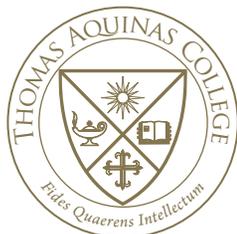


A Year of Celebration

50th Anniversary



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE
2022 Annual Report



Dear Friends of Thomas Aquinas College,

Thomas Aquinas College first opened its doors in 1971. Together thirty-three students and four tutors pioneered the school's unique program of Catholic liberal education on a leased campus near Malibu, just north of Los Angeles. In 2021, 50 years later, the College celebrated its Golden Jubilee, thanking God for the myriad blessings He has showered on it these past five decades. Chief among them are our benefactors without whom the College would not exist, let alone flourish as it does.

To begin our year of celebration, the Most Rev. José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, and the Most Rev. Robert Barron, then-Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles, concelebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel on our California campus, while in New England, the Most Rev. William Byrne, Bishop of Springfield, Massachusetts, offered a Mass of Thanksgiving for the community there on its first Alumni and Parent Day. Soon after, we were privileged to have U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito deliver the keynote address at a gala in Los Angeles and to host him the following day on our California campus for a Town Hall with students.

Other highlights from the year include the dedication of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel on our New England campus, the first commencement there, and the first of what will be a bi-annual convening of faculty from both campuses, held this year in California.

In the pages that follow, you will find some of the achievements of the College and its alumni in Fiscal Year 2022. The attached **financial statements** will give you a more thorough account of our financial position, detailing our balanced budget, adequate cash flow, and successful fundraising efforts.

Since our inception, every class and every meeting of our Board of Governors has begun with a Prayer to the Holy Spirit in which we ask God to “send forth Thy Spirit” to “renew the face of the earth.” Our hope has always been that our graduates would go forth from the College and in all walks of life do their part to help renew all things in Christ. Through His grace, they have indeed done so, serving Him at the altar and in religious life; bearing witness to the truth with joy in their families; and taking up positions of leadership in their professions and communities.

Our prosperity has been made possible by your generosity, which also helps make possible the good works of our alumni. May God richly reward you and yours with His choicest blessings. Thank you for all you do for Thomas Aquinas College and our students.

Sincerely,

Paul J. O'Reilly, Ph.D.
President





Admissions

Thomas Aquinas College's California campus reached full enrollment in 2007. To meet a growing demand for our unique program of liberal education under the light of faith, the College opened a second campus in New England in 2019. TAC New England held its first commencement in May 2022.

To help ensure a steady flow of applicants, the College hosts Open Houses and High School Summer Great Books programs on both campuses, during which prospective students are introduced to the academic, spiritual, and community life of the College.



1310

average SAT score of incoming freshmen

.....
national average:
1088

87%

freshman retention rate

.....
national average:
80%

84%

graduation rate

.....
national average:
68%



What the College Guides Say



- **Top 15** percent of American four-year colleges
- One of the country's **200 Best Value Colleges**
- Where 99 is the highest possible score, Thomas Aquinas College ranked:
 - **91** for academics
 - **93** for quality of life
 - **96** for financial aid
 - **98** for tutors' accessibility
- In **"Top 20" Categories:**

- #1** "Most Religious Students"
- #4** "Best Classroom Experience"
- #7** "Great Financial Aid"
- #8** "Happiest Students"



- **#1** "Best Value in Private Colleges" among all colleges and universities nationwide
- Ranking based on outstanding academics and affordable cost
- Only Catholic school to be named to the **Top 20**



"An impressive intellectual rigor that is matched by a commitment to orthodox Catholicism"



- **#42** among the country's 228 national liberal arts colleges
- **#41** on comprehensive "Best Values" list
- **#8** in the United States for social mobility
- **#2** for **alumni satisfaction** as measured by annual giving
- **#1** for the highest proportion of classes under 20 students (100 percent) and the lowest proportion of classes with more than 50 students (0 percent)



One of the Best 10 Colleges for the Money

- "Devoted to providing a strong education while being rooted in the Roman Catholic faith"
- "Great student to faculty ratio"
- "Excellent graduation and freshman retention rates"
- "Diverse student body that comes from states all across the nation"



The College in the News



July 28, 2021

An Interview with Incoming President Paul O'Reilly



July 30, 2021

Does Faith Matter?

An essay by Dr. Paul O'Reilly

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR

FOR CATHOLICS WHO LOVE THEIR FAITH

August 18, 2021

Learning from St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, on College Campuses



September 8, 2021

In 2 Blue States, This College Teaches Students about Western Civilization

An interview with Dr. Paul O'Reilly

ANGELUS

October 7, 2021

Archbishop Gomez Encourages Next Generation of Catholic Students at Thomas Aquinas College

NATIONAL REVIEW

October 18, 2021

God and Student at Thomas Aquinas College



December 8, 2021

Thomas Aquinas College Builds Helipad to Assist in Fighting Wildfires



December 11, 2021

Ave Maria Radio – Mast Appeal: An Interview with TAC Senior Max Tittmann

The Pilot

February 11, 2022

New to New England, Thomas Aquinas College Students March for Life



March/April 2022

“Academic Freedom” and the Tyranny of the Modern College Campus

An essay by Dr. Michael F. McLean



March 6, 2022

Thomas Aquinas College: Great Books, Great Education



March 7, 2022

Chapel Re-Dedicated at Thomas Aquinas College



March 24, 2022

The 10 Most Beautiful Churches in New England



May 22, 2022

Thomas Aquinas College Celebrates First Graduating Class in Northfield



The Year in Pictures

JULY
2021



High School Summer Programs are held on both campuses for more than 170 rising seniors



U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito gives the Keynote Address at the 50th Anniversary Gala and visits the campus the following day for a Town Hall with students



OCT
2021

SEPT
2021



The Most Rev. José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, offers 50th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving

DEC
2021



College collaborates with regional firefighter and search and rescue teams to build new heliport on campus

JAN
2022



Entire New England student body takes part in March for Life in Washington, D.C., while California students help lead the Walk for Life West Coast



**JUNE
2022**



California campus holds first Thomistic Conference while New England campus hosts a conference of the *Sacra Doctrina Project*



Tutors from both coasts gather on the California campus for a week of studies, conferences, and camaraderie



Past Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus Carl Anderson is awarded Saint Thomas Aquinas Medallion at 45th commencement



New England campus holds first commencement, at the end of which President McLean steps down and Paul O'Reilly takes the Oath of Office as fifth president of the College



**MAY
2022**

The Most Rev. William Byrne, Bishop of Springfield, MA, dedicates the newly renovated chapel of Our Mother of Perpetual Help



**MAR
2022**

**APR
2022**



Students perform Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Gilbert & Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*





Alumni Achievements

While the College's immediate goal is to provide its students with an excellent liberal education, its ultimate end is to participate in God's work to renew the face of the earth by sending into the world graduates whose minds and hearts have been formed according to the mind and heart of Christ. Thus prepared and serving in their varied professions and vocations, the College's alumni are a tremendous force for good in the Lord's work to transform the world and build up His church. Below are a few examples of the good work our alumni accomplished in Fiscal Year 2022.



Concerned about soaring crime and homelessness in her city, **College Governor Angela (Andersen '87) Connelly** has co-founded **Tacoma Safe**, a community organization that is pushing for increased local policing and shelter options. The group has spoken before the Tacoma City Council and launched a petition which calls for bolstering the city's police, mental-health, and drug-treatment resources. But Tacoma Safe does not limit its efforts to activism. "We meet every Saturday, covering over graffiti and collecting garbage from the homeless camps," says Mrs. Connelly. "We are passionate about not sitting back and watching this city die."

After eight years of working as a weapons system officer on the F-15E strike fighter, **Maj. Louis Conklin, USAF ('11)**, is strapping into the pilot's seat. Having completed his training at the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program in Wichita Falls, Texas, Maj. Conklin is now working to complete combat certification in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He credits his alma mater for his career in the United States Air Force saying, "On reading Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, I realized that happiness can't be achieved without discipline—which I was aware I didn't have." That prompted him to consider military service. "It seemed an appealing way to acquire discipline, and I began applying to the Air Force as a direct result of that course."



More than 20 years after her graduation from Thomas Aquinas College, **Mother Madeleine Marie of St. Joseph (Mary Kay Ellis '99)** returned to the California campus in the fall of 2021. Serving as the Superior of the **Sister Adorers of the Royal Heart of Jesus Christ Sovereign Priest**, whose mother house is in Florence, Italy, Mother Madeleine Marie travels the world to oversee the order's eight houses in five countries. Yet what brought her to California was an invitation to speak at the Ventura / North Los Angeles chapter of Legatus, the international organization of Catholic business executives, where she spoke about the state of the Church in Europe. Reflecting on her time as a student at the College, she says, "The atmosphere is very conducive to religious vocations, to any serious vocation, to the married life as well. The balance of the spiritual life, the intellectual life, the prayer life, the social life, and the community life — it's a real formation of the whole human person."

Dr. John Finley ('99) is the editor of a much-needed new book, ***Sexual Identity: The Harmony of Philosophy, Science, and Revelation***. Taking a holistic approach, the book features essays by authorities from various fields: philosophy, obstetrics and gynecology, endocrinology, psychology, plastic surgery, and theology. Written by experts for non-specialists, it gives an interdisciplinary vision of human sexual identity, male and female, and offers the wisdom needed to see through the deceptions that afflict our time. Among the contributors to *Sexual Identity* is fellow graduate **Dr. Cara Buskmiller ('11)**, Fetal Intervention Fellow at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital.



A graduate of the College and a former tutor, Dr. Finley is the newly appointed Academic Director at **Valor Institute** in San Diego, California, which offers seminars and programs in classical education for teachers, undergraduates, graduate students, professors, artists, scientists, and professionals. For the previous 10 years he served as a professor of philosophy at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis.



In May 2022, alumnus lawyer **Matthew Kelsey ('95)** joined the **Financial Restructuring & Reorganization Group** at Alston & Bird LLP, a nationally and internationally recognized law firm with broad legal competence. There he continues his longtime practice of advising clients on complex Chapter 11 cases, out-of-court restructurings, foreclosures and enforcements, related special situations financing, and other corporate transactions. Prior to joining Alston & Bird, Mr. Kelsey was a partner at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher.

Recalling his education at the College, Mr. Kelsey says, “My background at TAC has been a tremendous influence on me as a lawyer. The program was rigorous and required taking texts seriously and thoughtfully. As it turns out, while the subject matter is quite different, many of these skills translate near seamlessly to the practice of law.”

Psychologist **Dr. Helena Orellana ('11)** visited the California campus to give a career talk to students in October 2021. “The formation I received at TAC was exactly what I needed to pursue a doctorate in psychology. Not only that, it prepared me for work as a clinician and later as a professor.” A member of the TAC Class of 2011, Dr. Orellana holds a doctorate in psychology from **Divine Mercy University**, where she now serves as the assistant director of clinical training and an assistant professor.



Mother of 10, cancer survivor, and executive director of **Life Centers of Ventura County**, alumna **Michele (Grimm '81) Loughman** was featured in a **video by LA Catholics**, a project of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that showcases the work being done by Catholic lay men and women in the region to help renew the face of the earth. A pro-life advocate and women’s counselor, Mrs. Loughman has led Life Centers’ effort to expand its services through the acquisition of a Mobile Medical Unit. The new unit enables the Centers to be present outside local abortion clinics and campuses to offer abortion-minded women an immediate opportunity to know their options and get all the facts before a destructive decision is made.



In the fall of 2021, scholar, author, and composer **Peter Kwasniewski ('94)** was invited by the Polish Ministry of Education to attend a conference on the revival of classical education and to give a **lecture** on the “American experiment” with the Great Books, in particular, at his alma mater, Thomas Aquinas College. Dr. Kwasniewski spoke in the main ballroom of Warsaw’s Royal Castle to an audience that included Poland’s Minister of Education and Science, as well as several of his deputies, various other government officials, and educators from throughout the country. He also participated in two panel discussions, both dealing with how the central European country can improve its schools and colleges through Catholic liberal education. Dr. Kwasniewski is a Fellow of the Albertus Magnus Center for Scholastic Studies and a Senior Fellow of the St. Paul Center in Steubenville.

Having worked for 10 years in the field of data science, including as a metadata technician at the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., alumna **Daina Andries ('09)** recently co-founded **Epidaurus Health**. Named for the ancient Greek city regarded as the birthplace of Western medicine, Epidaurus Health utilizes information technology to streamline and simplify the reimbursement of prescription-drug purchases.



Ms. Andries contends that TAC graduates are a natural fit for the multidisciplinary field of data science. “In my industry, which plays at the intersection of tech, business, and science, my education has helped me in ways beyond words. At the College, instead of mastering a single subject, you take on a variety of subjects in a program that actively encourages you to ponder how these subjects play together.”



Student Life

One of the distinctive customs at Thomas Aquinas College is that during the week, tutors and students have their meals together, sometimes to continue conversations begun in the classroom, but often simply to enjoy one another's company. This tradition knits together closely the communities on both campuses. While the academic program is demanding, students do find time for recreation and socializing, including sports, games, dances, and musical recitals. They are also serious about their faith, attending daily Mass, Adoration, and Rosary in large numbers and participating in other seasonal devotions.





Benefactors

When Thomas Aquinas College opened its doors in 1971, there were only a handful of benefactors providing support for the school. Since then, their number has multiplied exponentially, making it possible for the College to build out its California campus, expand to a second campus in New England, and provide financial aid funds to the steady 70 percent of students who could not otherwise attend.

As we celebrated our 50th anniversary in Fiscal Year 2022, the College was mindful of its many friends and alumni who have shared with us the desire to participate in God’s work to renew the face of the earth through faithful Catholic liberal education — and who have given so generously to make that goal a reality. Each day, at the five Masses offered on our two campuses, we pray with deep gratitude for all our benefactors, for their loved ones, and for their intentions.

Below is a summary of fund-raising activities during the past three years. Included are the results of our various appeals which, thanks to the generosity of friends, parents, and alumni, have proven to be so successful in recent years.



	All Funds Raised	Friends Week of Giving Appeal	Parent Day of Giving Appeal	Alumni Day of Giving Appeal
2020	\$16,283,541	\$840,729	\$327,686	\$111,941
2021	\$14,138,782	\$1,040,946	\$302,978	\$141,432
2022	\$15,468,052	\$1,021,592	\$319,456	\$191,486



Financial Aid

Thomas Aquinas College offers one of the lowest tuition and room and board rates of any top liberal arts college. In 2019, it ranked first in the country on Kiplinger’s list of “Best College Values.”

The College welcomes every qualified student, regardless of financial wherewithal. Students and their families are asked to contribute as much as possible to the cost of their education, but there are many who without assistance would not be able to attend the College. Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, the College has been able to meet 100 percent of students’ demonstrated financial need, awarding need-based aid to an average 70 percent of students each year.

Financial aid packages vary, but the first component in every package is a service scholarship job, whereby students work 13 hours per week on campus during the academic year. The program provides them with a unique opportunity to care for the campus and carry out essential tasks that support the community. Students help prepare and serve meals in the kitchen, clean and maintain the residence halls, assist staff in the College’s library and offices, and maintain the grounds on both campuses. In the process, they learn valuable skills for later in life.

Summary of Income and Expenses FY '22

Principal Sources of Income

Contributions	\$ 12,814,442
Tuition	11,815,538
Investment Earnings	4,863,684
Auxiliary Enterprises (room & board, fees, etc.)	4,368,730
Other Gains and Support	132,222
	<hr/>
	\$ 33,994,616

Principal Expenses

Operations, Maintenance, & Food Service	\$ 9,602,607
Instruction	7,740,733
Administration	5,681,771
Student Financial Aid	5,537,624
Other (depreciation, amortization, & debt service)	3,874,643
	<hr/>
	\$ 32,437,378



70%
of students receive need-based financial assistance

Students receiving financial aid work **13** hours/week on campus

Debt at graduation limited to **\$19,000**

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, TAC alumni have the second-highest percentage of giving in the country, falling just .2 percent behind first-place Princeton University.



Called to Do More?

The College's expansion to a second campus in New England brings with it increased operating costs. Our intention to grow enrollment increases our need to spread the word about our unique program. And with more graduates than ever, more mentors are needed to guide our young men and women to find their career paths.

How you can help:

Become a Spiritual Supporter

Pray for the College and the well-being of its students, faculty, Board members, alumni, and benefactors.

Become a Monthly Benefactor

Contact Karim Obagi
Executive Director of Development
(805) 421-5928 or kobagi@thomasaquinas.edu

Become a Career Mentor

Contact Dan Selmechy ('08)
College and Career Adviser
(805) 525-4014 or careers@thomasaquinas.edu

Become a member of the Alumni Association, the Parents' Association, or the Boards of Regents

Contact Robert Bagdazian
Director of Alumni and Parent Relations
(805) 421-5927 or rbagdazian@thomasaquinas.edu

Through membership in the College's **Alumni Association, Parents' Association, or Boards of Regents**, volunteers use their time and talents to help widen the scope of the College's outreach.

The Alumni and Parents' Associations foster Catholic liberal education by fundraising; assisting with student recruitment; and providing career and educational guidance, networking, and referrals for students and alumni.

Members of the Thomas Aquinas College Boards of Regents are dynamic local leaders who serve as ambassadors of the College, helping to introduce and promote the College to new friends throughout their regions. They also help organize regional fundraising events to benefit the Annual Fund.

