'Reilly. "As such, we wanted to let these benefactors be among the first to experience the life of the new campus that they are making possible — to walk its lawns, to eat in its dining hall, to discuss the Great Books in its century-old, red-brick classroom buildings."

Over the course of the three-day weekend, participants will attend a series of discussions led by Dr. McLean, Dr. O'Reilly, and the associate dean for the New England campus, Dr. Thomas J. Kaiser. With the New England residence halls still under renovation, guests will stay in a nearby hotel, but they will spend their days and take most of their meals on campus. The price, including lodging, dining, seminars, and readings, is \$1,200 per person or \$1,800 per couple (discount for President's Council members: \$950/single and \$1,450/couple).

The second Summer Seminar will be held on the California campus, nestled in the foothills of the Los Padres National Forest, just outside of Santa Paula, from July 12-14. Dr. McLean and Dr. O'Reilly will be on hand to guide the seminars, as will the College's dean, Dr. John J. Goyette. Guests, per usual, will stay in the campus residence halls. The all-inclusive price is \$1,000 per person or \$1,600 per couple (discount for President's Council members: \$750/single and \$1,250/couple). "With seminars on both coasts, we look forward to welcoming friends old and new," says Dr. McLean.

### High School Program

Over the course of two two-week sessions this summer, rising high school seniors from around the country and

abroad will join members of the teaching faculty on both campuses for spirited conversation, engaging firsthand some of the best works of the past 2,500 years. They will read and discuss texts selected from the masters of the Western intellectual tradition, such as Plato, Euclid, Kierkegaard, Tolstoy and, of course, St. Thomas Aquinas. They will forge new friendships, delight in the give and take of rational argument, and pursue truth — which civilizes, ennobles, and liberates.



At this summer's California High School Great Books program, to be held July 15 to 27, students will also take full advantage of all the natural beauty that the region has to offer: There will be daily sports on the athletic fields, plus beach volleyball on the College's sand court, swimming in the spring-fed ponds, and hikes along the hillside trails surrounding campus. Among the other on-campus activities will be skits, musical performances, movies, and a dance.

The group will occasionally venture off-campus as well, taking in the best of Southern California's cultural attractions. There will be an outing to the J.P. Getty Museum, a concert by the L.A. Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, a day trip to the beach, a hike in the Santa Monica Mountains, and an evening in the mission city of Santa Barbara.

This year's inaugural New England Summer Program will run from July 28 to August 10. It will employ the same curriculum as the California program and feature comparable extracurricular activities, such as swing-dance classes, an open-mic night, and socials in the residence halls. For sports, the campus boasts two ponds, athletic fields, and a full gymnasium, complete with a swimming pool, climbing wall, and basketball court.

Where the New England program will noticeably differ from California's, of course, will be in its off-campus excursions. Students will visit Boston, with sightseeing along the Freedom Trail and trips to the Museum of Fine Arts and Faneuil Hall. They will also attend a concert with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, hike on New Hampshire's Mount Monadnock, and take a canoe trip on the Connecticut River.

At both programs, Mass will be offered daily, and a chaplain will be available on campus at all times. In order to receive the full extent of religious-liberty protections under Massachusetts law, the College may admit only Catholic students to the New England Summer Program. Religious devotions, however, are voluntary, and the California program remains, as always, open to students of all faiths.

The programs are limited to students between their junior and senior years of high school. Cost is \$975, which includes tuition, housing, meals, books, and organized activities. "The high school program is our most effective recruiting tool," says Admissions Director Jon Daly. "After two weeks at the College, most of the students want nothing more than to come back!"

### Summer Seminar Weekends

Theme: "The Search for Happiness"

New England: June 21-23

California: July 12-14

[thomasaquinas.edu/summerseminars](http://thomasaquinas.edu/summerseminars)

### High School Summer Program

California: July 15-27

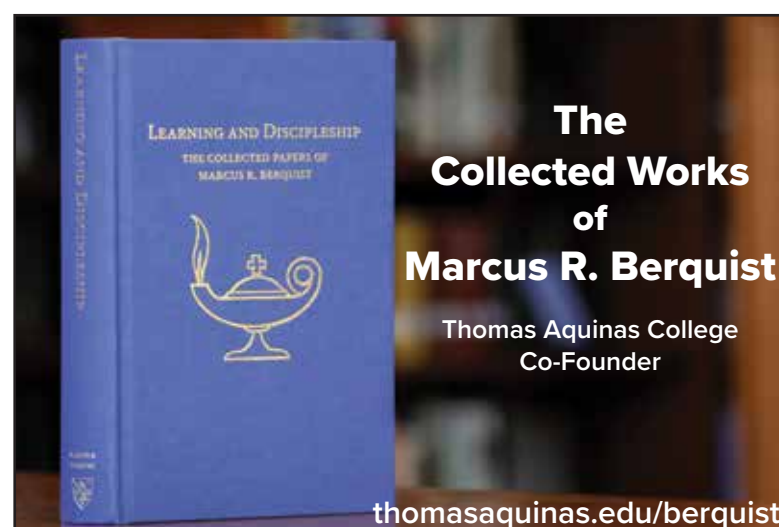
New England: July 28-August 10

[thomasaquinas.edu/summerprogram](http://thomasaquinas.edu/summerprogram)



Help shape the future with a legacy gift today.

Please contact Tom Susanka, Director of Gift Planning  
[tsusanka@thomasaquinas.edu](mailto:tsusanka@thomasaquinas.edu)  
805-421-5928



The  
Collected Works  
of  
Marcus R. Berquist

Thomas Aquinas College  
Co-Founder

[thomasaquinas.edu/berquist](http://thomasaquinas.edu/berquist)

# In Memoriam

## Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

### Frances Scheller Morehart, 1924–2018

A longtime friend of Thomas Aquinas College, Frances Scheller Morehart passed away on November 13, one week short of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mrs. Morehart was the stepdaughter of the late Fritz B. Burns, whose eponymous foundation has provided the funds for several buildings on the College's California campus, including, most recently, the St. Gladys classroom building and the St. Cecilia Lecture and Concert Hall. She was also a generous benefactor to the College in her own right as



a 15-year member of the President's Council. A regular participant in the College's Summer Seminars, Mrs. Morehart had many friends among the College's faculty and administrators, and was especially close with fellow nonagenarian and chaplain Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J.

"She was a wonderful woman," says Fr. Buckley, "very thoughtful, very generous, and a lot of fun to be around."

Mrs. Morehart was born in Los Angeles in 1924. Her father died when she was four, and when she was fifteen, her mother married Mr. Burns, who became a cherished stepfather and wonderful role model. Around that time, she also met the love of her life, Jack Morehart, whom she married four years later. The couple lived for many years in the Pacific Palisades, raising nine children before relocating to Carpinteria in 1974.

Over the next four decades Mrs. Morehart was profoundly dedicated to the pro-life movement, volunteering for Holy Family Adoption Service, St. Anne's Maternity Home, the Santa Barbara Pregnancy Counseling Center, and Villa Majella. She was also honored to belong to the Knights of St. Gregory and the Knights of Malta, making a number of pilgrimages to Lourdes, France, to care for the sick and dying. "Her Catholic faith was the cornerstone of her personal strength," writes her family in her published obituary, "and her faith never wavered."

### The Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino, 1946–2018

The Most Rev. Robert C. Morlino, Bishop of Madison, Wisconsin, died November 24, three days after suffering a cardiac event. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of Bishop Morlino, who, just last spring, served as our Commencement Speaker and received our highest honor, the Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion, in recognition of his lifelong fidelity to the magisterium," says President Michael F. McLean. "He was, on that day — as he was throughout his 44 years as a priest and bishop — courageous in proclaiming the truth."

A native of Northeastern Pennsylvania and a graduate of the Jesuit-run Scranton Preparatory High School, Bishop Morlino was ordained to the priesthood for the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus on June 1, 1974. He held degrees from Fordham University, the University of Notre Dame, the Weston School of Theology, and the Gregorian University. He became a priest of

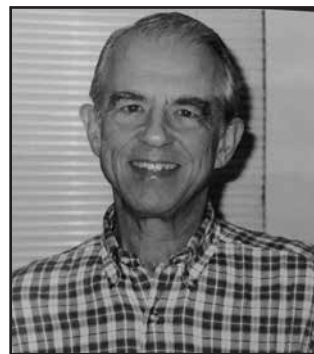


the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1981, and Pope St. John Paul II made him Bishop of Helena, Montana, in 1999, where he served until his appointment as Bishop of Madison in 2003.

"When I look around our country — and honestly, when I look around the Church — I am not comforted by what I see," His Excellency admitted during his homily at the College's 2018 Baccalaureate Mass. Noting his own mortality, he urged the graduates, as the future of the Church, to remain hopeful, however trying the circumstances. "I don't know if I will live to see it, but the Holy Spirit, in virtue of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, is going to pull the Church out of the doldrums in which She lives. And the Holy Spirit is going to show forth in the Church the greatness of His power," he added. "You are part of the solution."

### Norm Goyette, Jr., 1932–2018

Norm Goyette, Jr., the father of Thomas Aquinas College Dean John Goyette, died on December 7 due to complications arising from pneumonia. "Norm and his wife, Marian, have long been loyal friends of the College," says President Michael F. McLean. "They have also been among our most generous benefactors over the past 40 years."



Raised in Massachusetts, Mr. Goyette earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the College of the Holy Cross and a master's from Tufts University. Upon moving to Southern California in the mid-1950s, he met Marian and began a career in the aerospace industry. In the early days he worked on Pioneer 10, the first space probe to travel to Jupiter and to achieve sufficient velocity to escape the solar system. Most of his subsequent career was dedicated to work on a missile-detection system for the Department of Defense.

"My dad never served in the military, but he worked with the military and, in many ways, he had the soul of a military man," said Dr. Goyette at the reception following his father's funeral Mass in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. "He loved his job, yet even more important to him was his family and his faith."

Mr. Goyette's death came suddenly: Only days before falling ill, he was still riding his bicycle to work daily. "If he could have picked a way to go, I don't think he could have chosen better," said Dr. Goyette. "He died with his boots on, a fitting way to go for a man of action."

Mr. Goyette was the father of four graduates: Patty (Hiero '86), John ('90), Rev. Michael ('94), and Joseph ('95). He was also the grandfather of two graduates, Elizabeth ('15) and Cecilia ('17), and five current students, Robert ('19), Maria ('21), William ('21), Peter ('22), and Therese ('22).

### Joseph P.D. Kern, 1933–2018

On December 11, Joseph Phillip Donald Kern passed away at his home in Fillmore, California, at the age of 85, following a prolonged illness. Mr. Kern was a longstanding supporter of Thomas Aquinas College, entrusting to it the education of four of his seven children, the eldest of whom enrolled in 1973, the College's third year of existence, when it was very much still in its nascent stage. Yet in time the College would come to thrive, in no small part because of Mr. Kern's efforts.



An accomplished attorney of more than 60 years in Ventura County — 19 of which he spent as the attorney for the city of Fillmore — Mr. Kern lent his expertise to the service of the College by serving as its general counsel, *pro bono*. "He was very helpful to us in getting the California campus established in the early 1970s," says Thomas Aquinas College co-founder Peter L. DeLuca. "He helped us to manage the necessary approvals and permits that we needed, drawing on his deep knowledge of local government. He was a wonderful man and a very important figure in the history of the College."

In his published obituary, Mr. Kern's family observed that it "was the privilege of his life, he said, to have been involved in supporting Thomas Aquinas College." His support continued well past his children's graduations and his tenure as general counsel. For years he and his wife, Lynda, have been faithful members of the President's Council, which provides the backbone of the College's Annual Fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Kern are the parents of four alumni: Hannah (Tulberg '77), Paul ('80), Mary (Orellana '81), and Charlie ('85). They are also the grandparents of seven alumni: Dorothy (Berndt '11), Sam ('11), and Henry ('16) Tulberg; and Rafael ('07), Gabriel ('08), Helena ('11), and Regina ('16) Orellana.

### Duane Berquist, 1936–2019

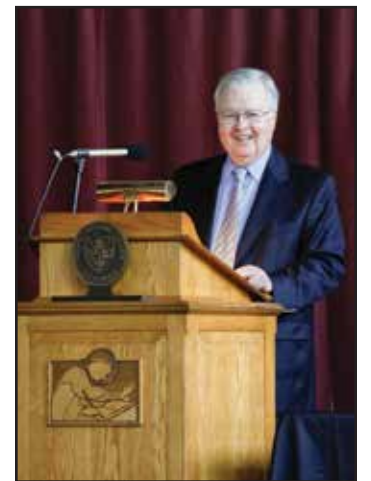
Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and raised in St. Paul, Dr. Duane Berquist was the youngest of three sons, all of whom became teachers of philosophy. One of those brothers was the late Marcus R. Berquist, a founder of Thomas Aquinas College. Owing to that relationship, Duane became a longtime friend of the College, a mentor to its faculty, and the father of an alumna, Maria (Caughron '93). Following a courageous bout with cancer, Dr. Berquist died peacefully on January 22.

"Duane Berquist, like his brother Mark, was a teacher of teachers," reflects President Michael F. McLean. "Several of our tutors studied with him while in graduate school, and Duane taught courses for faculty in our tutor summer program on a number of occasions." He also lectured on campus numerous times over the years, most recently giving the St. Thomas Day Lecture in 2014. "Duane was a renowned lecturer," adds Dr. McLean. "He was known for his ability to illustrate philosophical points with apt quotations from Shakespeare and other literary giants."

Dr. Berquist earned his bachelor's degree at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and received his Licentiate and Doctorate at Université Laval in Quebec, Canada. He taught for three years at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California, before spending 45 years as a member of the Philosophy Department at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was additionally a founding member and former vice president of the Society of Aristotelian-Thomistic Studies.

"Unlike many scholars in academia, Duane was a sapiential thinker," says Dean John Goyette. "Throughout his life he remained interested in all branches of learning, especially in philosophy and theology. He also had a great love for poetry and could recite from memory countless passages from the works of Shakespeare."

Dr. Berquist leaves behind his loving wife of 50 years, Rosalie, three children, and 19 grandchildren. "He was a true disciple of Aristotle and St. Thomas, as well as a devout Catholic," says Dr. McLean. "He will be missed by the Thomas Aquinas College community."



# “A Mark of Transition”

## Board of Governors Honors College Founder Peter L. DeLuca

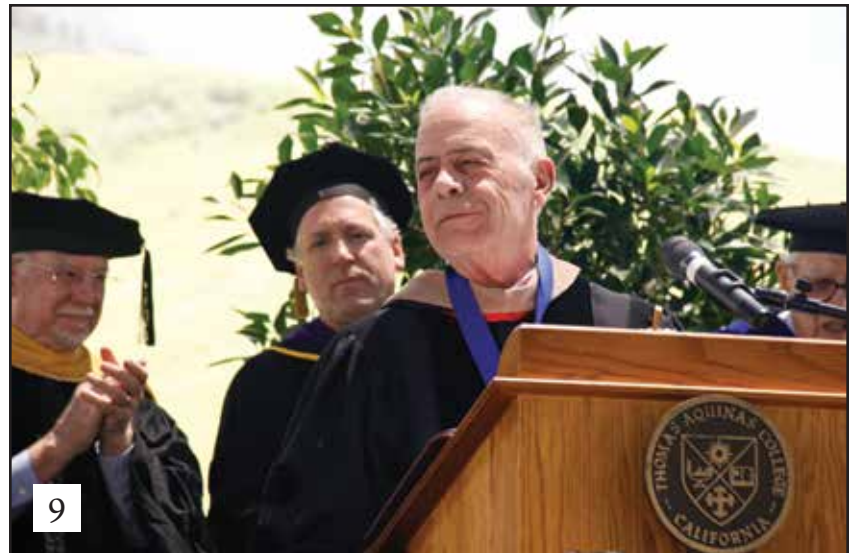
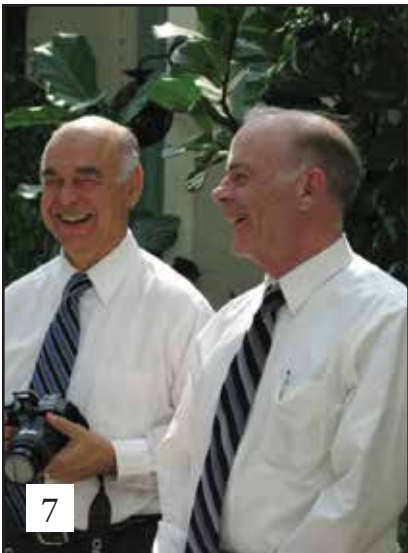
At their annual retreat last November, members of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors took time to honor the Board’s longest-serving member, Peter L. DeLuca.

“Peter, of course, is not only a founder of Thomas Aquinas College, he was the College’s first employee,” said President Michael F. McLean during a dinnertime presentation. “Over the years, he has worn almost every hat in the administration, in charge at various times of the College’s business affairs, finances, fundraising, and development. He served as vice president for finance and administration, the position he recently relinquished, for 22 years, and served nobly and admirably, with the best interest of the College at heart in every decision, consideration, meeting, and conversation.”

After nearly 50 years of service to the College, Mr. DeLuca stepped down as an administrator last summer, turning his energies more fully to the classroom, where he continues to teach in the College’s program of Catholic liberal education. Yet he still serves as a member of the Board of Governors, a position he has held since the Board’s founding a half century ago. “I was there for the original meeting. I was one of the original incorporators, and I think I have been at every meeting since,” he said. “I probably have, because of that, the best view of the importance of this Board of Governors to the institution as it has existed and extended through time. At so many critical points it has made the necessary decisions or provided the necessary wherewithal to make the College successful.”

On behalf of the Board, President McLean thanked Mr. DeLuca and his wife, Kay, presenting them with an album of photographs that chronicle, as Dr. McLean described it, “the career and the life of a servant” of Thomas Aquinas College. “This is not a retirement ceremony,” the president added. “This is just a mark of transition, the transition of one of the men who is the most important in the history of the College.”

Taking the podium, Mr. DeLuca thanked his colleagues on the Board, both past and present, living and deceased. “I believe in what we are doing, and I believe in it even more now that I am teaching two sections of Freshman Theology again,” he continued. “I see that it’s changing students’ souls. It’s re-orienting them in a way that is absolutely and fundamentally important if we are going to have any kind of Christian civilization. ... This is what the Church and the country need. This is the kind of thing that builds a civilization — and re-builds a civilization.”



Peter DeLuca’s long legacy at Thomas Aquinas College: **1.** Mr. DeLuca lunches with John Damiani ('84) during the College's early years. **2.** Mr. DeLuca (third row, left), poses with members of the College's first graduating class, the Class of 1975. **3.** Mr. DeLuca and other college officials break ground on the College's first permanent building, St. Joseph Commons. **4.** Mr. DeLuca has overseen the construction of most buildings on the California campus, most notably Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel. **5.** Mr. DeLuca greets the College's founding president, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, at the Chapel's dedication in 2009 ... **6.** ... and lights the sanctuary lamp after the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, for the very first time, in the Chapel's tabernacle. **7.** Mr. DeLuca shares a laugh with his good friend, the late president Dr. Thomas E. Dillon. **8.** Mr. DeLuca takes the oath of office, becoming the College's third president, after Dr. Dillon died in a car accident in April 2009. **9.** The College awards Mr. DeLuca its highest honor, the Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion, at Commencement 2012.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Carmen Amador**

February 2, 2018  
Grandmother of tutor Dr. John Baer and Catherine Baer ('13)

**Joan Raftery**

February 23, 2018  
Benefactor, aunt of Head Chaplain Rev. Paul Raftery, O.P.

**Thomas J. Smith**

May 22, 2018  
Legacy Society member

**Thomas J. Ashcraft**

September 25, 2018  
Legacy Society member

**Joan Phan**

November 2, 2018  
Mother of Sean Phan ('17)

**Raffaella Maria Stroik**

November 14, 2018  
Daughter of Duncan Stroik, architect for Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel

**Phil Wilmeth**

January 11, 2019  
Father of Br. Augustine (Philip '13) and John Parker ('15)

**Weston Roseberry ('18)**

January 18, 2019  
Alumnus

**Ann Walsh**

January 23, 2019  
Mother of John ('75), Thomas ('78), Ruth (Godde '80), Patrick ('86), and Michael ('86); grandmother of Margaret ('15), Michaela ('16), and Cecelia ('21)

**Helena Letteney**

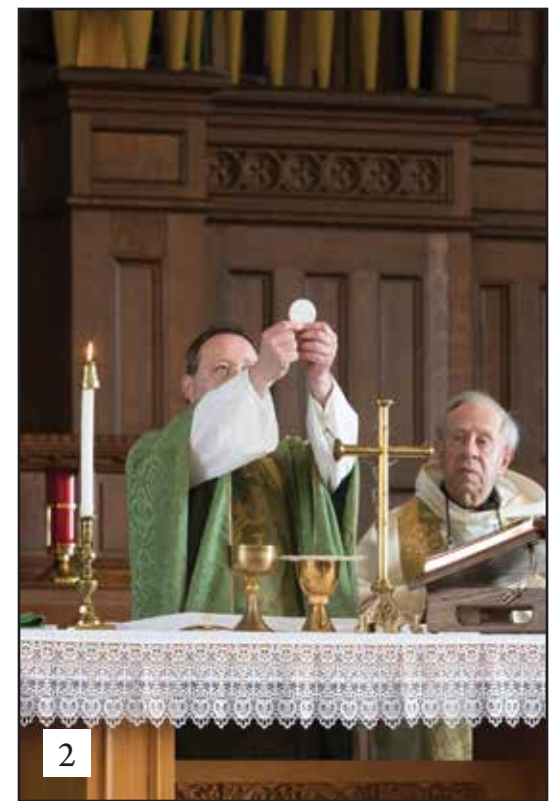
February 8, 2019  
Mother of Michael ('88); grandmother of Anastasia (Blain '13), Anthony ('14), and Teresa ('16)

**Andrew Baird ('04)**

February 11, 2019  
Alumnus, brother of Megan ('02)

**Charles I. Kratz**

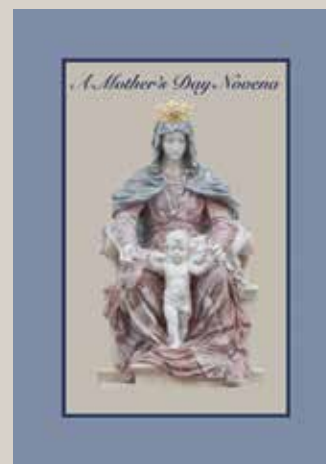
February 23, 2019  
Father of Rolfe ('97)



## CAMPUS LIFE

1. Some 230 Thomas Aquinas College students celebrate after completing January's Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco. 2. Rev. Thomas Kocik elevates the Host at the first regularly scheduled Mass in the College's New England chapel, at which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved for the first time in the chapel's tabernacle. 3. Head Chaplain Rev. Paul Raftery, O.P. (right), leads a group of 10 freshmen on a backpacking trip to Topatopa Peak in the Los Padres National Forest. 4. At the mid-semester Open-Mic Night, students perform Irish music in St. Joseph's Commons. 5. Students shoot hoops on the California basketball courts, with St. Gladys Hall in the background. 6. Celebrating Mardi Gras, students dance in St. Cecilia Hall.

## This Spring Honor Thy Father & Mother with a Novena of Masses



Beginning on Mother's Day (May 12) and Father's Day (June 16), the chaplains of Thomas Aquinas College will offer a novena of Masses for mothers and fathers, respectively. Each parent included in the novena will receive a beautiful, personalized card from the College.

Cost: \$5 per card for shipping and handling.  
Mother's Day names must be received by May 10; Father's Day by June 14.

[thomasaquinas.edu/novenas](http://thomasaquinas.edu/novenas)

THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE  
10,000 Ojai Road  
Santa Paula, CA 93060-9622

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

