



# THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

## IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS E. DILLON

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### A Community at Prayer

#### Outpouring of Grace Follows Death of College President

When working with architects to design Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, College President Thomas E. Dillon was determined to make this building the focal point of the campus. It was to stand at the head of the academic quadrangle, taller and more ornate than any other structure, announcing to the world that Thomas Aquinas College is not simply a place of learning, but a place of prayer.

Never has that been more true than in the weeks following Dr. Dillon's sudden and tragic death on April 15.

On the day of that accident in Ireland that claimed Tom Dillon's life and left his wife, Terri, injured, students, faculty, and staff gathered in the Chapel to pray a rosary and offer Mass for the repose of Dr. Dillon's soul. At the suggestion of his son-in-law Domiane Forte ('00), alumni soon undertook one of his favorite devotions, a 54-day rosary novena ending, appropriately enough, on Father's Day. And on the bulletin board in St. Joseph Commons hung a sheet of paper on which members of the community could list their contributions to an ever-growing spiritual bouquet. Off campus, alumni and friends organized scores of Masses, many offered by members of the Roman Curia, the American prelature, and the College's 45 alumni priests.

After Mrs. Dillon was well enough to return to California, the Chapel was the site of a rosary and vigil, attended by hundreds, on April 23. Together, the faithful prayed the Luminous Mysteries — his family's choice, inspired by Dr. Dillon's devotion to the Holy Eucharist. The prayers continued throughout the night, as the late president's body lay before the Lord he had lived to know, love, and serve.

The next morning, an estimated 1,400 people, including more than 25 concelebrating priests, came for the first funeral Mass held in the Chapel, offered, notably, for the man who had labored 12 years to make the building a reality. Some 25 of



*The sons and brothers of Dr. Thomas E. Dillon escort his casket, draped in a pall bearing the Maltese cross, from Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel after the April 24 funeral Mass.*

Jerusalem, the holy city. May the choirs of Angels receive you, and may you, with the once poor Lazarus, have rest everlasting."

Mourners then made their way to a local cemetery, where they were welcomed by the somber tones of Scottish bagpipes. There, they prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and afterward a flock of white doves was released into the sky.

Those who knew and loved Tom Dillon continue to grieve, but through prayer and faith in a loving, merciful God, we are consoled, confident in his eternal rest.

Dr. Dillon's fellow Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, dressed in black robes with scarlet crosses, lined the Chapel's main aisle as his brothers and sons accompanied his casket, which was draped in a pall bearing the Maltese cross. Members of the (Thomas Aquinas) College Choir filled the building with Gregorian Chant and many of their president's favorite hymns.

Two moments during the funeral were especially poignant: The first came during the Offertory, when the Dillons' 15 grandchildren carried the gifts of bread and wine to the sanctuary. The second followed the eulogy, when Mrs. Dillon and her children brought forward Dr. Dillon's Chain of Office, the silver livery collar worn by the president of Thomas Aquinas College at academic functions. Signaling the end of an era, they presented the chain to the chairman of the College's Board of Governors, Maria O. Grant, who would later bestow it upon Dr. Dillon's interim successor, Peter L. DeLuca. (See story below.)

At the end of the Mass, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Curry, Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, delivered the final commendation, and as the pallbearers escorted Dr. Dillon's casket out of the Chapel, the choir sang the hopeful words of *In Paradisum*: "May the Angels lead you into Paradise; may the Martyrs receive you at your coming and take you to

### Founder To Lead College During Transition

#### Chairman Grant Names Peter L. DeLuca as Interim President

To lead Thomas Aquinas College during the period of transition following the death of President Thomas E. Dillon in April, Chairman of the Board of Governors Maria O. Grant chose one of the College's founders and most experienced administrators, Peter L. DeLuca.

Over four decades, Mr. DeLuca has been involved in nearly all of the College's academic and administrative functions. He was formerly the vice president for development, and for the last 14 years has overseen many of the College's day-to-day operations, including most of the major campus construction projects, as vice president for finance and administration. During his 40-year tenure, he has also served as secretary and treasurer for the Board of Governors and as a tutor and member of the Instruction Committee, actively helping to shape, implement, and refine the College's unique curriculum.

After consulting with the executive committee of the Board of Governors just days after Dr. Dillon's death — and receiving the committee's unanimous support

— Mrs. Grant named Mr. DeLuca interim president on April 20. "Mr. DeLuca is completely committed to the mission of the College," she said. "I have every confidence that he is ready and able to take immediate charge of its affairs."

On April 29, at a brief ceremony in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, College Chaplain and Assistant Dean for Religious Affairs Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J., administered the Oath of Fidelity to Mr. DeLuca, who also made a Profession of Faith. Mrs. Grant then presented him with the Presidential Chain of Office.

"I was greatly honored that Mrs. Grant and the Board of Governors chose me to exercise the office of president," Mr. DeLuca reflected. "I am going to do my very best to live up to their confidence, to preserve the College, protect it, and pass it on to my successor in the way that I received it. I would like to ask everyone in the Thomas Aquinas College community to assist me with your prayers that I receive the necessary graces of office to faithfully carry out the task that is before me."

Members of the faculty and alumni have voiced their support for Mr. DeLuca in his new role as president. "I can think of no one better suited to lead the College during this interim period," remarked Dr. Michael McLean, dean of the College. "We applaud the prudence of Mrs. Grant and the Board for choosing Mr. DeLuca," added Jonathan E. Monnereau, president of the Thomas Aquinas College Alumni Association. "We are confident that during these days of mourning and uncertainty, he will guide the greater Thomas Aquinas College community as we transition to the next period of the College's life."

A graduate in economics from St. Mary's College of California, Mr. DeLuca formerly served as both western and national director of the Intercollegiate Studies In-

stitute. He also worked as assistant to the president of Grant Oil Tool Co. before pursuing graduate studies at the University of Southern California. He and his wife, Kay, live in Ojai and have six children and seven grandchildren.

As for naming Dr. Dillon's permanent successor, the chairman of the Board of Governors formally launched the selection process at the annual meeting in May, appointing a five-member Presidential Nominating Committee. Over the summer, a Committee on Presidential Candidates will also be named from among the faculty, which will begin its work by interviewing all senior members of the faculty. Ultimately, the faculty will recommend two tutors to the Board committee, which, in turn, will propose a final candidate to the full Board for its approval. The process is expected to be completed sometime in the fall.

"Dr. Dillon's death has been a tremendous shock for all of us," noted Mrs. Grant. "But I have great assurance that things are moving forward at Thomas Aquinas College and that under Mr. DeLuca's steady hand, this interim period will go smoothly."



*College Chaplain and Assistant Dean for Religious Affairs Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J., administers the Oath of Fidelity to Thomas Aquinas College President Peter L. DeLuca on April 29.*

### Remembering Dr. Dillon

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# From the Desk of the President

## A Message from Peter L. DeLuca

The College has begun to recover from the staggering blow it was struck by the sudden death of its longtime president, Thomas E. Dillon. We have completed the academic year well. We remain the vibrant institution of Catholic liberal education that Tom Dillon devoted his life to building and maintaining.

In his senior address on Commencement Day, Simon Noster told his fellow graduates, “We are his legacy.” This could not be truer! For 18 years Tom labored to build the campus, increase the faculty and student body, and enhance the reputation of the College. To do these things he never diminished either the College’s commitment to the philosophy of its patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, or to the truths of the Catholic faith. He brought forward the vision of the College’s founders and sprang it into the future whole and complete.

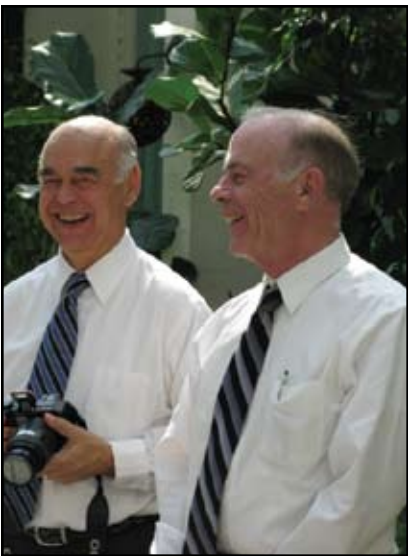
His legacy, however, is not just one particular senior class. It is the long line of graduates stretching into the future who, in the Providence of God, will provide new generations of leadership for the benefit of Church and State. They come from and return to every corner of America and many other parts of the Universal Church. They bear with them the virtue they have acquired and the grace they have received. They will “leaven the whole lump.”

Tom Dillon labored long and hard to build the magnificent Chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. He collaborated with the architect to produce its grand plan and each detail. He inspected the work of each artisan, and he solicited many a gift from our generous benefactors. He thereby fashioned a great sign and center of the College and its commitment to the Catholic faith. But it is not the substance of

Tom’s legacy. That is the College itself and the students who will come here, worship in the Chapel, learn in the classroom and, yes, dine in the commons.

Whenever we considered some practical matter, Tom always cut through the confusion by asking, “What is the end? What are we aiming at?” And when we ask those questions about Thomas Aquinas College itself, the answer always comes back the same: It is the students. Their good is what we exist for and why we labor, what Tom devoted his life to.

How can we honor Tom Dillon’s memory? We cannot do better than to rededicate ourselves to the work of Thomas Aquinas College — the Catholic liberal education of the students God sends us. I make that firm resolution, and I ask you to make it with me. In doing that, we will be following Fr. Buckley’s sage advice in his homily at Tom’s funeral Mass. We will be doing what Tom would want us to do.



Longtime friends and colleagues, late president Thomas E. Dillon and his successor, Peter L. DeLuca, are seen here at the wedding of Mr. DeLuca’s son — and Dr. Dillon’s godson — Richard DeLuca (’04), last fall.

## Praise for a President



“Thomas E. Dillon left a magnificent, tangible legacy. That is, of course, Thomas Aquinas College — and its new chapel — in California. In a time when, sadly, so many American Catholic colleges and universities fail to follow John Paul II’s apostolic constitution, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Thomas Aquinas College is a shining counterexample, an institution truly Catholic and truly committed to academic excellence. If, as the Good Lord told us, a tree is judged by its fruit, there can be no finer tribute to Tom Dillon than the impressive growth of this fine Catholic college under his leadership.”

— William L. Saunders  
Vice President, National Catholic Prayer Breakfast  
May 8, 2009

“Tom Dillon knew... that not only faith but reason itself testified to the superiority of the Catholic vision of education. His life was characterized by the kind of unity of purpose that is increasingly rare ... His vocations as father, as teacher, and as administrator complemented and enriched one another. His aspirations for the college he loved were marvelously fulfilled just weeks before his death, with the dedication of a magnificent chapel.”

— Dr. Thomas S. Hibbs  
Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Culture  
Baylor University



“I am deeply saddened by Tom’s passing. I so admired his love and passion for the College and, even more, for the great works and ideas reflected in the curriculum.... I know he gave his life for the transmission of the great ideas and spiritual traditions of Thomas Aquinas College. Even in the hard days of the fights with WASC over diversity, we maintained a good relationship and I had many good talks with him then and afterwards.”

— Ralph Wolff  
President and Executive Director  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

“Tom will be remembered as a builder of the Church in America through his tireless labors to secure Thomas Aquinas College as a permanent institution of academic excellence and fidelity. He was a generous counselor to many of his peers in Catholic higher education. He was a champion of the revival of small-scale, Socratic liberal arts education, and was a gifted teacher and administrator.”

— Dr. Jeffrey O. Nelson  
President, Thomas More College of Liberal Arts



“In the early 90s the regional accrediting agencies had abandoned their traditional educational aims in pursuit of a conformist political agenda that would leave little room for fostering the traditional openness of liberal education. At the time, little Thomas Aquinas College was new, small, and weak.... Yet, it was in fact Thomas Aquinas College that initiated, and then led, the resistance to the regionals.... This movement to protect the autonomy of liberal arts colleges had much to do with the founding of AALE and with its straightforward agenda in support of the liberal arts mission...With Tom’s passing, our future has lost a man of consequence.”

— Jeffrey Wallin  
Founding President and CEO  
American Academy for Liberal Education



“Just wanted to write a special note of condolence on behalf of the International Theological Institute in Austria. Tom and TAC have been such a big help to the ITI in that ITI was modeled after TAC.”

— James Holman  
Board Chairman, International Theological Institute



“I was struck by his great enthusiasm and energy, by his sincerity and his charity, and most of all by his whole-hearted commitment to the cause of Catholic liberal education. I firmly believe that Wyoming Catholic College would not exist if not for the example set by Thomas Aquinas College, and I am just as sure that Thomas Aquinas College would not be what it is today without the tireless work and sacrifice of Tom Dillon. His leadership and guidance will be greatly missed.”

— Rev. Robert W. Cook  
President, Wyoming Catholic College



“Dr. Dillon was a humble, saintly Catholic gentleman and a scholar. He was a pioneer for Catholic higher education in America. His selfless dedication and devotion to teaching the Catholic faith, as articulated in Pope John Paul II’s *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and *Fides et Ratio*, were unparalleled. Dr. Dillon set an example for what Catholic higher education should aspire to accomplish in undergraduate studies. The works achieved at Thomas Aquinas College during Dr. Dillon’s presidency are exceptional. The College is a beacon of joy and hope.”

— Jeffrey J. Karls  
President, Magdalen College

“Tom Dillon was a good friend, devout Catholic, and a man deeply committed to the authentic renewal of Catholic higher education.... His death is a great loss to us all and a great personal loss to my wife, Cathy, and me as well. He had been a great inspiration to me.”

— Dr. Timothy O’Donnell  
President, Christendom College



“Only in the past week have I been reading about the opening of the new chapel. What a glorious creation it is — a graphic expression of all that the College stands for, and now of Tom’s legacy of Catholic learning as well. I wrote to Tom last week to congratulate him for the latest extension of his appointment as president. I’m glad that it gave me the opportunity to express Campion’s gratitude to Thomas Aquinas, and to Tom Dillon ... for the inspiration and guidance you have provided over the years in the development of a Catholic liberal arts college Down Under.”

— Karle Schmude  
Executive Director  
Campion Foundation, Campion College, Australia

“Tom Dillon was an outstanding member of the Order of Malta, having encountered the Order when he and his son came with us to Lourdes. He played a vital role in the Order as the Western Association’s Defense of the Faith Chair — inspiring his fellow members with regular communications on the Catholic faith. He will be sorely missed.”

— William Regan, KM  
President  
Order of Malta, Western Association U.S.A.



“Tom Dillon’s death added yet another name to the list of grave losses in recent months: Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J.; Father Richard Neuhaus; Msgr. Bill Smith; Father Francis Canavan, S.J.... As I deeply share in your sense of loss, permit me to say that I, for one, do not worry about the future of Thomas Aquinas College. The strength and wisdom of the Board of Governors, and the commitment of the faculty, will see you through. And with Tom’s intercession from his new station, I feel confident that the marvelous enterprise that you have all built will go from strength to strength.”

— George Weigel  
Distinguished Senior Fellow,  
William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies  
Ethics and Public Policy Center





# Eulogy: “He Has Entered into his Master’s Rest”

By Thomas J. Susanka



I am aware, Terri, of how little I merit the honor you and your family do me in asking me to speak in praise of your husband as we make our farewell to him.

I am also deeply aware of the impossibility of this task, if it is to summarize a life so full of faith and good works, or even if it is to shine a light on only a few of those talents, those gifts from God

of which he made such full and profitable use and for which we should be most keenly grateful.

But since you have asked, I do presume to speak for the whole college to you, Terri, and to your children and grandchildren and to Tom’s mother, here mourning for your husband and father and grandfather and son.

Where can we begin? With that indomitable, courageous heart which sustained him like a great oak in his work for Thomas Aquinas College against distractions, fatigue, and myriad administrative duties and faculty responsibilities; and the ceaseless demands of hundreds of friendships; and the unending official and personal correspondence; and the late, late nights and early mornings; and the nomadic life pressed upon him as the chief representative of the College in the public presentation of its mission; and as the most visible and convincing example of the fruit of Catholic liberal education?

Or with his child-like wonder about God’s creation and his captivity to the truth that we receive and love the world in which we live, we do not create and manipulate it? With that true and vigorous humility admixed with the pride and pleasure he took in his own quick reasoning mind, a mind he loved to exercise in the give and take of argument and enquiry?

Or perhaps with that greatness of soul which so attracted us to him and through him to the ennobling and perfecting labors of philosophy and theology? With his happiness in leading his students into the careful reading of an important text or the discovery of a life-changing truth? Or with the difficult sacrifice he made to teach less so that he could earn more for the College?

Or perhaps with that razor-sharp, legendary wit with which he jovially parried the blows of too great sobriety and the dismay that comes of reading the bad news printed day after day in the *Los Angeles Times*? A wit that so quickly and humorously saw the connecting middle terms of a good pun, and by which, more poetically, he also connected such unlike pairs as “Man is mortal and sinful” and “God has chosen us for Himself anyway”?

Or with that competitive spirit which made him drive every time for the basket, or at least take a hook shot, and which made him now and then not notice his own personal fouls in the play that thrilled his heart and refreshed him for the bigger play of leading his College to complete victory?

Or perhaps with that tenderness of word and heart that revealed so deep a love for friends and colleagues on the faculty? Or with that fatherly devotion and husbandly friendship and self-sacrifice that showed him to be a man utterly absorbed by his vocation?

Or should we begin with the virtue which began to shine so brightly in the days that have turned out to be toward the end of his earthly life: his frequent recollection of and gratitude for the goodness of those whose material and spiritual kindnesses allow the College to live?

Or with his simple confidence in a benevolent, provident, and merciful God? With his habit of daily Mass and prayer and devotion?

With his veneration for our patron, St. Thomas, and his eager discipleship to that great saint?

Or with his life-long imitation of that master teacher of young people, St. John Bosco? Like that great juggler and entertainer, Tom could keep half a dozen administrative balls in the air at the same time, and he could amuse and beguile an audience right into a deep love of Catholic education.

These things live in our memories and they are reflected in what we now do in our own lives because of Tom’s enduring influence on us. What an example he left us of a good man living a good life. These are not past and gone. They are present consolations for our loss.

Nor do we have only these dear memories and reflections. We kneel before Our Lord in the tabernacle to mourn for Tom and pray for his eternal happiness here in this beautiful chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. It is his work, he built it for us, the tangible, lasting fruit of his determination that we have a fitting place to worship God.

Tom said our chapel should have four distinguishing marks: beauty, grandeur, permanence, and tradition. We may gaze about us with awe and gratitude for this farsighted vision and for his perseverant labor to bring a vision into flesh and concrete. Tom knew every arch and aisle of the Chapel, its apse and ambulatory. Every bit of stone, marble, tile, and plaster. Every stick of furniture. Every window, cornice, and candle.

Nor is this chapel, so splendid and solid, our only consolation.

In complete obedience, Tom received his commission to be president of this college — understanding its particular curriculum and aim — and he built it up also with the fullness of his prodigious energy. It was under his protection and leadership

that we grew into our mature estate, attaining the enrollment of 350 men and women, the goal of our founders, a goal for so many years elusive and seemingly beyond our reach.

And we at last filled out the roster of our faculty to support, guide, and form our students. Tom was proud of his colleagues and deeply edified by their minds and hearts and by their commitment to the principles and goals of the College, a commitment they shared with him and which brought them together as one.

His college — our college — is here to stay. Always focused on the real goals of Thomas Aquinas College and concerned to safeguard its true mission, Tom nevertheless left us a college even our often confused and deeply secularized brother and sister educational institutions recognize and applaud as excellent. Thomas Aquinas College has kept to her principles and has become a shining light for the world, not covered by a bushel basket.

And beyond these tangible consolations, we have Faith, Hope, and Love. As the Apostle says, these three abide, and the greatest of these is Love.

Tom, indeed, has now only Love. We may confidently expect that his readiness for God and our earnest prayers for his beatitude have brought him already into God’s presence. Tom has now no need for Faith and Hope. He cannot believe in unseen evidence of things to be hoped for, for Faith and Hope cease when the things believed in and hoped for appear. But Love becomes even greater and more ardent. And in that Love we find consolation. Our union with Tom because of our love for him, and his face-to-face union with the Trinity, bring us even closer to him and to the life of God that is Love. We are bound together yet more firmly into the Body of which Christ is the Head.

It is we who remain behind that have need for, and time to exercise, Faith and Hope. In these, too, Tom has set us a good example. We worship in Our Lady’s chapel because Tom’s faith was in a God who would provide for the need of the College to honor Him in the most fitting place.

Tom’s confident hope was that by diligent prayer and work, the College would receive the grace to remain faithful to its mission. This is our living and present hope, too.

Above all these and binding them together is Love.

Tom has loved us and has given his life for us. He has followed his saving Lord faithfully and well. He has entered into his Master’s rest. By the shedding of his blood, Tom has helped sanctify this chapel. As we worship the Holy Trinity in it, we may long for the day on which each of us also will enter into our Master’s rest and, with Tom and with Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, praise and glorify God forever.

May God bless and comfort you, Terri, and your beautiful family.

*Thomas J. Susanka, a friend of the Dillon family and the Director of Gift Planning at Thomas Aquinas College, delivered the eulogy at the April 24 funeral Mass of Dr. Thomas E. Dillon.*







15<sup>th</sup> May 2009

I met the late Mr. Tom Dillon for the first time when I participated in the commencement ceremonies of Thomas Aquinas College in May 2007. From that moment onwards we struck up a close friendship based on common interests and a deep love for the Church. In Mr. Dillon, I knew, I had met yet another great human being and disciple of Jesus and was thankful for that.

The secret of all of that was his deep sense of faith in God which I experienced in his words, in his way of getting about things, his absolute dedication to the College and his sense of closeness to all those youngsters who were fortunate to have been formed and molded by him. He was so proud of them all and their many achievements. Once he wrote to me so enthusiastically about a couple of his students: “I hope you share the pride we take in these graduates of Thomas Aquinas College, whose influence for good grows with each passing year.” And that sense of joy made him feel so optimistic and undaunted in facing up to the many challenges of his mission. Besides, the students of the College who had embraced priestly or religious life made him particularly happy. Each time I met with him he would list out to me the names and current whereabouts of those students.

Behind all of this was that great sense of joy with which he cherished his faith in God and the love and loyalty he felt for the Church, especially for the successor of Peter in Rome. And so, he made it a point to visit Rome regularly and on several occasions to meet the Pope. This faith in Christ and in His Church remains written all over that beautiful Chapel, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity which he so carefully designed and built within the compound of the college. In my visit to this chapel building, then still under construction, Mr. Dillon kept me spellbound with the way he explained each minute detail which he had planned. It was a profoundly theological exposé that came straight from his heart.

Yes, that was the essence and meaning of the life of Dr. Tom Dillon. He believed in Jesus, celebrated that faith in prayer and turned it into life offering up a sacrifice pleasing to God in the footsteps of his beloved Lord. Thus in him faith, liturgy and life were one.

I thank God for the gift of Dr. Dillon to us and thank his beloved wife, Terri, and all her loved ones for the great strength and support they would have given him in achieving such heights of spiritual perfection and committed service to humanity. May God bless them all, and may Dr. Dillon enjoy beatific vision in the presence of God whom he loved so much.

I wind up these words quoting from the Holy Bible on the true meaning of death for a Christian, “The souls of the upright are in the hands of God, and no torment can touch them. To the unenlightened they appeared to die, their departure was regarded as a disaster, their leaving us like annihilation; but they are at peace ... at their time of visitation, they will shine out; .... Those who are faithful will live with him in love” [Wisdom 3:1-19].

+ Archbishop Malcolm Ranjith  
Secretary, Congregation for Divine Worship  
and the Discipline of the Sacraments



22 April 2009

It was with great sadness that I heard of the sudden death of Dr. Thomas Dillon while he and his wife were travelling in Ireland. Just a week later they were coming to visit me at my office in Vatican City.

I remember Dr. Dillon with respect and admiration. Great merit must be attributed to his personal and professional commitment in the defense and diffusion of Christian thought, particularly in the formation of so many young people, an open-minded formation yet founded on sound humanistic principles.

My heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to his wife and constant companion, Terri, and their children for this immense loss, and to his friends and collaborators at Thomas Aquinas College which I had the privilege of visiting last November 2008. The fruits of his labor at the College were evident everywhere, not only in the care and beauty of the campus but in the impressive quality of the many students whom I spoke with. It was an edifying and encouraging experience that I will always remember.

In pax domini

Cardinal Giovanni Lajolo  
President of the Governorship of Vatican City State



17<sup>th</sup> April 2009

Dear Mr. DeLuca,

During my current visit to Magdalen College, N.H., I received the tragic news of the death of our dear Dr. T. Dillon in a car accident in Ireland. This is a heavy cross for Terri and children, for Thomas Aquinas College, for friends of the College like me, and indeed for the Catholic Educational World.

It is significant that the dedication of the extraordinary chapel in the College last 7 March now looks like his *Nunc Dimittis*, and that he died on the anniversary of the meeting of Pope Benedict with Catholic educators in Washington.

I am pained. I had earlier agreed with him that he and Terri would have lunch with me in my Vatican flat next Wednesday and they would tell me about the 7 March dedication!

We bow in front of God’s Providence which is beyond us.

Please accept and extend to Terri and the children and to the entire College my heartfelt sympathy on the passing of this great Catholic educator. At the same time, we thank God for the good that His grace accomplished through Dr. Dillon. I have celebrated Holy Mass for him and will continue to commend his dear soul to the merciful Lord.

+ Francis Cardinal Arinze  
Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship  
and the Discipline of the Sacraments



20 April 2009

Dear Mrs. Dillon & family, and the Community of Thomas Aquinas College,

I was greatly saddened to hear about the terrible accident which claimed the life of Dr. Thomas Dillon, President of Thomas Aquinas College. At a time like this words seem so inadequate, but I did want to write to express my union of prayer with all those who are gathered today to mourn his death.

We read in the Book of Wisdom: “The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time.... Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career” (Wis 4:7-8, 13).

These words taken from King Solomon express our sorrow at the passing of a person who needs no eulogy. His very life is the material for it and his death is the preaching of it. Such a one was Thomas Dillon.

He was a family man, deeply devoted to his beloved wife, Terri, and their children, and he was equally passionate about his Faith and especially Thomas Aquinas College. The magnificent Chapel of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity will remain a living testament to his person. Having participated in the groundbreaking ceremony, and witnessing its completion, he was able to say with Simeon in his *Nunc Dimittis*: “Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace; you have fulfilled your word. For my eyes have witnessed your saving deed...” (Lk 2:29-30).

We pray now that Thomas Dillon be admitted into the everlasting home of the God he so faithfully served here on earth. May his noble soul rest in peace.

With deep sympathies, I remain

Sincerely yours,

Archbishop Celestino Migliore  
Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See  
to the United Nations



April 24, 2009

Dear Mrs. Grant,

I write to offer my sincerest condolences on the untimely death of Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, president of Thomas Aquinas College. To you and your fellow members of the Board of Governors, and to the faculty and students, I promise my prayers during this moment of grief.

Over the years I have known Dr. Dillon, I have been often impressed by his love for the Church and singular dedication to Catholic higher education and Thomas Aquinas College. This passion was further demonstrated in his able chairmanship of the Defense of the Faith Committee of the Western Association of the Order of Malta. Indeed, one can say that Dr. Dillon's life was a vibrant response to the invitation we read in the First Letter of St. Peter: "Always be prepared to give an answer to those who ask you for the reason for your hope" (1 Pt. 3:15).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead gives us hope and confidence even in the midst of the sadness of loss. May this Easter faith which nurtured Dr. Dillon in his earthly life console you and bring you peace. Please be assured of my continued prayers for the repose of the soul of Dr. Dillon and for God's blessing on Thomas Aquinas College.

In Easter hope, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William Cardinal Levada  
Prefect, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith



Vatican City, 24 April 2009

Dear Chairman Grant,

The Congregation for Catholic Faith has received your letter, dated 16 April 2009, in which you share the sorrowful news of the death of Dr. Thomas E. Dillon, President of Thomas Aquinas College.

The loss of such a fine figure, emblematic of the good work done at Thomas Aquinas College, leaves a gap in the life of any institution — and more so when it is a figure of such stature and history. Truly, Dr. Dillon was the face of your College, steeped in Catholic tradition and in academic excellence.

Please accept our condolences for the college community. Assured as we are that as we have died with Christ, so shall we live with Christ, our confidence lies in the Lord of all hopefulness.

*Saints of God, come to his aid!  
Hasten to meet him angels of the Lord!  
Receive his soul and present him to God the Most High.*

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace. Amen.*

Availing ourselves of this opportunity to express our sentiments of personal esteem and sympathy, we remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski  
Prefect, Congregation for Catholic Education



## Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Statement of Cardinal Roger Mahony  
On the Death of Dr. Thomas Dillon  
April 17, 2009

I was deeply saddened to learn of the news of the death of Dr. Thomas Dillon this week in Ireland. Just a few short weeks ago, I had the honor of consecrating Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel on the campus of Dr. Dillon's beloved Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula. It was apparent to all that Dr. Dillon rightly considered the Chapel to be the heart and soul of the College to which he had devoted so much of his energy, talent and life. And though his death is a great shock to us all, there is some small consolation in knowing that the completion and dedication of the Chapel was the last great act in the life of a man devoted to knowing and loving God.

Dr. Dillon was a gracious and joyful man, always making time in his often hectic schedule for other projects and events that enriched the spiritual life of the Archdiocese. Through his work as chairman of the Defense of the Faith Committee of the Western Association of the Order of Malta, he was the source of important doctrinal and spiritual material that enriched the lives of many Catholics.

During this time of grief, let us all pray for the continued recovery of Dr. Dillon's wife, Terri, and for their son and family members. Let us also pray for the students, faculty and staff of Thomas Aquinas College, for whom Dr. Dillon was a special gift and blessing. Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Angels, may the soul of Dr. Dillon find eternal peace in God.



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

April 16, 2009

My Dear Friends,

It is with great sadness that I have learned of the sudden death of Dr. Thomas Dillon, beloved President of Thomas Aquinas College. It is a particularly significant loss for me, because of my affiliation with him in encouraging his many efforts to continually enhance and promote the unique academic richness that Thomas Aquinas College provides within the context of our Catholic faith.

The passing of this highly respected educator, as we are aware, undoubtedly leaves a tremendous void in the life of your renowned institution, having developed so wonderfully under his constant care and direction. However, by his countless accomplishments and planning for the future, this man of vision left a noble legacy of faith and learning which will continue to enrich minds and hearts for years to come. His immense love for the Catholic Church and its splendid tradition of imparting to others true Christian principles in the whole of the learning process is an outstanding example to Catholic educators everywhere. May we all continue to be inspired by his tireless zeal and fervent dedication in his efforts to build up the Kingdom of God in our midst.

As we are deeply drawn this season into the wondrous event of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ we reflect upon the words of Our Holy Father spoken to the faithful on the very day, April 15<sup>th</sup>, that Dr. Dillon was called to eternal life: "With St. Augustine we can proclaim: 'The Resurrection of Christ is our hope' and our future... It is true — Christ's Resurrection is the foundation of our firm hope and illuminates our entire earthly pilgrimage, including the human enigma of pain and death. Faith in Christ crucified and risen is the heart of the evangelical message, the central nucleus of our 'Creed'... At Easter, God reveals Himself and the power of the Trinitarian love that annihilates the destructive forces of evil and death" (General Audience).

In extending my profound sympathies to his dear wife, for whose speedy recovery we pray, and to his family, as well as to the faculty and all at Thomas Aquinas College, may we take comfort and consolation in the reality that the Risen Lord now radiates His gentle peace upon His good and faithful servant, Dr. Thomas Dillon.

With my prayerful regards, I remain,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio



# “Loving Service to His Faith, His Family, and His Friends”

By Bill Corkery

For those of you who don't know me, I am Bill Corkery, Theresa Dillon's brother and, of course, Tom's brother-in-law.

As with most speakers, when asked to say a few words on such an occasion, I experience a great deal of ambivalence — joy that I have been asked to share some thoughts about a man whom I greatly admire and have known for 46 years, and fear that my words will never begin to do him justice.

When my nephew, Tommy Dillon, told me that his dad was killed in an auto accident, I was, like all of us, in shock and disbelief. After a few prayers for his immortal soul and his immediate family, I began to reflect upon the Tom Dillon that I knew.

When I first met Tom, Terri and he were seniors in high school; I was a sophomore; my brother, Mike, was a freshman; and my sister, Gloria, was somewhere lost in the second grade. Who was this guy who caught my sister's attention and she his?

Well, I soon found out that Tom had spent his first three years of high school in a Salesian seminary in Watsonville, California, called St. Francis. Now, my dad was always protective of his daughters and screened all their potential dates. Consequently, when my dad was told that Tom spent three years in a seminary, he was amenable to allowing Terri to go out with him. God works through natural but often mysterious ways. Three years later, they were married, and the rest, as the saying goes, is history.

After high school, Tom attended St. Mary's College, studying the great books in the Integral Program. His enthusiasm for his course of studies and his admiration for his instructors led me to follow him to the college. Upon reflection, Tom's leading and my following pretty much sums up in many ways our relationship.

With the important things in life, we were always on the same page, but with those issues of a lesser degree, we had our differences. Even when disagreeing with Tom, I always found an attraction to his logic and reasoning. Often I would come back to his arguments — a day, a week, a month, a year, or years later — and find myself in agreement with him. Of course, I would never tell him about the change in my position, but I like to believe that he saw the transformation in the future discussions and deliberations we had. At all times, Tom played well the role of the good, patient teacher.

As we all know, Tom was constantly on the go. He packed more into 63 years of life than many who live to advanced years. Tom was always multitasking and was always maximizing his time. I remember well when Tom, Terri, and the kids would come to see my parents. After an hour or so, Tom would excuse himself to run errands — he needed to go to a book store, to contact a benefactor or a potential donor, or to purchase tires for the car. He seldom had downtime. Come to think of it, I don't know if Tom's personality would ever have allowed him to have a real vacation because he never completely withdrew — even for a short time — from the events and circumstances surrounding his life.

Recently Tom has been called the “builder” of Thomas Aquinas College, a title that I consider very appropriate. As with all master builders, Tom's attention to detail was remarkable. For example, with the building of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, he chose materials not only for their essential role in the construction of the church but also for their historical, traditional, symbolic, and spiritual enhancement of the structure. Tom appreciated the depth and meaning of words, ideas, and symbols as building blocks in understanding more fully the truth.

Tom had a great wit and a wonderful sense of humor. I was first introduced to them when we were in high school. A group of us had gone to Garrets Ice Cream Parlor, and we began to order double scoops of ice cream on cones. We made the standard selections of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, or New York cherry, and the ice-cream clerk served us each one at a time. Last was Tom. While we were licking our double scoops, Tom placed his order of one scoop of licorice and one scoop of eggnog. The ice-cream clerk looked at Tom quizzically and asked, “Do you want them on the same cone?” Tom replied, “Yes, but leave about an inch between them.” After that comment, we all howled and just about lost our ice creams.

Often Tom's humor and stories were self-deprecating. I always enjoyed hearing about the time when Tom went to some remote area in Florida to introduce himself to a potential donor. It was a hot, humid, summer day when Tom arrived in the late afternoon at the gentleman's estate. After introducing himself to the man and some general conversation, Tom's host invited him to sit down and have a Scotch with him. Tom nursed his drink because he had not eaten all day. It was starting to get late, and Tom knew he should be leaving if



Tom and Terri Dillon bring forward the College's collection of holy relics at the Chapel Dedication Weekend Mass for the Alumni of Thomas Aquinas College in March.

he was going to check into his hotel room by a reasonable hour. He was offered a second drink, took a few sips, and then told his host that he had to leave and that they would speak again.

As Tom left the house — with a slight glow — he became aware of a torrential storm. Walking down the steps, he slipped and fell, tossing his briefcase and its contents onto the lawn. He scrambled to gather his papers and then scurried across the lawn to his rental car in order to get out of the downpour. Once in the car, Tom realized there was no storm but simply that the automatic sprinklers had turned on.

After Tom told us the story, we asked him if the gentleman ever moved into the ranks of a donor. Tom said yes, but on the one condition

that Tom visit often and provide additional entertainment.

Tom was a very caring and thoughtful man, clearly evident by the thought he put into selecting gifts for people. I remember his giving me a bottle of wine under the Thomas Aquinas College label. As I recall, it was not a particularly fine vintage wine; but when Tom told me why he had selected this particular gift for me, explaining its history and significance, I suddenly found that the wine had acquired a rare and noble character. During one of Tom and Terri's trips to Washington, D.C., Tom made a visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and obtained a rubbing of the name of my brother's best friend and his wife Linda's cousin — Michael Jensen. Tom framed the rubbing and presented it as a gift to Mike and Linda. They were deeply touched by the thoughtfulness of this very personal gift.

In Mission San Carlos Borromeo in Carmel, halfway down the nave of the mission church to the left, is a side altar. Here on September 17, 1987, His Holiness Pope John Paul II knelt and prayed for Blessed Father Junipero Serra. To commemorate the event, on the floor in front of the altar is a marble stone with a quote from John Paul about the Apostle to California, Father Junipero Serra. When I read it, I immediately thought the words also aptly applied to one of the Apostles to California's Catholic Higher Education — Tom Dillon:

“Much to be envied are those who can give their lives for something greater than themselves in loving service to others. This, more than words or deeds alone, is what draws people to Christ.”

Tom's example of loving service to his faith, his family, and his friends — his Church, his colleagues, and his college community — draws us to Christ.

As we all know, St. Thomas Aquinas is seated at the heavenly banquet. Now please join me in asking him to move over a little to let his brother in Christ — Tom Dillon — be seated among the heavenly host.

Tom, we pray for you, and we ask you in your generosity to pray for us. Amen.

Bill Corkery, Mrs. Dillon's brother, offered these reflections at the rosary for Dr. Dillon in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel on April 23.



The Dillons enjoy a family reunion with their 4 children and 15 grandchildren, as well as Tom's brother Bob and their mother, Shirley.



# A Friend and Colleague

## Members of the Board of Governors and Campaign Co-Chair Remember Dr. Dillon

**R. James Wensley, Incoming Chairman of the Board**

*Comments at Commencement 2009*

Dr. Tom Dillon was an incredible man in so many ways. He was my friend, and I loved him. If you didn't know Tom, a read of his résumé might lead you to think that he was straight laced and an overly serious person. It is true that his knowledge and intellect were astounding, but that serious side was complemented by a warm and outgoing personality, a sense of humor, and a degree of humility and humble faith that I envied.

We were privileged to have Tom and Terri spend the night with us before they left for Ireland. The four of us and our 12-year-old granddaughter went out to dinner. Tom was in rare form, recalling some of his favorite movie lines and talking to our granddaughter in a gentle way about her reading habits. (Always the educator!) Germaine and I cherish the memory of that evening.

Dr. Dillon's legacy to the College can be measured in many ways, but his greatest legacy to Thomas Aquinas College is you, the seniors, your predecessors, and those who follow you.

**The Honorable William P. Clark, Co-Chairman, Comprehensive Campaign**  
Dear Tom:

Days ago, Our Lord called home my two dearest friends only hours apart: Joan Clark and you. Borrowing from St. Thomas More to daughter Meg and to us, "Please pray for me as I shall pray for you that we might meet merrily in Heaven."

Love,  
Bill

P.S. Terri, More's humor proves he was truly an Irishman: To the executioner, "I shall ascend by my own assistance, but you may have to assist me down."

**Cecilia and Dieter Huckestein**

We believe that Dr. Dillon was a man of true holiness. Holy means "a perfect moral sense; set apart for a sacred use; awe-inspiring." How can one argue that Tom Dillon does not fulfill these requirements of meaning? He was a teacher of this "perfect moral sense" to hundreds of young adults. He was "set apart" — all of those who knew this man were aware that he possessed something different from the rest of us; we all knew that we were in the presence of someone who knew more, transcended more, wanted more, for the sake of God. Lastly, he was "awe-inspiring." What further demonstration of this can we find than the chapel he worked so hard to build? And although it was "his," he wanted it to be God's. The entire argument of its architecture was the view of God Himself in the Eucharistic chamber, the tabernacle. Tom Dillon was a "holy" man, and as such, we honor him.

**Ronald Richard**

I went to see Tom earlier this year and told him that my wife and I were planning a trip to Europe, including three days in Rome. I wanted to know what churches he thought we should visit. He said he'd think about it and get back to me — and that he would also tell me the best place to get a gelato.

When I hadn't heard from him right away, I decided that he was too busy; but two nights before we left, the telephone rang, and it was Tom. He gave me a list of churches, including the four major basilicas. He also told me the name of the best place to get a gelato and where it is located.

In Rome we visited three of the major basilicas and a number of other churches, including ones on his list. We also found the gelato place, and he was right — it was the best among the several we had visited while in Italy. In our three weeks in Europe we visited about two dozen churches grand and small, awesome and intimate, including Notre Dame in Paris.

After returning, I went to Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, and I thought, "I wouldn't trade this for any of the churches I saw." Our chapel is so bright inside. Whether it's sunny or cloudy, day or night, one is bathed in light. I have Tom Dillon to thank for this. He wanted it to be that way and made sure that it was.

In the midst of praying and worshiping, I look around at all the details and have to thank Tom for making sure they all came out right. I look at the quality and have to thank him for wanting the best. In all that he did for the College he insisted on the best. For Tom, anything worth doing was worth doing perfectly. And so he acted for the Church, for the College, for his friends, for his family.

**John W. Blewett**

When I joined Thomas Aquinas College in 1980, one of the first men I had occasion to work with was Tom Dillon. In those days, the College was under duress on various fronts, and Dr. Dillon exhibited an impressive constancy to remain focused on the concept and goals of the College with a purposeful and unyielding fortitude, fidelity, and loyalty. These same qualities remained a part of his commitment throughout his presidency.



*Incoming Chairman of the Board of Governors R. James Wensley and Dr. Dillon visit on the academic quadrangle following the March 7 dedication of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.*

**R. Scott Turicchi**

Our "beggar for the Lord" had many talents, but these only were useful because of his deep prayer life. Immediately after the blessing of the Chapel's cornerstone in Rome and all the festivities, Tom and I spent a day in San Giovanni Rotondo — the home of St. Pio. He spent the day as a common pilgrim, absorbed in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, and the Stations of the Cross. He was renewed by that day of prayer. To be with him that day was a great gift that I will always treasure.

In mid-March, exhilarated but drained by the months of planning and the series of events surrounding the dedication of the Chapel, he desperately wanted to make a retreat. When the retreat concluded, he was truly beaming. When I suggested that we should go again next year, he responded that we should go in six months. Sadly, that will not be.

In addition to his prayer life, Tom's drive was also due in large part to the support from Terri. Not only did she permit him to pursue his mission for Catholic higher education, she was always there with him. He valued deeply her encouragement and knew that she

added a special dimension to his work. Her grace and wisdom have made her a wonderful ambassador and first lady for Thomas Aquinas College. She has been a pillar in these difficult circumstances and has provided us all confidence as she prays in the Chapel and surrenders herself to the will of God. What a great couple that has set an example and standard for us all.

**Theresa Salameno**

Just a few short years ago, my family and I had the pleasure to meet Tom and Terri. From that moment on, we knew we had two new friends, and Tom's passion for Thomas Aquinas College became important in our lives. Tom was a wonderful role model: He was compassionate and spiritual, learned and humble, and he had a great gift for making others see their own potential. The memory of Tom Dillon cannot be separated from his love for the Church, Thomas Aquinas College, and Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel; they are all one.

I remember fondly the dinners we had together, the stories we shared of our families, and Tom's love of old movies. We always looked forward to a visit from Tom and Terri as there would be news from the College, which we usually shared with a good meal.

Tom left a legacy that we are all duty-bound to uphold, but he will be missed every single day. May God bless him and keep him in the palm of His hands.

**Mark and Irene Montgomery**

Dr. Thomas Dillon:  
Love of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,  
Love of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,  
Love of his family, Terri, sons, daughters, and grandchildren,  
Love of Thomas Aquinas College, students, faculty, staff, supporters,  
Love of the founding principles contained in the *Blue Book*,  
All with humor, humility, and humanity.  
If Jesus Christ were alive on earth and president of a college,  
His college would probably be like Thomas Aquinas College,  
A tremendous achievement in today's world.  
We should pray for the College, that all presidents in the future  
Follow in the tradition of Ron McArthur, Tom Dillon, and Peter DeLuca.  
Tom will always be in our prayers, and we are surely always in his.



*"I wanted to send you this photo of Tom that I liked a lot. It was just after the marble columns arrived, and he could hardly contain his excitement over how they were made and how they would look when they were finally standing on end. He truly was 'in the chapel' two years before the doors opened!"*

— Michael Grace



# A Great Loss for the Alumni

By Joseph Susanka ('99)

*"I send you my prayers and best wishes and pray that God's blessings may abide with you as you lead the college into the future. May you be the presence of Christ — His Love and His Compassion — to your students and staff."*

— September 1991 letter from Blessed Mother Teresa to Thomas E. Dillon on the occasion of his inauguration

As I sat in the newly dedicated chapel of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity and listened to the countless supplicants beseeching God to grant Dr. Dillon speedy entrance into his eternal reward, I was struck by the way in which his death made explicit to the rest of the world what his family already knew so well: Tom Dillon gave his life for Thomas Aquinas College.

For years, he poured himself out for her; there was no sacrifice he was unwilling to make for her, no task he would not undertake. His fiercely competitive nature, self-deprecating humor, painstaking attention to detail, and never-ending pursuit of excellence — character traits that many alumni will remember with particular fondness from his frequent presence on the campus basketball courts — were the perfect tools for one faced with the daunting task of keeping the College in existence. If Thomas Aquinas College needed Dr. Dillon to spend months out of every year away from the comfort of his home so that she might survive, he was ready.

No man could have loved his family more, and I am sure that his time away from his wife and children was one of the greatest sacrifices he was asked to make. And yet few men could say that they had more "family" than did Dr. Dillon. He was indeed, as Mother Teresa had hoped and prayed, the "presence of Christ — His Love and His Compassion" to the students, the staff, and the entire College family.

Looking back on my time with Dr. Dillon, I am truly amazed by the impact he had on the lives of countless students and alumni — unquantifiable, but which will



Dr. Dillon prays during the March 7 Dedication Mass for Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

be keenly felt through its absence. I am amazed at the way in which he was able to convince so many friends and benefactors of the profound importance of what the College was doing, and at the way in which he became a genuine friend and confidant for so many of these same supporters. And I am blessed to have spent time living with and learning from a man so unstinting in his willingness to sacrifice for others, and so unswervingly committed to the cause of Truth.

Dr. Dillon would have been the first to remind us that nothing is certain, and that his final destination depends greatly on the prayers and sacrifices of those he leaves behind, and (thankfully) on the Mercy of his Divine Redeemer. Prayers for the happy repose of his soul are more than just appropriate; they are essential. But at the same time, it is exceedingly difficult to imagine Our Lord greeting him at the Heavenly Gate with anything other than words of welcome — "Well done, my good and faithful servant; come, share your Master's joy." While the sadness felt at his untimely death is great, I suspect that the College gained an extraordinarily well-placed advocate just as it lost an able earthly leader.

For many of us alumni, one of the most vivid memories we have of Dr. Dillon will always be the moment when he delivered his "Charge to the Graduates" at the conclusion of every graduation ceremony. It is difficult to imagine these words being said by any voice other than his, though not nearly as difficult as it is to imagine anyone for whom they are more applicable at this moment than Dr. Dillon himself:

"Each of you must live your life so that, when you are to meet your Maker, you can say, as did the angelic doctor as he received the Eucharist for the last time:

*I receive Thee,  
Price of my redemption,  
Viaticum of my pilgrimage,  
For love of whom I have fasted, prayed, taught, and labored.  
Never have I said a word against Thee.  
If I have it was in ignorance  
And I do not persist in my ignorance.  
I leave the correction of my work to the Holy Catholic Church  
And in that obedience I pass from this life."*

May God bless you on your way.

Joseph Susanka ('99) is the Assistant to the Vice President of Development at Wyoming Catholic College in Lander, Wyoming. This reflection is excerpted with permission from InsideCatholic.com.



"Blaise Pascal wrote that one of the most useful and solid acts of charity toward the dead is to do what they would have ordered us to do if they were still in this world. So I suggest that each one of us ask himself: What would Tom Dillon ask me to do if he were alive today?"

— Rev. Cornelius Buckley, S.J.  
Homily at the funeral Mass for Thomas E. Dillon  
April 24, 2009

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