



THOMAS AQUINAS COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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“A Temporary Victory — and Perhaps Much More” Supreme Court Remands College’s Challenge of HHS Mandate to Lower Court

When members of the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Zubik v. Burwell* on March 23, attorneys representing Thomas Aquinas College and its 34 co-plaintiffs in their challenge of the HHS Contraceptive Mandate had every reason to believe that, after four years, the legal disputes had at last come to an end. Little did they, or anyone else, know that there would still be much more to come.

Less than a week later, the Court took the rare step — for the first time in 50 years — of asking attorneys for both sides to file supplemental briefs. Then, just four weeks after the parties had fully complied with this request, the Justices unexpectedly declined to rule on the merits of the case, issuing an order that remanded *Zubik v. Burwell*’s seven component cases back to their courts of appeal for reconsideration.

“The Supreme Court has given the College a temporary victory — and perhaps much more,” says College General Counsel Quincy Masteller. “It has vacated the appellate court’s ruling against us, meaning that we are, for the time being, still under the protection of a permanent injunction that we received from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Under the terms of that injunction, the government cannot force us to provide illicit coverage or fine us for refusing to do so.”

Moreover, the Supreme Court’s decision bodes well for future developments. “As the Court’s order points out, the government has admitted that there are alternative, less restrictive means available for the government to pursue its purported policy ends that do not trample on religious freedom,” says Mr. Masteller. The Court has asked that the parties pursue these means in settlement discussions.

At issue is the federal government’s HHS Contraceptive Mandate, which compels religious employers to facilitate access to contraceptive, abortifacient, and sterilization coverage for their employees. Thomas Aquinas



Members of the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents and alumni gather for a rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court on the morning that the Justices heard arguments in the College’s challenge of the HHS Contraceptive Mandate. (Photo: Dana Rene Bowler)

College joined a lawsuit to oppose the Mandate in 2013, and the case worked its way through the federal court system, culminating in oral arguments before the Supreme Court on March 23.

On that morning, members and friends of the Thomas Aquinas College community across the United States began a day of prayer and fasting for the College, the Supreme Court’s eight justices, and the future of religious liberty. In Washington, D.C., President Michael F. McLean and Mr. Masteller witnessed the proceedings inside the courtroom while, outside the Supreme Court building, Vice President Paul J. O’Reilly joined alumni and members of the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents at a rally.

Only a few days later, the Court issued its request for supplemental briefs, instructing litigants’ attorneys to address whether “contraceptive coverage may be obtained by petitioners’ employees through petitioners’ insurance companies,” yet in a manner that “*does not require any involvement of petitioners* beyond their own

decision to provide health insurance without contraceptive coverage to their employees” (emphasis added).

The response, issued by the College’s attorneys, was simple and straightforward: “Yes.” Although careful to note that the co-plaintiffs do not “endorse such an approach as a policy matter,” the brief explained that the government could, for example, require non-objecting insurance companies to provide contraceptive coverage to the employees of religious organizations that cannot, themselves, do so in good conscience. Surprisingly, in its brief, the government agreed. The HHS Mandate “could be modified” so as not to violate the consciences of religious objectors, the government acknowledged, while still fulfilling its stated aim of “ensuring that the affected women receive contraceptive coverage seamlessly.”

Seizing on this area of agreement, the Court responded with its May 16 *per curiam* order, instructing the lower courts that the parties “should be afforded an opportunity to arrive at an approach going forward that accommodates petitioners’ religious exercise, while at the same time ensuring that women covered by petitioners’ health plans ‘receive full and equal health coverage, including contraceptive coverage.’”

For the moment, then, Thomas Aquinas College is spared the threat of an annual penalty — possibly as high as \$2.85 million — for not complying with the HHS mandate, although final disposition of the case, pending the outcome of negotiations, remains to be seen. “We are hopeful that in the settlement discussions going forward, the government will abandon its effort to force religious institutions such as ours to violate our deeply held religious beliefs,” says Dr. McLean. “We think it is no coincidence that this ruling came down just after we completed a novena to Our Lady. So we ask all friends of Thomas Aquinas College, and all who cherish religious liberty, to join with us in continued prayers for a favorable resolution.”

Apostolic “Pep Talk” Bishop Barron Encourages Students of Thomas Aquinas College

Accepting a spontaneous invitation from a student, Thomas Aquinas College’s newly appointed regional auxiliary bishop, the Most Rev. Robert Barron, paid an informal visit to campus on Monday, February 22. The timing of his arrival — during late winter, when student energies naturally begin to flag — could not have been better suited for his message of encouragement and spiritual fortification, which students eagerly received.

The visit, which took place on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, began with the evening Mass in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, at which His Excellency served as the principal celebrant and homilist. The bishop then met with students over dinner in St. Joseph Commons, before treating them to a brief “pep talk,” as he described it, and entertaining questions on topics of their choosing.

“It is indeed a joy to be back,” Bishop Barron said in his homily, referencing his first visit to campus more than two years ago when, as the rector of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Mundelein Seminary and founder of the Word on Fire media ministry, he presented a lecture



on liturgical theology. “Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be back to be the regional bishop of this area, but it’s great to be with you in this beautiful place and on this very important feast day.”

The Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles’ Santa Barbara pastoral region, Bishop Barron described the authority of St. Peter and his successors as “grounded in the Holy Spirit,” and thus everlasting. “This is why the Church has endured,” he said. “It is only because the authority comes from the Holy Spirit that we can speak of the Church as grounded and founded on rock.”

After dinner the bishop urged students to stay vigilant in their studies. “Please never tire of the work you’re given here,” he said. “I know it’s hard, but don’t give up. It’s not just for you. It’s for the Church and, through the Church, for the wider culture. You’re getting a very rich, high-octane version of Catholicism, and that’s going to change the culture. That’s our job in many ways. We’re leaven, we’re light, we’re salt, meant to transfigure the culture.”

The bishop’s visit called to mind past years when the College’s founding president, Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, addressed students during what he called “the February doldrums,” inspiring them to stay focused on their studies for the final quarter of the academic year. “Since

Dr. McArthur passed away in 2013, no one has quite been able to carry on that tradition,” reflects President Michael F. McLean. “But Bishop Barron assumed that grandfatherly role in a way that only one of the community’s patriarchs — or a shepherd of souls — truly could.”

His Excellency advised students to be mindful of the great good that they, through God’s grace, can achieve in the world. “I see a place like this: it’s small, but talk about a mustard seed! It’s small, but talk about the little bit of leaven — small but powerful in the life of the Church,” he said. “I want to encourage you along those lines. You have a key role to play in the culture.” In the following, 45-minute question-and-answer session, Bishop Barron discussed topics ranging from film to liturgy, evangelization, and spiritual warfare. “Hope big. Dream big,” the bishop enjoined the students. “We have the promise of Christ.”

Heartened by His Excellency’s words, students left St. Joseph Commons reinvigorated for the remaining months of the academic year. “Bishop Barron was able to give this community exactly what it needed at just the right time,” says Dr. McLean. “We are honored by his visit, and grateful to have such a true disciple of St. Thomas Aquinas as our regional bishop. We hope that this will be just one of his many visits to our campus in the years to come.”

State of the College

President Michael F. McLean’s Remarks at the 2016 Board of Regents Retreat

Napa, California
March 18, 2016

The mission of Thomas Aquinas College has been, from the beginning, to offer an education which truly comes from the heart of the Church — “*ex corde ecclesiae*,” in the words of Pope St. John Paul II.

Such an education is ordered to the highest knowledge — the knowledge, and love, of God. At the beginning of the *Metaphysics*, Aristotle says, “all men by nature desire to know.” In the short span of two chapters, he argues that this desire is only perfectly satisfied when we know the causes of things — not just any causes, but the *highest* or *first* causes of things. Such knowledge will, indeed, be wisdom and will be most divine, for God is thought to be among the first causes of things, and wisdom is thought to be possessed by God above all others.

The properly theological part of the College’s education — the consideration of the articles of faith as such, a consideration intrinsically ordered to the knowledge of God — has always proceeded from the heart of the Church. It has proceeded, that is, from what God has revealed about Himself in the canonical Scriptures and tradition and has taken as guides those theologians — especially St. Thomas Aquinas — in whom the Church has the highest degree of confidence.

The College’s education has always included the orderly study of philosophy because it is worthy of study in its own right and because, in the Church’s intellectual tradition, it has been understood to be the handmaid or helpmate of theology.

Finally, the inherent difficulty of an education focused on theology and philosophy means that Thomas Aquinas College, in the construction of its curriculum, has taken seriously the natural order of learning. Its educational program moves, where possible, from what is natural to what is supernatural and from experience to thought about experience. It also includes those disciplines — the liberal arts — which are, “ways into theology and philosophy,” introductory in character and, when rightly ordered, are most helpful to the young as they embark on the difficult task of the pursuit of wisdom.

Marking Progress

This, in outline, is our educational mission. In my judgment and experience, the College stands alone in its commitment to, and execution of, this mission. No other college shares, in its fullness, this understanding of Catholic higher education. Moreover, only a handful of colleges share our commitment to the exclusive use of the great books of the Western tradition and, when the



College is at its best, to the rigorous and engaging discussions which constitute its method of teaching and which hone our students’ conversational and analytical skills.

Over its 45-year history, the College has been blessed with faculty who are committed to this mission, and who are increasingly able to carry it out, as well as with wonderful chaplains who provide for the pastoral and spiritual needs of the community.

The College is also attracting students, in ever increasing numbers, who are able and willing to pursue genuine Catholic liberal education with a zeal and enthusiasm which are joys to behold. Already this year, 157 students have been accepted for the fall of 2016, some of whom have been waitlisted and a handful of whom have declined, and another 130 applications are in progress. In total, that is 287 young men and women vying for 102 openings in the next freshman class.

This is a far cry from the days when we were still scrounging for students a week after school had opened and were content to take anyone who could pass a rudimentary physical examination!

Thanks to the providence of God and the generosity of many benefactors, we are blessed with a campus that is among the most beautiful in the country — a far cry, indeed, from the trailers and cotton-candy stands with which we began. We now await the construction of a splendid auditorium, St. Cecilia Hall, which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2017, after which we will seek funding for a gymnasium, pool, and tennis courts to complete the campus master plan.

New Challenges

The College’s success, as remarkable as it has been, should not obscure the fact that we face many challenges and that we look to both the works and prayers of you Regents for help in meeting these challenges.

On March 23, as you know, the extended College community will be fasting and praying for the success of our Supreme Court arguments against the HHS mandate. On another front, the College is threatened with the loss of close to \$400,000 in Cal Grant revenue because of potential state prohibitions of discrimination based on gender identity or expression and state prohibitions against seeking federally sanctioned religious exemptions. These are but two examples of many attacks the College will face from an aggressively secular government and culture at war with the Christian faith and intent on circumscribing religious freedom.

The College faces financial challenges besides those posed by the completion of our Santa Paula campus and the possible loss of Cal Grant revenue. While we are grateful that we have raised over \$20 million for the College’s endowment, probably closer to \$70 million is needed to securely establish its future. Until that day comes, we must work to raise close to \$5 million annually to provide the scholarship assistance which helps make our education affordable to families in need of assistance,

and which many of you yourselves benefitted from in your years at the College.

The enrollment pressures we face, and our conviction that more students than we can presently accommodate would benefit from our education, means, too, that we will continue to be on the lookout for reasonable second-campus opportunities as a way to make the great education we offer more widely available. But this, too, will require the cultivation of new financial resources.

Equipping the Next Generation

While we at the College, together with our Board of Governors, can lead these efforts, we need the help of the Regents, and other friends, if we are to be successful in realizing the full potential and permanent establishment of Thomas Aquinas College. This is a task that will take time, patience, persistence, and courage, but one which will bear great fruit for the Church, for the country, and for the young people who will be the beneficiaries of our efforts.

The work of the College, and, therefore, the work of the Regents, is more important than ever. Ours is a militantly atheistic and agnostic time, assuming, I guess, that agnostics can be militant. The “new atheists” such as Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and Daniel Dennett have cranked out a number of books attacking religious belief, books that have captured the public imagination and have come to dominate popular culture. Usually their attacks are philosophical and/or scientific.

An adequate response — whether public or personal — to these attacks requires an understanding of their intellectual origins and some serious training in both philosophy and science, training such as that provided by Thomas Aquinas College. Preparing students to heed Peter’s exhortation to “always be prepared, with gentleness and reverence, to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15) is one of the greatest gifts we can give to students and to our contemporary culture.

The next generation of Catholics cannot just play defense, however. We must equip them for offense as well; equip them to evangelize by joyfully bringing Christ to a world darkened by sin and ignorance. For this reason, the education and the spiritual and community life of the College are radically *Christ-centered* — they help students to *think* as adults with Christ and the Church and to *love* as adults with Christ and the Church.

This, most fundamentally, is what Thomas Aquinas College is trying to accomplish and is the important work we are asking you to join. With your help, and strengthened in their friendship with Christ, our graduates will be well-equipped for whatever God calls them to do — in their families, in politics, law, medicine, business, education, or the religious life, to name but a few — and for whatever part they will play in the evangelical efforts which are the responsibility of every Christian.

In early April a delegation of Thomas Aquinas College officials visited numerous members of the Roman curia, seeking their counsel and apprising them of the state of the College’s Supreme Court case against the HHS Contraceptive Mandate. “We typically visit Rome every year or two,” says President Michael F. McLean. “We see these trips as a way to affirm the College’s fidelity to the teaching Church and to benefit from the wisdom and encouragement of its leaders.” Joining Dr. McLean on this year’s journey were his wife, Lynda, Chairman of the Board of Governors R. Scott Turicchi and his wife, Lannette, and Governor Lloyd Noble II.

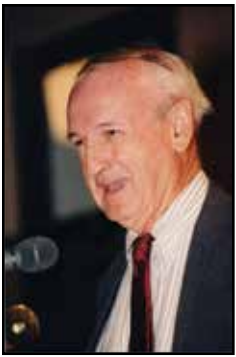


1. Georgina Burnett (aide to Cardinal Lajolo); Mrs. Turicchi; Mr. Noble; His Eminence Giovanni Cardinal Lajolo, President Emeritus of Vatican City State; Rev. Joseph Fox, O.P., Vicar of Canonical Services for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Dr. and Mrs. McLean, and Mr. Turicchi 2. Mr. Turicchi, Mr. Noble, and Dr. and Mrs. McLean with Francis Cardinal Arinze, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship 3. His Eminence James Michael Cardinal Harvey, Archbishop of the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls; Dr. and Mrs. McLean; and Mr. and Mrs. Turicchi 4. Mr. and Mrs. Turicchi; Mr. Noble; His Eminence Edwin Cardinal O’Brien, Grand Master, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; Dr. and Mrs. McLean; and Fr. Fox

“Faith Seeking Understanding”

College Honors Founder Dr. John W. Neumayr

At a reception and formal dinner on January 28, the faculty and students of Thomas Aquinas College celebrated one of the College’s founders, its first dean, and a senior tutor, Dr. John W. Neumayr. “The Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas,” explained Dean Brian T. Kelly, “seemed like an eminently appropriate day to honor a man who has dedicated so much of his life to promoting the method and doctrine of St. Thomas Aquinas.” After more than 40 years of service to the College, Dr. Neumayr retired at the start of this academic year.



In a lighthearted festivity, complete with much joking and celebration, senior members of the faculty thanked Dr. Neumayr for his vision, his devotion, and his fidelity both to the College and to the Church it serves. Fellow founder Peter L. DeLuca, the College’s vice president for finance and administration, described the central role that Dr. Neumayr played in founding the College and forging its academic program. Dr. Neumayr “spent almost 50 years laboring to bring Thomas Aquinas College into being,” he said, “and to make it the kind of institution it aspired to be from the beginning.”

Lifetime Educator

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Neumayr lived in and around San Francisco from the age of 10. The second oldest of four children, he always liked sports and, in high school, developed a love for learning as well. One of his basketball teammates was a poet and scholar at heart, and the two young men began to see that there was something more permanent than the fleeting things of life. “We had spent a lot of time talking literature and philosophy before we even knew what philosophy was,” says Dr. Neumayr.

He was delighted when, in 1948, the University of Notre Dame recruited him for basketball and track. As a 6’4” small forward, he joined a team that was among



At the San Francisco kickoff dinner for Thomas Aquinas College in 1975: Dr. Neumayr; the Venerable Fulton J. Sheen; Founding President Ronald P. McArthur; the Most Rev. Joseph T. McGucken, Archbishop of San Francisco; and L. Brent Bozell, Jr., editor of Triumph magazine

the nation’s Top 20 throughout his four years. At the same time, he cultivated his interest in philosophy and, upon graduating from Notre Dame in 1952, decided to remain in South Bend to pursue a master’s degree in the subject. Upon completing his degree, he returned to San Francisco, uncertain of his interests. He pursued coursework toward a teaching credential, considered practicing law, and even tested a religious vocation at a Dominican novitiate. During this two-year quest, his sister Mary introduced him to one of her favorite teachers at the San Francisco College for Women, a philosophy instructor named Dr. Ronald P. McArthur. The two became fast friends, spending much time together playing tennis and talking philosophy.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. McArthur joined the faculty of St. Mary’s College, which then featured an integrated liberal arts program based on the great books. For his part, Dr. Neumayr left California for Quebec, where he earned a doctorate in philosophy at the Université Laval under Dr. McArthur’s own mentor and friend, the renowned Thomist Dr. Charles De Koninck.

In 1962 Dr. Neumayr returned to California to teach at the University of Santa Clara. While there he met Bridget Cameron, an Oxford University graduate from

England who was working on a master’s degree in American literature at the University of California, Berkeley. The couple married in 1963 and would go on to have seven children, three of whom have graduated from the College. At Santa Clara Dr. Neumayr also found an intellectual soulmate in a young philosophy instructor named Marcus R. Berquist. In 1966 he and Mr. Berquist left the university to join Dr. McArthur in the integrated program at St. Mary’s.

“There was a group of faculty members at St. Mary’s who had pretty much all attended graduate school at Laval during a great reawakening of interest in and commitment to the doctrine and method of St. Thomas Aquinas as the central intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church,” recalls Mr. DeLuca. “At the same time, this being the middle of the 1960s, there was a huge crisis in American higher education going on in the background, affecting all institutions, Catholic and secular. So quite naturally, with this background and this experience, these scholars began thinking about ways that Catholic liberal education could be better than it was in the existing Catholic colleges, even better than it had been before it had started to disintegrate.”

“One of the things that his students and colleagues appreciate most about Dr. Neumayr is his knowledge and love of the perennial wisdom, especially as it is epitomized in the writings of Aristotle and St. Thomas.”

In the Summer of 1967, when academic trends threatened St. Mary’s integrated program, various of these faculty members’ friends and colleagues proposed that they found a college of their own. Although reluctant at first, the scholars decided to take the initial steps, and one year later Dr. McArthur and Mr. Berquist began to put into writing a document that would reflect their vision of Catholic liberal education. Dr. Neumayr and another colleague from St. Mary’s, Br. Edmund Dolan, F.S.C, then made revisions to their draft and, in 1969, they published *A Proposal for the Fulfillment of Catholic Liberal Education* — the founding and governing document of Thomas Aquinas College.

After acquiring some initial funding, they founded Thomas Aquinas College, with Dr. Neumayr as its first dean. “As dean he did dean-like things and many other things as well,” jokes Mr. DeLuca. “Everyone did everything in those days, to tell you the truth. He was involved in fundraising, and even wrote a fundraising brochure, in addition to drafting the *Bulletin of Information*, which was a detailed account of the particular curriculum of the College.” Dr. Neumayr also traveled with Dr. McArthur to give talks about the College and to recruit students. When the College finally opened for classes in 1971, he was an original member of the teaching faculty. He remained dean until 1981 and, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, he has served as a member of the Board of Governors since the College’s founding.

“Knowledge and Love of the Perennial Wisdom”

At the dinner in Dr. Neumayr’s honor, Dr. Thomas Kaiser (’75), a senior tutor at the College and a member of its first graduating class, reflected on Dr. Neumayr as



Dr. Neumayr leads a seminar with members of the Class of 1980.



At the St. Thomas Day dinner honoring College founder Dr. John W. Neumayr: Dean Brian T. Kelly, the guest of honor, and Senior Tutor Dr. Thomas Kaiser

his onetime tutor and his longtime colleague. “One of the things that his students and colleagues appreciate most about Dr. Neumayr is his knowledge and love of the perennial wisdom, especially as it is epitomized in the writings of Aristotle and St. Thomas,” said Dr. Kaiser. “Dr. Neumayr has drunk deeply of this wisdom and made it his own.” In gratitude, Dr. Kelly presented Dr. Neumayr with an icon of St. Thomas.

Yet when he took to the lectern, it was Dr. Neumayr who expressed gratitude. “We thank Almighty God, from Whom all good things come, for the College itself,” Dr. Neumayr began. “But I also thank God for all of the tutors and staff members, from the very beginning of the College, whom I have known and whose friendship I have cherished, for sustaining the College. And we must thank God for the marvelous chaplains that we have had and for those benefactors who have helped the College in so many different ways. I would also like to thank the governors, the keepers of the College. I have known them from the very beginning, the very first ones, even before we had a campus, and I have admired them. I have rejoiced in their friendships, and I have admired their love of the College and the devotion with which they have applied themselves to the good of the College.”

Additionally, Dr. Neumayr made sure to thank the students, without whom the College would not be, and their families for entrusting them to the College’s care. “In our pedagogy, students here are coworkers with the tutors. The life of the College — those discussions, seminars, and tutorials — cannot happen, cannot work, without the students being involved and being a part of that discussion.” In particular Dr. Neumayr thanked the College’s earliest students, “who were really founders,” and “who came with no guarantees that anything really would happen.” The College, then, was “just an idea, and they believed in it and made it happen.”

That idea, he said, is one that often still requires explanation for the uninitiated. “When I talk to people, and they know that I come from Thomas Aquinas College, they say, ‘Well, that’s a great books school, isn’t it, a classical education?’ And I say, ‘Yes, it is.’ But what they don’t see is that underlying the great books is a curriculum that is ordered to faith seeking understanding,” said Dr. Neumayr.

If there is “one telling text,” he continued, that offers “an insight, an understanding of what Thomas Aquinas College is fundamentally,” it is a letter that St. Thomas Aquinas once wrote to a young confrere, a Br. John, advising him in his studies. “St. Thomas said, basically, ‘Go to the little rivers, follow the little rivers before you enter into the great sea of knowledge.’ The little rivers are the human arts and sciences, the handmaidens. The great sea of knowledge, of course, is sacred doctrine.”

Although traveling on College business and thus unable to attend the dinner, President Michael F. McLean joined in the praise of Dr. Neumayr, his colleague of more than four decades. “Jack has made it his life’s work to guide students along the little rivers all the way to the great sea of knowledge,” said Dr. McLean. “We are profoundly grateful for his service and leadership, and we pray that God rewards him and Bridget with the joyful, peaceful retirement that they richly deserve.”

College Update

Recent Events and Happenings

Career Talks

To help students discern a career path and navigate the employment marketplace, the College's Office of Career Advisement sponsored a series of talks this past semester, in which several professionals visited campus to offer students their advice and assistance.

At the first event, held on February 7, two prominent Southern California attorneys met with students who are interested in pursuing careers in law. The meeting covered topics ranging from the LSAT to law schools to areas of



Kayla (Kermode '12)
Six of Anthem, Inc.

practice. The next event came two weeks later, when the College hosted a Career Strategies Workshop on the subjects of job discernment, networking, résumé and cover-letter writing, and interview preparation. Leading the discussion were three graduates of the College who — having worked at such corporations as Kinko's, Anthem, Google, and DHL

— were able to share their wisdom about how best to apply the benefits of a Catholic liberal education in the workplace.

In April, Hollywood actor, producer, and director David Henrie — best known for his portrayal of London Busbee in *Little Boy* — visited the College to speak about the TV/film industry, answer questions, and treat students to a preview of his upcoming short film, *Catch*. Then, later in the month, alumna Maggie Tuttle ('10), who works as a lead for Talent Solutions Support Services at LinkedIn, presented a workshop about how students can use the professional-networking site in their career search. "Coming from Thomas Aquinas College, we have such a unique education and background," Miss Tuttle said. For graduates, she stressed, "letting those unique strengths and qualities come out [in one's user profile] is really important."



Director of Student Services Mark Kretschmer ('00) addresses students at a Career Strategies Workshop on job discernment, networking, résumé and cover-letter writing, and interview preparation.

Divine Mercy Pilgrimage

At 6:00 a.m. on April 2, the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, a dozen Thomas Aquinas College students embarked on a nearly 30-mile hike over Sulphur Mountain from Santa Paula into neighboring Ventura. Some 12 hours later, they reached their destination — a cross erected in the days of the region's newest canonized saint, St. Junipero Serra, overlooking the Pacific Ocean and one of the nine California missions he founded, Mission San Buenaventura. There they were joined by the Thomas Aquinas College Choir. Chaplain Rev. Michael Chaberek, O.P., who had accompanied the pilgrims on their journey, offered the anticipated Mass for the Feast of the Divine Mercy.

During the hike, students prayed and reflected on various readings that Fr. Michael read aloud to them. "It was full of joy, and we all really bonded with each other," says senior Rachel Bertotti. "The last three miles were the hardest, but we encouraged one another to keep going. I have never done anything like that, and I am so glad that I did."

Indeed, it was the very challenge of the hike that made it so rewarding. "A pilgrimage is meant to be difficult," says sophomore Thomas Cain. "As you experience this mortification of the flesh, you are reminded that we are people who live in hope of things to come. The journey of life, with all its struggles, is a pilgrimage, and on our walk we are reminded of that larger struggle."

Fourth Consecutive Tuition Freeze

To help ease the financial burden on students and their parents in a weak economy, the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors voted at its annual corporate retreat to freeze the cost of tuition and room & board for the 2016-2017 academic year. This is the fourth year in a row that the College's governors have kept level the cost of the school's classical liberal education.

Tuition will remain at \$24,500, and room & board at \$7,950, bringing the total cost of attendance — including books and all fees — to \$32,450. That amount is well below the average of \$37,948 for private institutions in the Western United States, according to The College Board's Annual Survey of Colleges (2013-2014). Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, the College also offers a generous financial aid program and, as a matter of policy, will never turn a student away on the basis of financial need.

The Princeton Review has named Thomas Aquinas College as one of only 20 colleges in the country on its list of "Great Financial Aid" schools, and gave it a 97 (out of a possible 99) rating for academics. In addition, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks the College in the top 30 among national liberal arts colleges on its 2016 Best Values list, and *USA Today* has proclaimed Thomas Aquinas one of the country's "Best 10 Colleges for the Money."

"Laudato Si'" Seminar at Legatus Summit

On January 28 some 25 Catholic executives and their spouses gathered for "Laudato Si': Pope Francis' Letter on Care for Our Common Home," a seminar hosted by Thomas Aquinas College. The event, which took place at the 2016 Legatus Summit in Orlando, Florida, included Legatus members from across the United States.

The discussion was the latest in a series of seminars that the College has conducted in recent years as a means of introducing Catholic leaders to its unique program of liberal education. Participants met around a table at the Ritz-Carlton Grande Lakes, using the same Discussion Method that students at Thomas Aquinas College employ each day to derive the meaning and implications of the great books of Western civilization.

At the Summit, members of Legatus, the international organization of Catholic business executives, considered questions of environmental stewardship — and their related themes of cultural and ethical decline — in His Holiness Pope Francis' second encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. Leading the conversation were the College's president, Dr. Michael F. McLean, and its vice president for development, Dr. Paul J. O'Reilly, who are both senior members of the teaching faculty.

"Laudato Si' makes what are, for many, uncomfortable claims regarding our relationship with nature and the environment," says Dr. O'Reilly. "It was great to be able to explore these uncomfortable truths with so many of my fellow Legates, and at the same time introduce new friends to what we do at Thomas Aquinas College. We could not have asked for a better discussion, and we look forward to many more like it in the years to come."

Campus Ranked No. 6 "Most Beautiful" in U.S.

A website dedicated to college life, LuvoLearn.com, has ranked Thomas Aquinas College as No. 6 on its list of the Top 10 Most Beautiful College Campuses. "This liberal arts college is set within the charming, rural surrounds of Santa Paula, California," writes Luvo's Sara Gentles. "The college's location is set away from the bustle of the city, so it truly feels like an oasis. It has gorgeous, traditional Spanish architecture, rolling hills, and exten-

sive landscape that are truly an impressive sight."

"We are delighted that the beauty of our campus, which our many generous benefactors have made possible, has received this recognition," says Director of Admissions Jon Daly. "We strongly believe that when students are surrounded by beauty, they are best equipped to contemplate the true and the good, which are at the heart of our classical curriculum."

Forbes Features High School Summer Program

"Do you know a high school student who is — or might be — interested in the ideas embedded in the institutions of Western civilization?"

So begins a new profile in *Forbes*, "Notable Summer Short Courses for High School Stu-

Forbes

dents." The review lists six select programs nationwide that explore themes key to the intellectual history of Western civilization. Among those included is Thomas Aquinas College's High School Great Books Program.

A two-week experience that takes place on the College's Southern California campus, the Summer Program welcomes rising high school seniors from around the country and the world. Working with members of the College's teaching faculty, students read and discuss works by authors such as Plato, Euclid, Shakespeare and, of course, St. Thomas Aquinas. The program, which this year runs from July 17 to July 30, is a time for forging new friendships, for enjoying the give and take of rational argument, and for pursuing the truth — which civilizes, ennobles, and liberates.

More information about the program, including the online application form, is available at thomasquinas.edu/summerprogram. Would-be attendees should apply soon. As *Forbes* notes, application "deadlines are just around the corner."

Newsmax Names College to "40 Best" List

Following high ratings from various secular and Catholic college guides, Thomas Aquinas College has earned the accolades of Newsmax.com, being named to the news organization's list of the 40 Best Colleges for Conservative Values.

For nearly two decades Newsmax has championed the cause of intellectual seriousness on American campuses. Its new online guide features "outstanding institutions of higher learning" that provide a "top-notch education" free from the modern academic fads, political



Pirates of Penzance

On April 8 the Thomas Aquinas College Choir, under the direction of Daniel J. Grimm ('76), performed Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* before a packed audience in St Joseph Commons. Starring in the performance were Sean Malloy ('17) as Frederic, the dutiful pirates' apprentice; Suzanne Urbancic ('18) as his nursery maid, Ruth; Anastasia Terreri ('18) as his love interest, Mabel; Sean Donnelly ('16) as Mabel's father, Major-General Stanley; and Joseph Daly ('19) as the pirate king. Members of the choir filled out the rest of the roles, including the chorus, while student musicians made up the orchestra.

Shakespeare’s Taming of the Shrew

The St. Genesius Players treated Thomas Aquinas College students, faculty, and families to a production of William Shakespeare’s *Taming of the Shrew*, presented in a modern setting, on February 27. Directors for the performance were seniors Gianna Coccia and John Turrentine, with fellow senior Annie Gribbin heading up the cast with a lively and mischievous portrayal of the play’s title role, Katharina. Other *dramatis personae* included Katharina’s fortune-seeking groom, Petruchio (Sean Donnelly ’16); her sister, Bianca (Rachel Williams ’19); their father, Baptista (Joseph Daly ’19); and Bianca’s sundry suitors, Gremio (Sean Malloy ’18), Lucentio (Peter Gardner ’18), and Hortensio (Michael Pfeiffer ’18).



correctness, and moral corruption that plague so many of today’s colleges and universities. The guide highlights institutions that continue to emphasize the Western canon while fostering healthy campus living.

Thomas Aquinas College, Newsmax observes, “concentrates on the ‘great books’ of Western civilization.” As evidence of the College’s commitment to the Catholic faith, the guide further notes that some 11 percent of alumni go on to enter the priesthood or religious life.

Governor Tom Krause Gives ALL

A recent story in *National Review Online* highlighted the contributions of a new organization that is championing the cause of liberal education, the Alliance for Liberal Learning, whose director, Dr. Thomas R. Krause, is a member of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors. The Alliance, wrote author David Clemens, seeks to “rally some humanist troops to the defense of the Western liberal tradition.”

The Alliance — or ALL, as it is known — consists of some 30 educational institutions, including Thomas



College Governor Dr. Thomas R. Krause

Aquinas College, as well as nonprofits and businesses that “provide liberal learning opportunities for students and adults.” Its mission is to “promote and support conversations about great works and ideas” and to “open the public imagination

to the enduring value of lifelong liberal learning, which prepares us to live freely and well.”

Dr. Krause is a longtime devotee of liberal education, dating back to the decision of his daughter Christel (Kelsey ’91) to attend the College in 1987. Shortly thereafter he joined the College’s President’s Council, and then attended its Great Books Summer Seminar Weekends. His appetite for liberal learning whetted, he went on to earn a master’s degree in liberal arts at St. John’s College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Today, in addition to being a member of the Thomas Aquinas College Board of Governors, he is a member of the Board of Visitors and Governors at St. John’s College and a member and founding president of the Agora Foundation, which offers great books seminars in Ojai, California.

Dr. Krause has now gathered all these organizations together, as well as many others, in ALL. The Alliance held its first annual conference last November, and it is currently planning its second conference, to be held in Chicago on October 28-29.

Alumnae Speak at Supreme Court Rally

When the United States Supreme Court held its March 23 oral arguments in the College’s case against the HHS Contraceptive Mandate, Women Speak for Themselves organized a rally outside the Court. Among the speakers at the rally were two alumnae of the College, Meghan Duke (’08) and Elizabeth (McPherson ’99) Claeyes.

A former managing editor of *First Things* who is now a writer in The Catholic University of America’s Office of Marketing and Communications, Miss Duke spoke



Elizabeth (McPherson '99) Claeyes (Photo: Dana Rene Bowler)

about her time volunteering for the Little Sisters of the Poor, who have become the focal point of the national debate on religious freedom. Mrs. Claeyes, who is chairman of the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents, spoke about the importance of the Catholic faith to the College and pressed the key points in the College’s case.

“Thomas Aquinas College is a community of students, faculty, and staff who are unanimously committed to the formation of the human person in accordance with our Catholic faith,” said Mrs. Claeyes. “These beliefs shape the way we treat each other on the campus, and the way that the College transacts business with its employees and associates. If the College complied with the Mandate, it would be forced to violate the Catholic beliefs that are the core of our mission. We are fighting against the loss of our Catholic identity.”

TAC Family Portrayed in Off-Broadway Play

John Patrick Shanley, the Tony and Pulitzer award-winning author of *Moonstruck* and *Doubt*, has written and is directing a new off-Broadway play about two late members of the Thomas Aquinas College family, Louise and John Schmitt.

The Schmitts were the parents of seven graduates and the grandparents of six graduates and six current students. Mr. Schmitt, a member of the teaching faculty from 1974 to 1979, was previously the founding president of a boarding school in New Hampshire, where one of his students was a talented but rebellious boy who found his time on campus to be transformative. That student was Mr. Shanley, who has now written about the experience in his new show, *Prodigal Son*.

Featuring music by none other than Paul Simon, *Prodigal Son* tells the story of Jim Quinn, a character based on the adolescent Shanley. The Schmitts show extraordinary patience and dedication to the young man, for reasons, the audience learns, having largely to do with their own great personal suffering.

St. Cecilia Hall Progress Update

With all permitting issues resolved, construction is now under way on the College’s new lecture and concert building, St. Cecilia Hall.

“We are currently doing the grading of the site, which will last for several weeks,” reports Vice President for Finance and Administration Peter L. DeLuca. “After that we will be building the retaining walls, and then we will start the construction of the building itself.”

Set to open its doors in 2017, St. Cecilia Hall will be the 14th building constructed since the College acquired its campus in the 1970s. Situated on the southwest corner of the academic quadrangle, adjacent to St. Gladys Hall and Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel, the building will host the biweekly events that make up the St. Vincent DePaul Lecture and Concert Series, as well as student choral, instrumental, and dramatic performances. St. Cecilia Hall is made possible through a generous grant from the Fritz B. Burns Foundation of Los Angeles.

College Honors Lucinda Anderson

At lunch in St. Joseph Commons on May 10, Thomas Aquinas College bid farewell to Lucinda Anderson, who — after managing food services at the College for 20 years — is retiring this summer.

Mrs. Anderson is a general manager for Bon Appétit, the Palo Alto-based restaurant company that has operated the College’s kitchen and dining services since 1996. “By our account, Lucinda has overseen the preparation and serving of over 1.5 million meals,” said President Michael F. McLean. Students — many of whom have worked student-scholarship jobs in Mrs. Anderson’s kitchen over the years — laughed and cheered in appreciation. “I would call that excelling at the corporal works of mercy.”

During Mrs. Anderson’s tenure, St. Joseph Commons has developed a reputation for meals that far exceed typical “cafeteria” fare. “I think I speak for all of us in saying



that the food service here is excellent, and Lucinda deserves a great amount of credit for making it so,” said Dr. McLean. “Lucinda is also responsible for overseeing 50 part-time student workers on an annual basis, and she has been a wonderful mentor and example for them. Always cheerful, patient, and kind, she

has taught them discipline, diligence, and respect for the importance of hard work — great gifts that will stand all of you in great stead in whatever you choose to do.”

After receiving a prolonged, standing ovation, Mrs. Anderson spoke briefly and with characteristic humility. “A leader cannot do her or his job without a great team behind her,” she said. “And I have had a fabulous team.” Among those she singled out for praise was Head Chef Jacob Coke, who will succeed Mrs. Anderson as Bon Appétit’s on-site general manager. “If Jake’s cooking is any indication,” observed Dr. McLean, “we know that our food service is in excellent hands.”



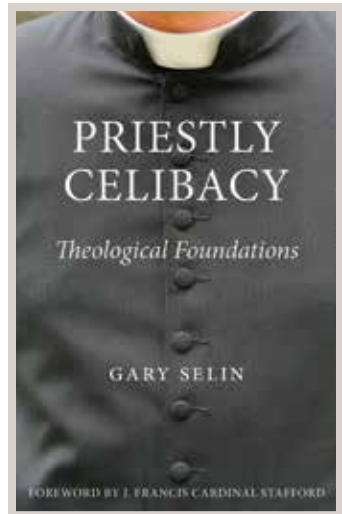
Inklings of Faith

From Children's Books to Scholarly Works to Catechetical Tools — a Look at Some of the Published Books of Thomas Aquinas College Graduates

Rev. Gary B Selin, STD ('89)

Whenever the matter of mandatory priestly celibacy arises, the arguments put forth in its defense are typically practical in nature, touching on matters pastoral or even financial, but seldom theological. Recognizing this shortcoming in the ongoing discussion, Rev. Gary B. Selin, STD ('89), has authored a new scholarly work, *Priestly Celibacy: Theological Foundations*, which proposes a systematic theology of priestly celibacy, ordered around the Eucharist.

An assistant professor and the formation director at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, Fr. Selin holds a doctorate in systematic theology from The Catholic University of America, which is the publisher of this, his first book. *Priestly Celibacy*, according to the publisher's



description, explores the “Christological, ecclesiological, and eschatological dimensions” of the Church's ancient discipline. It surveys the history of clerical continence, beginning with its biblical foundations, proceeding with developments from the patristic era, and culminating with various magisterial works of the late 20th century. In the final two chapters Fr.

Selin offers various proposals for a systematic, Eucharistic theology of priestly celibacy.

Released this past April 14, *Priestly Celibacy: Theological Foundations* includes a foreword by His Eminence J. Francis Cardinal Stafford, Major Penitentiary Emeritus of the Apostolic Penitentiary, former Archbishop of Denver, and the College's Commencement Speaker in 2003.

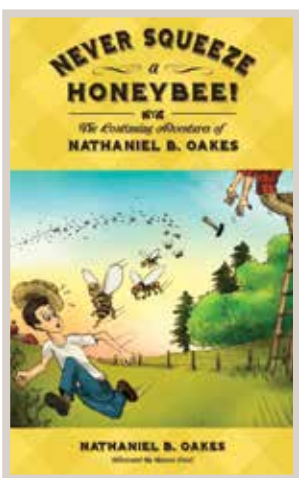
Dr. Joan Kingsland ('88)

As a onetime moral theology professor at Mater Ecclesiae College in Greenville, Rhode Island, Dr. Joan Kingsland ('88) typically writes and speaks on matters academic. However, in 2011 she tried her hand at a different sort of writing, penning her first novel, a suspense thriller titled *Ask Me No Questions*.

Dr. Kingsland holds a master of arts degree from the University of Toronto as well as licentiate and doctoral degrees in moral theology from the John Paul II Institute in Rome. Since 1993 she has been a consecrated member of Regnum Christi, which published *Ask Me No Questions*. Dr. Kingsland cites Pope St. John Paul II as having had a profound influence in her life, and says that his Theology of the Body infuses both her novel and the choices of its protagonist.

David Cools ('82)

A retired chemist living on a small farm in rural Washington with his wife, Dena, and their six children, David Cools has published two pseudonymous books of humorous tales told by a young protagonist, Nathaniel B. Oakes. *The Adventures of Nathaniel B. Oakes* and its sequel, *Never Squeeze a Honeybee*, tell the “adventures and misadventures” of



15 siblings growing up on a small Western farm, based loosely on Mr. Cools' own childhood memories.

In the first work, Nathaniel “escapes the barnyard rooster, milks recalcitrant cows, and trains reluctant birds” — only to encounter “sulky vultures, mad bulls, angry honeybees, and much more” in the second. The works are charmingly illustrated by a fellow Thomas Aquinas College graduate, Mr. Cools' nephew Darren Cools ('04).

Although slowed by chronic illness, Mr. Cools nonetheless finds time, “as God allows,” he says, to work on a third installment of the Nathaniel B. Oakes series. He is also currently pursuing three other book projects, *Of Husbands and Husbandry*, *A Critique of Capitalism in Light of the Catholic Social Teaching of the Church*, and *Beginning, Middle, and End: A Three Step Solution to Employee Job Satisfaction*.

Dr. Marie George ('79)

In 2009, some six years before His Holiness Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si'*, Dr. Marie George ('79) published *Stewardship of Creation: What Catholics Should Know about Church Teaching on the Environment*. The book, which set out to answer the questions, “How are we to restore creation to the purposes God intended for it?” and “What are the errors and sins that pervert the earth from the intentions of God our Creator?” in many ways anticipated the Holy Father's words and counsel in his second encyclical.

A professor of philosophy at St. John's University in New York, where she teaches Environmental Ethics and Science & Religion, Dr. George holds master's degrees in biology, philosophy, and pastoral theology, as well as a doctorate in philosophy. Drawing heavily upon the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *Catechism of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church*, and various other Church writings, *Stewardship of Creation* received widespread, favorable reviews for its intellectual seriousness and its fidelity to magisterial teaching.

Dr. George is also the author of *Christianity and Extraterrestrials? A Catholic Perspective*, published in 2005. The book, which made the case that intelligent life on other planets is improbable, nonetheless refuted the claims of certain atheists that the discovery of such life would disprove Scripture or even the existence of God. Writing for the *Fellowship of Catholic Scholars Quarterly*, Dr. Glenn Statile called the book “nothing less than a masterly presentation and analysis of a question which is often noticeably absent from the diet of those who specialize in the dialogue between science and religion.”

Cynthia (Six '77) Montanaro

Diary of a Country Mother chronicles the life of Cynthia (Six '77) Montanaro's beloved son Tim, with the liturgical year and changing seasons as its literary frame. The book reflects a yearlong journey of prayer and meditation, begun about six months after Tim's death in 2005 at the age of 15. Written in diary form, it includes Scriptural, religious, and literary quotations, as well as beautiful photographs of Tim captured by his father, Andrew Montanaro ('78).

“I envisioned an extended period of time in which to record, before memory failed me, all of the little humorous and profound incidents that made up my son Tim's short life,” says Mrs. Montanaro. The result is a work that is replete with the love of a mother. “Cynthia Montanaro has given us the story of a splendidly faithful Catholic household,” writes Dr. Thomas Howard, author of *Chance*

or the Dance and *Hallowed Be This House*. “Every chapter (or meditation) entails some concrete, softly textured, domestic narrative, all of it bespeaking both Tim's inner man and the household in which the Lord placed him to pass his brief time here on this earth.”

Notes fellow alumna author Suzie Andres ('87), “Like Our Blessed Mother's sorrow, Cynthia's sadness is illuminated and shot through by the light of the resurrected Christ. ... Cynthia's diary entries record time and again the peace that surpasses all understanding, the beautiful hope that only true faith can give, and most of all, love elevated and fulfilled by Love.”

Dr. Michael Waldstein ('77)

Although the Theology of the Body is one of Pope St. John Paul II's great gifts to the Church, most of its early translations did not appear in the form the late pontiff had intended. That changed, however, thanks to the perseverance and meticulous research of a noted biblical scholar and graduate of the College, Dr. Michael Waldstein ('77), who restored John Paul II's masterpiece to its original meaning.

In 2006 Dr. Waldstein published *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, an authoritative and highly acclaimed translation based on a long-missing outline of the works that Dr. Waldstein discovered among the Holy Father's papers in the John Paul II archives at Rome's Casa Polacca. *Man and Woman He Created Them* unveils in a series of essays the divine plan for human spousal love and the spousal meaning of the body as proclaimed by Christ. This work has become a standard resource for anyone interested in the late Holy Father's contribution to Catholic teaching of human sexuality, marriage, celibacy, and much more.

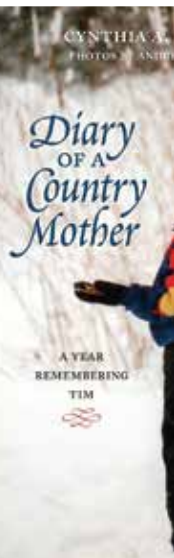
Dr. Waldstein is the Max Seckler Professor of Theology at Ave Maria University and a distinguished fellow of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. He previously taught at the University of Notre Dame before serving as the founding president of the International Theological Institute in Gaming, Austria, where he was also the St. Francis of Assisi Professor of New Testament. He holds a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Dallas, a licentiate in Scripture from the *Pontificium Institutum Biblicum* in Rome, and a doctorate in New Testament studies from Harvard Divinity School.

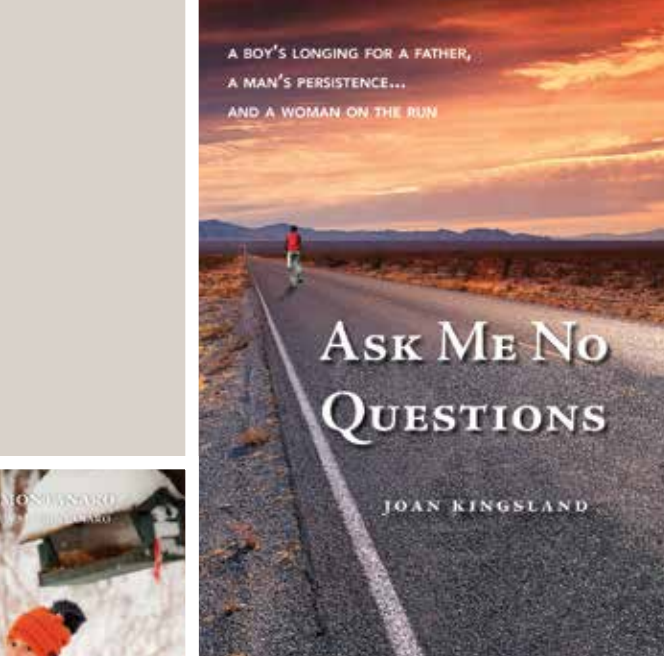
Monica Estill ('98)

One of a number of children's authors among the College's alumni, Monica Estill ('98), is a self-styled artist, poet, and philosopher, who in 2013 wrote and illustrated *The Bossy Boulder*. The book tells the tale of a boulder who sits atop a mountain and — he thinks — the world, until time and change humble him. It is a story of how, only in becoming small, can one achieve true greatness.

The book's inspiration goes back to Miss Estill's student days when, she says, she would hike in the foothills and mountains around Thomas Aquinas College, contemplating the works of Aristotle and St. Thomas that she was reading in class. *The Bossy Boulder*, she observes, speaks to the enduring quality of truth — truth about nature that people can see — and as such will help even the youngest of readers to see that there is also truth about human nature and how to live happily. Her wish is for *The Bossy Boulder* to help change hearts and bring people to God.

Earlier this year, Miss Estill published her second work, a coloring book entitled *Alaska's Wild Life*. The book features 32 black-and-white images of varying complexity designed to “spark creativity, relieve stress, and provide a window to explore an Alaskan dreamland.” The book features Miss Estill's quirky, detailed artistry, including images of a snowboarding fox and





a mermaid swimming with a whale. “Love is the real sunshine,” the author proclaims on *Alaska Wild Life*’s back cover, “and this is what I try to paint.”

Dr. Michael Augros (’92)

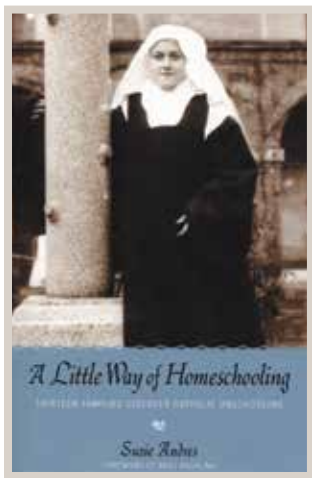
Last spring Ignatius Press published *Who Designed the Designer? A Rediscovered Path to God’s Existence* by Dr. Michael A. Augros (’92), a graduate of the College and a member of its teaching faculty. The book offers a direct, concise antidote to the “New Atheist” arguments against the existence of God.

Who Designed the Designer? draws upon universal principles to demonstrate the logical necessity for an intelligent, uncreated first cause of the universe. In so doing, it relies heavily on the works of Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas, placing a renewed emphasis on great minds that have received little attention in the ongoing public debates about theism, intelligent design, and evolution. The result is a profound yet highly accessible investigation, beginning with the world as we encounter it and ending in the divine mind.

“For those interested in confronting the contemporary challenge posed by the New Atheism, this book is a great place to start,” wrote John Grondelski in a review for the *National Catholic Register*. His highest praise, however, came in his assessment of the book’s author as an educator. “What’s new about this book is Augros’ style,” remarked Mr. Grondelski. “I wish philosophy students were exposed to more thinkers like Augros!”

Suzie Andres (’87)

A graduate of the College and the wife of one if its tutors — as well as the full-time mother of two sons — Suzie Andres (’87) has impressively published four volumes in the last dozen years. The first of these came in 2004, *Homeschooling with Gentleness: A Catholic Discovers Unschooling*. She returned to this subject again in 2011 with *A Little Way of Homeschooling*, in which, drawing upon the inspiration of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, she and a dozen other homeschooling mothers offer lessons and insights from their own educational experiences.

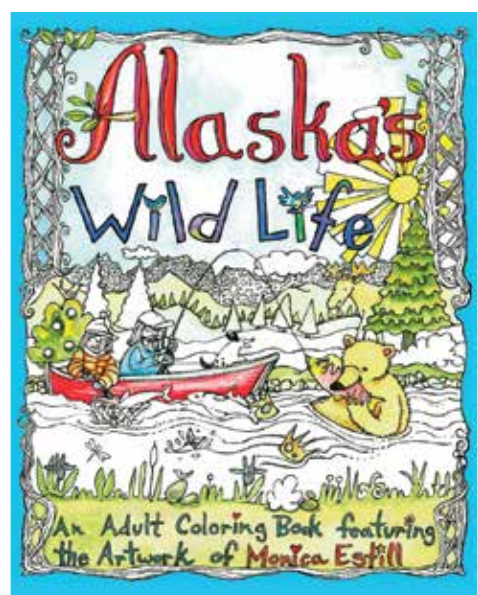
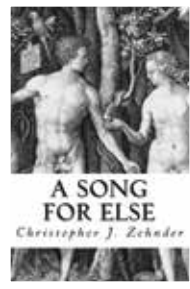
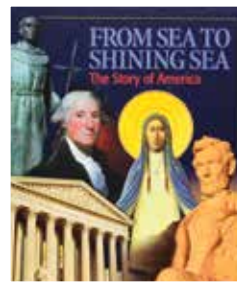
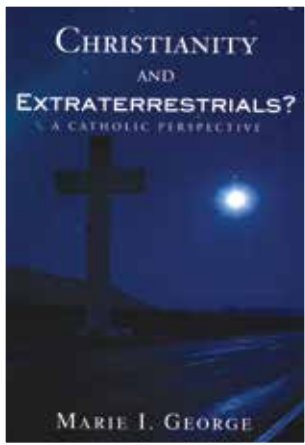


In 2014 Mrs. Andres served as the editor for a book she termed “a labor of love,” *The Selected Sermons of Rev. Thomas A. McGovern, S.J.*, a collection of sermons by a late and beloved Thomas Aquinas College tutor. “Fr. McGovern left behind what amounted to three binders full of typed sermons, carefully polished gems of Catholic doctrine, pastoral guidance, and the love of Christ,” Mrs. Andres reflects. “Twenty-nine years later, I had the privilege of bringing that book into being.”

Most recently, Mrs. Andres completed her first work of fiction, *The Paradise Project*, which she describes as a “paean” to Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, set in modern times.

The “Faith and Life” Series

In the mid-1980s, in response to the poor state of most catechetical materials, Catholics United for the Faith and Ignatius Press collaborated to produce “Faith and Life,” a curriculum for children in grades 1–8 that offers an overview of salvation history with an emphasis on the Eucharist. Looking for an editorial team with a deep understanding of and fidelity to Church



teaching, the publishers hired several Thomas Aquinas College alumnae. Patricia (Pucetti ’78) Donahoe served as the editor. Terri (Vorndran ’76) Nichols wrote the curriculum for third grade, *Our Life with Jesus*; Barbara (Nacelewicz ’81) Doran wrote the fourth-grade text, *Jesus Our Guide*, and Martha (Schaeffer ’76) Long authored the final volume, *Our Life in the Church*, for eighth graders. Among the writers for the series’ original teacher manuals were Barbara (Wynne ’78) Carrescia and Sr. Kathleen (Mary Catherine ’76) Blanding, I.H.M.; while Anne (Schaeffer ’81) Forsyth authored the first of an updated and expanded set of manuals published in 2009.

“When, at the time of the issuance of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the U.S. bishops finally agreed that most religious education series were woefully inadequate, they required that all be brought into conformity with the *Catechism*, and a committee of bishops was appointed to monitor the process,” writes Rev. Joseph Fessio, S.J., the editor of Ignatius Press. “‘Faith and Life’ was the only series that did not have to make a single change in order to be in conformity.”

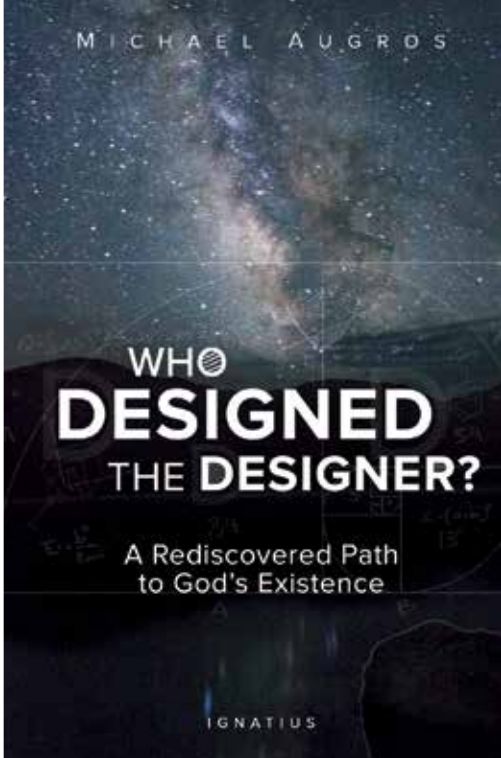
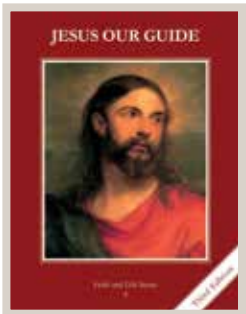
After three decades and now in its third edition, “Faith and Life” remains one of the most popular and influential catechetical programs for Catholic schoolchildren. The series has sold nearly 6 million copies, and it has been translated into French and German, much to the delight of at least one Holy Father. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, when still Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, called the program, “the best technical series in the German language.”

Dr. Joseph Almeida (’81)

Dr. Joseph Almeida (’81) wears many hats at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he is chairman of the Department of Classics, director of the Great Books Honors Program, director of the Legal Studies Program, and a professor of Classics and Legal Studies. Additionally, he maintains a small law practice in the Steubenville area, where he works on administrative tax matters and federal criminal appeals. Yet between these various responsibilities, he authored *Justice as an Aspect of the Polis Idea in Solon’s Political Poems* (2003).

Solon, an ancient Greek statesman, lawmaker, and poet, is known for his valiant, albeit failed, efforts to resist the decline — political, economic, and moral — of Athens in the sixth and seventh centuries before Christ. His political poetry often dealt with the term *dike*, or justice, the meaning of which Dr. Almeida explores by means of a multidisciplinary perspective in this scholarly work.

Upon graduating from the College in 1981, Dr. Almeida earned master’s degrees in English literature and classics at Middlebury College and Villanova University, respectively. Next, he obtained his *juris doctor* at the Villanova University School of Law, before earning a doctorate in classics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His teaching, research, and publications all involve Greek intellectual history, especially the development of philosophic ideas.



Michael Van Hecke (’86) and Christopher Zehnder (’87)

Around the turn of the millennium, Michael Van Hecke (’86), the headmaster of St. Augustine Academy in Ventura, California, became acutely aware of the

dearth of good textbooks in Catholic schools. “Though most people may not realize it,” he says, “for all major subjects, nearly every Catholic school in the country uses only secular textbooks in its curriculum.”

Finding these publications sadly lacking both in content and presentation, Mr. Van Hecke launched the Catholic Schools Textbook Project, an independent, non-profit educational apostolate serving Catholic schoolchildren by creating the first new Catholic textbooks in 40 years. To serve as publisher and general editor for the project, Mr. Van Hecke selected a fellow Thomas Aquinas College graduate, Christopher Zehnder (’87).

“Instead of boring textbooks that distort or ignore the Church’s contribution to human history,” Mr. Van Hecke says, the Catholic Schools Textbook Project produces books in which “the facts of Christian history are accurately, beautifully, and engagingly portrayed.” The textbooks feature color pictures, maps and graphics, as well as stories that capture the imaginations of students. There are, to date, five titles in the series, as well as accompanying teachers’ manuals and student workbooks.

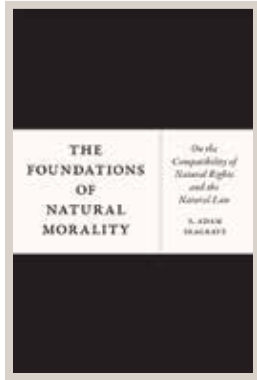
In addition to his work on the Catholic Textbook Project, in 2015 Mr. Zehnder published a novel, the first in a planned trilogy. *A Song for Else, Part I* tells the story of Lorenz List, a young man in 16th century Germany set against the backdrop of the Protestant Reformation.

Dr. S. Adam Seagrave (’05)

Dr. S. Adam Seagrave (’05), an assistant professor of political science at Northern Illinois University, published his first book in 2014 through the University of Chicago Press, *The Foundations of Natural Morality: On the Compatibility of Natural Rights and the Natural Law*. The book asks, and then aims to answer, the question, “Does the concept of natural rights have the natural law as its foundation or are the two ideas, as Leo Strauss argued, profoundly incompatible?”

Although Dr. Seagrave acknowledges that the notion of natural rights does not derive from traditional natural law, he argues that the two concepts are nonetheless compatible — when viewed through the lens of John Locke and St. Thomas Aquinas. After presenting a comprehensive philosophical explanation of natural morality, drawing heavily upon the authors and works studied in the College’s classical curriculum, he then considers many contemporary issues of political import, from the preservation of marriage, to healthcare, to the death penalty.

The Foundations of Natural Morality received several positive reviews, with one scholar hailing it as “one of the most important books on natural law and natural rights in a generation.”



“Marriage in the Church is a Sacred Reality”

An Interview with Raymond Cardinal Burke

In January, His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke, the Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, visited the campus of Thomas Aquinas College. The interview below, conducted during the Cardinal's visit, precedes the publication of His Holiness Pope Francis' recent apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

At the recent Synod on the Family, some bishops debated whether those who are divorced and remarried might be able to be admitted to the sacraments, which, of course, would be contrary to the Church's long practice. Would you tell us what transpired and why the stakes are so high?

It is an old debate in the Church, but it was re-ignited in February 2014 at a consistory of cardinals. At that time, Cardinal Walter Kasper gave a presentation suggesting that, indeed, the Church could change her practice with regard to the admission to the sacraments for those who, while bound to a partner in marriage, were living in a marital way with someone else. That began the debate.

Fundamentally, though, the point is quite simple: Reception of Holy Communion requires that we repent of our sins, confess them with a firm purpose of amendment — that is, with the resolve not to commit the sin again — and be in union with Christ. If someone is living in a public state of adultery — that is, if a married person is living in a marital way with someone who is not his or her husband or wife — that person cannot receive the sacraments. He or she is not properly disposed; they have not repented of the sin of adultery nor removed themselves from the adulterous relationship.

Somehow Cardinal Kasper was suggesting that the Church could give persons in this situation Holy Communion while at the same time not altering her teaching on the indissolubility of marriage. In other words, he was suggesting that the Church could retain that the person is indissolubly espoused to someone even though he or she is living in a marital way with someone else.

Such a change in discipline, however, would in fact be a change of doctrine. We have to be clear: If I am living in adultery and I can receive Holy Communion, then either Holy Communion is not the Body and Blood of Christ, such that I need to be in the state of grace in order to receive it; or marriage is not indissoluble and therefore I am not living in adultery. It has to be one way or the other. This is what has caused a tremendous confusion.

Some have suggested that a certain “period of time” could elapse between the divorce and the re-marriage as a way to solve the contradiction. Does this help?

No, it does not. Every time that we confess a grave sin, we also must have a firm purpose of amendment in order to receive forgiveness. What sense would it make to confess a sin when one intends to go out and continue the same sin?

There is a penitential way, however, strictly speaking, by which a confessor can help a penitent to achieve chastity within such a relationship. If the couple cannot separate because there are children, or elderly parents, or whatever it may be, they may continue to live together — not in a marital way, but as brother and sister. This is the only penitential way by which the situation can be addressed.

In this Year of Mercy, it is important to remember that God's mercy does not mean that we must admit everybody to the sacraments. We have first to reflect the justice of the situation, the truth of the situation.

In a related matter, during the 1990s, you served, by appointment of Pope St. John Paul II, as the first American Defender of the Bond of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, the Church's highest court, which you later headed. Would you describe this office and its duties regarding the marriage nullity process?



Because marriage in the Church is a sacred reality, it enjoys the favor of the law. What is more, marriage is the first cell of the life of the Church and of society. The office of “Defender of the Bond” dates from the time of Pope Benedict XIV, who perfected the judicial proceeding to arrive at the truth regarding a claim of nullity of marriage. Part of the mechanism for arriving at the truth was that there would be an office of the ecclesiastical tribunal whose sole function would be to bring forward all of the arguments that would favor the validity of the marriage.

That office, the Defender of the Bond, I carried out at the Apostolic Signatura. In any case involving a question about the nullity of marriage, my duty was to bring forth all the arguments in favor of the validity of the marriage. In this way, the judge would have in hand not only the arguments that the person claiming the nullity brought forth but also the arguments of the Defender of the Bond, and any other proofs that were brought forward by the other party to the marriage. In this way, the judge could make an objective decision, according to the truth of the situation. This office demonstrates the Church's seriousness in its care for marriage.

“We must maintain our serenity because we know that Christ has won the victory of life, and He remains always with us in the Church; even if we have to go through great suffering, He will never abandon His Church.”

Regarding the marriage nullity process, the Holy Father, as an initiative for the Year of Mercy, announced an easing of the process for annulling marriages. Could you explain what has changed?

Last year, on September 8, the Birth of Mary, Pope Francis issued two *motu proprio*s, which radically reformed the matrimonial nullity process, not just for the Year of Mercy, but going forward. I am deeply concerned that if those reforms are not properly interpreted and not accompanied by some greater definition, we will end up in a situation like what we had in this country from 1971 to 1983. During that period, it was enough simply to bring forward an accusation of nullity of marriage for the declaration of nullity to be granted. People understandably began to say that this was “Catholic divorce,” that the Catholic Church has a pretense that marriage is indissoluble but that, in fact, it dissolves marriages all the time.

The 1983 Code of Canon Law, which was hammered out with the greatest possible consultation, reformed the process for the nullity of marriage in a very solid way. Later, a handbook for the process called *Dignitas Conubii* was published by the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, taking the tribunal officials step by step through the whole marriage nullity process. Together the two safeguarded the marriage nullity process. Now that has seriously been called into question.

Recently you helped launch a new endeavor called “Operation Storm Heaven.” What is this effort and what is its purpose?

I hear more and more from bishops and priests that people are confused about what the Church really teaches, and that many are concerned about whether the word of Christ will be respected, the only word which will lead us to eternal life. There is also the situation of the world itself: Islamic violence, ISIS, with situations even in our own country; the continued horror of procured abortion; the now-growing practice of euthanasia; and the fact that now even the government would prevent people from following their own consciences or even constrain them to act against their consciences (as with the HHS mandate). Many people are very worried, and they see a growing confusion and even error.

Our first response must be prayer, and the Rosary is a most powerful prayer. Second, we must maintain our serenity because we know that Christ has won the victory of life, and He remains always with us in the Church; even if we have to go through great suffering, He will never abandon His church. Third, we must unite with one another. We must encourage one another so that we do not begin to feel isolated, and then become angry and embattled.

The inspiration for Operation Storm Heaven (catholicaction.org) comes from an apostolate, Catholic Action for Faith and Family, founded by Thomas J. McKenna of San Diego. The idea came to him to found a group of “Rosary Warriors” who would pray the Rosary monthly to dispel confusion and provide strength in the struggle against evil and discouragement.

When he presented it to me, I encouraged him in every way, and I have now committed to offering the Holy Mass on

the first day of every month for this intention, with the Rosary Warriors joining with me through recitation of the Rosary. We are aiming for 1 million Rosary Warriors and already have several thousand who have committed themselves.

You were appointed Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in the fall of 2014. Would you tell us about the Order and what your new office entails?

The Cardinal Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta is the Holy Father's representative to the Order, which was established in the 11th century and, from the time of its approval by Pope Paschal II, it has enjoyed very much the favor of the Roman Pontiff. The Order was founded to assist gravely ill pilgrims to the Holy Land during the time of the Crusades. Blessed Gérard founded the Order, which was granted sovereignty by the Church so that it could carry out freely its two principal works: the defense of the faith (*tuitio fidei*) and the care of the poor (*obsequium pauperum*).

Even though the Order enjoys a certain sovereignty, it remains very much a part of the Church. The highest rank of Knights of Malta, the professed Knights who have the ultimate responsibility for the life of the Order or who are, in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “the heart of the Order,” are, in fact, consecrated religious who are under the direct authority of the Holy Father, as are all consecrated religious of pontifical right. The Order today continues to carry out its dual mission and is well known in many parts of the world for its work on behalf of our brothers and sisters in most need. As Cardinal Patron, I work, on behalf of the Holy Father, to ensure that the Order maintains the closest communion with the Church, in accord with the gift of the Holy Spirit which led to its foundation.



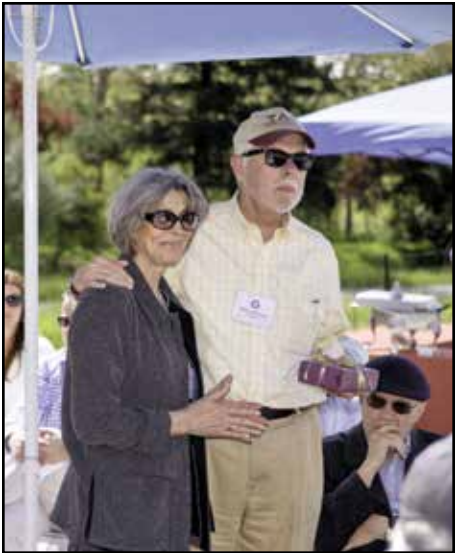
Cardinal Burke presents a day of recollection for Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

Heartened, Ready & Optimistic

Boards of Regents, Bishop Vasa, Gather in Napa for First Annual National Retreat

Twelve years ago, Thomas Aquinas College established its first Board of Regents. Since then, six more boards have taken root across the United States, and in March, members of all seven came together — for the first time — at a national retreat in Napa, California.

“Given the proliferation of boards in recent years, we thought the time was right to meet up, to get to know one another, to discuss best practices, and to learn from each other’s experiences,” says Vice President Paul J. O’Reilly. Nearly 70 Regents, members of the Board of Governors, and other friends of the College gathered for the First Annual National Regent Retreat at Napa Valley’s Meritage Resort and Spa from March 18 to 20. Serving as keynote speaker was the local ordinary and the College’s 2005 Convocation Day Speaker, the Most Rev. Robert F. Vasa, Bishop of Santa Rosa.



Judy Barrett and President Michael F. McLean

“We chose the Meritage for several reasons,” says Dr. O’Reilly. “Primarily, it was a way for us to express our support for Tim Busch, the resort’s owner who is a friend of the College and a model Catholic businessman.” Like all of Mr. Busch’s properties, the Meritage offers a Catholic chapel, where visiting priests can offer Mass for the hotel’s guests. “We also liked that the Meritage was so close to our dear friend Judy Barrett, who graciously welcomed us for a luncheon at her beautiful Chateau Montelena Winery.”

With its mix of planning meetings and discussions, shared meals and recreation, and worship — College Chaplain Rev. Cornelius M. Buckley, S.J., was on hand to offer Mass, hear confessions, and pro-

vide spiritual direction — the retreat was “exactly what the Regents needed to prepare them for their important work,” says Dr. O’Reilly. “We could not have asked for a better, or more fruitful, experience.”

Advice and Counsel

When the College founded the first Board of Regents in 2004, its mission was simple — to help foster relations within the College’s own backyard of Ventura County, California. With the formation of more boards throughout the state and the country — Orange County, the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento, Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C. — the mission of the boards has broadened.

“Regents are, first and foremost, ambassadors for the College, helping to raise its profile in key geographical regions,” explains Dr. O’Reilly. “They help to introduce the College to members of their communities — prospective students and potential benefactors alike — making the case for Catholic liberal education through their word and example.”

As such, much of the First Annual National Regent Retreat was dedicated to aiding Regents in the *work* of the boards, namely hosting events, following up with guests, and expanding the reach of each organization. On Saturday morning, for example Dr. O’Reilly, joined by the College’s director of foundation relations, Sharon Reiser, and Jim Link, a member of the Washington, D.C., Board of Regents, led a panel discussion on strategies for funding and planning local events. That evening, three other members of the D.C. Board — Steve Daly, Rolfe Kratz, and Joseph Lyons — shared lessons learned from the several successful gatherings that they have sponsored in and around the nation’s capital.

“The presentations, particularly those regarding the new tools that we could use in expanding our local Regent-sponsored events and potential speakers lists, were most helpful,” says Nick Cammarota, chairman of the Sacramento Board of Regents. “We also had the opportunity to hear about the success and failures that other regents had, and that was very instructive for setting our own goals.”

Encouragement and Inspiration

“We had much work to do, and we managed to accomplish it all,” says Dr. O’Reilly. “But we also sought to ensure



Attendees at Thomas Aquinas College’s First Annual National Regent Retreat enjoy a luncheon at Chateau Montelena Winery, made possible by the winery’s owner and a longtime friend of the College, Judy Barrett.

that this retreat was truly a *retreat*, and not merely a conference. Our purpose was also to encourage the Regents and refresh them in their work, and I think we achieved that goal as well.”

Thus, at the opening dinner, President Michael F. McLean gave a “State of the College” address and lauded the Regents for their dedication. (See page 2.) “I want to thank all of you for everything you have done to support the Regents and to advance the College,” said Dr. McLean. “We are deeply grateful for your interest and enthusiasm.” Likewise, on Saturday night, Bishop Vasa spoke, stressing the great virtue of — and dire need for — authentic Catholic education. Retreatants also heard that evening from two of their own, the chairmen of the two local Boards, Nick Cammarota of Sacramento and Bob Andrews of the San Francisco Bay Area, who has recently joined the College’s Board of Governors.



Washington D.C., Regents Deanna and Steve Daly ('94) with Paula (Grimm '75) Kaiser and Governor Jim Wensley

Citing the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Mr. Cammarota observed that his fellow Regents’ support of the College and, in particular, its financial aid program, amounts to corporal and spiritual works of mercy. “A donation to the College results in the instruction of the ignorant, counsel to the doubtful, feeding of the hungry, housing for the homeless, giving drink to the thirsty, and even — in some class discussions — bearing patiently the troublesome,” he said. “And if you add to that the spiritual life, you get admonishing sinners, forgiveness of offenses, comforting the afflicted, praying for the living and the dead, and burying the dead.” Mr. Andrews, in turn, urged the Regents to think of their work in terms of

evangelization. “The College is a great gift to the whole of society,” he said. “And I think our job as Regents is to find ways to reach beyond the comfort of a circle like this and to tell its story.”



Ventura County Regents Mike and Jean Maiuri with Sacramento Regents Ken ('90) and Anna Cools

The highlight of the weekend was Saturday’s excursion to Chateau Montelena. Mrs. Barrett, the wife of late College Governor Jim, was “ever gracious and hospitable,” says Dr. O’Reilly. “We had a wonderful lunch, and the Regents especially enjoyed touring the winery grounds, with its spectacular views and its Marian grotto.” Upon returning to the Meritage late that afternoon, Fr. Buckley offered the anticipated Mass for the next day, Palm Sunday. At dinner that evening, three governors of the College — Bud Daily, Jim Wensley, and Henry Zeiter — brought a formal close to the event, saluting the Regents and offering their continued assistance.

“When we departed on Sunday morning, we all left heartened and ready to get to work, optimistic about the future of Thomas Aquinas College and the Boards of Regents,” says Dr. O’Reilly. Over the next year, the Boards are looking to boost their membership, establish new chapters in Colorado and the Pacific Northwest, and implement a new executive structure. Already, the College has begun planning for the Second Annual National Regent Retreat in 2017. “I enjoy the association with so many people supporting the College,” says Patrick J. Hart, Jr., a member of the Orange County Board. “Our shared value of the type of education the College offers and the content of its curriculum is inspirational and exciting.”



Back: Washington, D.C., Regents Steve and Deanna Daly, benefactors Karen and Richard Spencer, and D.C. Regent Rolfe Kratz ('97); front: Ventura County Regents Jim and Maureen Scanlon, College Chaplain Rev. Cornelius M. Buckley, S.J., and Peter ('96) and Monica (Tittmann '97) Grimm

Summer Learning & More

Upcoming Seminars and Events

Conference: “The Importance of the Philosophy of Nature”

thomasaquinas.edu/SATS

This summer a number of faculty members, graduates, and fellow scholars from across North America will participate in the annual West Coast meeting of the Society for Aristotelian-Thomistic Studies. An international organization founded in 1974 “for the purpose of promoting friendship in the pursuit of wisdom,” the Society examines current issues of scientific or philosophic significance.

This year’s conference, which will focus on the theme “The Importance of the Philosophy of Nature,” will feature lectures and question-and-answer periods with six scholars, including alumni and tutors from the College. The talks will be given in the mornings and afternoons, and the conference will close with a Thursday dinner in honor of the speakers.

Conference: “The Person and Economic Society”

thomasaquinas.edu/socialdoctrine

Immediately following the Society for Aristotelian-Thomistic Studies’ conference will be the eighth annual Conference on the Social Doctrine of the Church, sponsored by *The Aquinas Review*. Attendees will take part in a series of three seminars concerning the principles underlying the Church’s teachings on economics and social justice. The theme of this year’s conference is “The Person and Economic Society.”

The inspiration of the late Dr. Ronald P. McArthur, founding president of Thomas Aquinas College, the seminars will examine relevant works of Aristotle, E.F. Schumacher, and Jacques de Monleon. Conference attendees will split into small groups, led by members of the College’s teaching faculty, to analyze and discern the meaning of the texts. They will also come together

JUNE
16–17



Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend

for Mass, meals, and a lecture over the course of the weekend.

The 2016 Summer Seminars “Suffering: The Christian Response”

thomasaquinas.edu/summerseminars

Each summer the president of Thomas Aquinas College hosts two Great Books Summer Seminar Weekends. These weekends take place on the College’s campus, nestled in the foothills of the Topatopa Mountains, just outside of Santa Paula, California. Attendees gain an inside look at the unique education the College provides its students, while enjoying great books and good fellowship.

Under the guidance of the president, the dean, and senior faculty members, guests participate in a series of classroom discussions centered on timely and important themes. Between seminars they enjoy delicious meals served both indoors and outdoors. In addition, the College’s chaplains offer daily Mass and Confession in Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel.

This year’s theme is “Suffering: The Christian Response.” After examining Leo Tolstoy’s *The Death of*

JUNE
24–26

JULY
15–17

Ivan Ilyich, participants will discuss Pope St. John Paul II’s 1984 Apostolic Letter, “On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering” (*Salvifici Doloris*), and St. Thomas Aquinas’s profound meditation on Christ’s passion and resurrection from the *Summa Theologiae*. Cost is \$750 per person or \$1,200 per couple, including seminar tuition, meals, lodging, and readings. (Space is limited. Priority will be given to members of the President’s Council.)

St. Thomas Aquinas on Justice & Mercy Napa Institute Conference Seminar

thomasaquinas.edu/napa

In the Psalms God is described as just: “The Lord is just, and has loved justice.” He is also described as merciful: “All the ways of the Lord are mercy and truth.” St. Thomas Aquinas considers in what way God is just, without owing His creatures anything; and how He can be merciful without feeling sorrow for His creatures. St. Thomas also shows how God’s justice is compatible with His mercy.

Please join members of the College’s faculty in a lively discussion of this topic at a seminar and a buffet breakfast at this year’s Napa Institute conference, “Equipping Catholics in the Next America,” in Napa, California. The seminar and breakfast are open, free of charge, to all of the conference’s registered attendees.

JULY
7

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Hines Martin, 1919–2016

In 1971, just months before what was supposed to be the start of Thomas Aquinas College’s first academic year, President Ronald P. McArthur called one of the College’s first board members, J. Edward Martin, with some bad news: The College lacked the funds to open its doors. In all likelihood, there would be no first academic year.

“Ed would not hear of it,” recalls Peter L. DeLuca, one of the College’s founders and its vice president for finance and administration. “He called his friend Rube Hayden, and they agreed to each guarantee \$40,000 so we would have the necessary \$80,000 to make it through the first year.”

Mr. Martin thus saved Thomas Aquinas College before it ever came to be. All the while, he was faithfully supported by his wife, Elizabeth Hines Martin, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on Monday, April 4, 2016. “Betty was as much a supporter of the College as Ed, from the very beginning,” says Mr. DeLuca. “The Martins were committed to making the College a success, and they consistently did whatever they could to get the College off the ground and then to sustain it in the subsequent decades.”

As members of the President’s Council and the Legacy Society, the Martins aided the College not only financially, but in other ways as well. As managing partner at Albert C. Martin & Associates in Los Angeles, one of the oldest and largest architectural, engineering, and planning firms in the West, Mr. Martin repeatedly brought the services of his company to the College.



“At our original campus in Calabasas, there was a tack house that was going to serve as a student recreation center, but the arch that sustained the building had a large crack in it,” says Mr. DeLuca. “Ed’s people looked at it and, using state-of-the-art technology, had the crack filled with injected epoxy, thereby making it structurally safe.” When the College obtained the property for its permanent campus in Santa Paula a few years later, Albert C. Martin & Associates did the master planning. Mr. Martin also served for nearly 30 years on the Board of Governors, from 1971 to his retirement in 2000, when his colleagues honored him with the title of emeritus member.

Born on September 18, 1919, in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, Mrs. Martin attended the University of Illinois, where she met Mr. Martin. After their marriage, the couple moved to Los Angeles. There, Mrs. Martin became involved in many clubs and organizations, volunteering at the Pasadena Symphony, the Pasadena Art Museum and the Huntington Library as a docent, and serving as president of the Junior League of Pasadena, Pro America, and the San Marino Women’s Republican Club.

An avid equestrian and a lover of the arts, Mrs. Martin played piano all her life, performing in her home and later at Royal Oaks Manor. She also taught several of her grandchildren to play. She loved to dance, practicing ballet for many years. She enjoyed writing songs and stories, as well as painting watercolors for her friends and family.

Mrs. Martin is predeceased by her husband of 60 years, who passed away in 2004. The couple is survived by five children, including Nicholas, a member of the College’s Ventura County Board of Regents; 15 grandchildren, including Jenny (’01) and Bryan (’04); and 17 great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Roberto Gutierrez

October 10, 2015

Friend

Peter V. Leparulo

December 15, 2015

Legacy Society member

Richard Regnier

February 14, 2016

President’s Council Member

Daniel E. McPherson, Jr.

February 27, 2016

Legacy Society Member

Patricia Jean Thompson

February 29, 2016

Mother of Darryl Thompson (’83)

Loraine (Ivers ’81) Hoonhout

March 5, 2016

Mother of Clare (’08); sister of Maureen Coughlin (’79), Marian Hartzell (’82), Jessica Langley (’85), and Sr. Maria Basiléa (Margaretha ’88)

Amy R. Dovel

March 12, 2016

Legacy Society member; grandmother of Amy (Melancon ’08), Therese (Collins ’11); and Mary Rose (’16)

Donald Schabow

April 3, 2016

Father of Rosemary Harahill (’78) and Carole (’82); grandfather of Margaret (Harahill ’13) Guynan

Elizabeth Hines Martin

April 4, 2016

Legacy Society member; wife of J. Edward Martin, a late member of the Board of Governors; mother of Nicholas, member of the College’s Ventura County Board of Regents; grandmother of Jenny (’01) and Bryan (’04)

Frank Blanding

April 10, 2016

Brother of Sr. Mary Catherine, I.H.M. (’76)

Don Quixote and the Glory of the Life to Come

Why We Study Cervantes

By Dr. Brian T. Kelly ('88)

The following remarks are adapted from Dean Brian T. Kelly's report to the Board of Governors at its November 14, 2015, meeting. They are part of an ongoing series of talks about why the College includes certain texts in its curriculum. To read the full text and the rest of the series, see thomasaquinas.edu/whywestudy.



Of all of the great authors that we read, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra might have had the most eventful life. He went to sea and fought with Muslims and pirates. He served important functions in ecclesiastical and royal courts. He was a tax collector, a frustrated pioneer, and a literary giant. He was imprisoned by both Christians and infidels. And did I mention pirates?

He was born into a poor family in Alcala de Henares, Spain, in 1547, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. As Christendom united to resist the onslaught of the Ottoman Turks, Cervantes volunteered to fight in the allied fleet under the command of Don Juan of Austria, King Philip II's half-brother. He fought gallantly in the decisive Battle of Lepanto in 1571, taking two bullets to the chest and one to the hand.

After several more years of military service, Cervantes decided to return to Spain in 1575, but his ship was overrun by corsairs, and he was held prisoner for five years in Algiers. Over several years he tried again and again to organize an escape. After one such attempt he was condemned to 2,000 lashes but remarkably survived. Finally, in 1580 he was ransomed by his family through the labors and generosity of Trinitarian monks.

Back home he briefly worked as a legate for Philip II to newly annexed Portugal. In 1584 he married Catalina de Salazar, and also welcomed an illegitimate daughter from another union. In 1587 he was assigned as a royal requisition agent, gathering provisions for the Spanish Armada. In 1592 he was charged with fraud and briefly jailed. In 1594 he became a tax collector in Austria. Unfortunately, financial mismanagement landed him in prison for several more months, though he was eventually cleared of all charges. His final years were spent in poverty and ill health. He died in April of 1616 — 10 days before William Shakespeare.

During this remarkable life Cervantes found time to write one of the most astounding works in the history of literature, *The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha*, which Dostoyevsky called "the final and greatest utterance of the human mind."

Our students read this great masterpiece at the beginning of their junior year. It is remarkably complex, funny, intelligent, earthy, frustrating, and completely satisfying. It tells the story of a middle-aged country gentleman whose brain shrivels from reading too many books of chivalry. Convinced that he himself is called to the life of knight errantry, he sets out in a patched-up suit of armor, on a scrawny nag called Rocinante, and accompanied by a simple peasant named Sancho Panza to "defend maidens, protect widows, and succour orphans and the needy," and especially to serve his lady, Dulcinea del Toboso.

Who has not heard of this trio and their glorious adventures? The story itself is initially mad-cap, full of ridiculous misadventures and inevitable beatings. This novel's nearly thousand pages are filled with windmills, lunatics, lovers, magic caves, bodily functions, many stories of various quality, and endless proverbs from the wise Sancho. But by the end we have come to love the ingenious hidalgo and to appreciate that his mission is important though mysterious. Not to spoil the ending, but he recovers his wits in the end and it is like a punch in the stomach. No one is happy about it and he seems determined to die. Now that he is sane we don't know him. It is hard to say many things with certainty about the correct way to read this complex novel, but I assert

confidently that the reader is meant to love Don Quixote the madman, Don Quixote the dreamer.

I cannot really hope to give you a large sense of the novel, though I urge you to read it. Instead I will focus on one little part, my favorite part, known as the captive's tale.

Late in the first part of the novel, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza are staying at an inn with an odd assortment of characters. They have been treated to a number of highly melodramatic stories about people with too much money and passion and too little sense; some of these stories can strike the reader as unbalanced or even unhealthy. At this point a man and woman, he obviously a Christian recently released from Muslim captivity and she a Muslim, arrive at the inn and fill the company with wonder. The captive proceeds to tell his story which, for my money, comes as a breath of fresh air. It is dashing and thrilling and smacks of wholesome reality. We get the sense too that the story of the captive is very much inspired by Cervantes' own adventures.

The captive says, "news arrived of the alliance that His Holiness Pope Pius V, of happy memory, had made with Venice and Spain against the common enemy, the Turk. ... It became known that His Serene Highness Don John of Austria, our good king Don Philip's half-brother, was to be the general in command of the allied armies. ... This inflamed my desire to fight in the great battle that lay ahead ..."

So the captive, like Cervantes, fought at Lepanto with Don Juan. Like Cervantes he was captured and held for ransom in Algiers, though the fictional captive was taken at Lepanto while attempting to rescue the flagship of the Knights of Malta. Like Cervantes he is held captive for years, always dreaming of escape.

It is clear that Cervantes identifies with the captive and his plight. And he rescues him in delightful and telling fashion. One day when he is in the prison yard, a cane emerges from a small window high above and lowers a small bag of coins. Some days later it happens again with a larger bag of coins, this time with a note, which reads:

... when I was a little girl, my father had a female slave who taught me Christian worship in my own language and told me many things about Lela Marien. [Cervantes explains that 'Lela Marien' is a Moorish name for Our Lady.] The Christian slave died, and I know that it wasn't to the fire that she went but to Allah, because since then I have seen her twice, when she told me to go to the land of the Christians to see Lela Marien, who loved me very much. I don't know how I can go. Many Christians have I seen through this window, and none but you has seemed a gentleman. I'm very beautiful, and young, and I have much money to take with me. See if you can find a way for us to go, and there you'll be my husband if you want, and if you don't want I don't mind, because Lela Marien will give me a husband ... May she and Allah keep you, and this Cross that I kiss again and again.

Thus the adventure begins; and after many twists and turns the captive and the brave Muslim noblewoman, Zoraida, escape under the guidance and patronage of Our Lady and return to Christendom. It is a thrilling story.

In the whole novel there are not many characters, other than Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, with whom we can wholeheartedly sympathize. I think we are meant to love the captive and his beautiful bride-to-be. And I think they are meant to introduce Christ back into the novel. My fellow tutor Dr. Joseph Hattrup pointed out that when they arrive in the story, the captive, a slightly older man, is on foot, and Zoraida is riding on a donkey, and they are initially told that there is no room for them in the inn. When asked her name she says, "No, Zoraida, no: Maria, Maria!"

And while the others in the company are distracted by their idle passions and curiosities, these two are focused

on finding home and faith. The captive explains that Zoraida's "clothes and body are Moorish, but her soul is devoutly Christian."

Some scholars have tried to twist the novel into a subtle, Strauss-ian rejection of the Catholic faith. With a work as complex as *Don*

Quixote, you could probably claim anything and find some evidence for it. But this reading cannot be accurate. For how could it square with the affection we feel for the "Knight of the Rueful Countenance," who believes with simple faith? At one point he says, "We knights errant, Christian and Catholic, must be more concerned with the glory of the life to come ... than with the vanity of fame ... in this present transient life ... our works must not stray beyond the limits imposed by the Christian religion that we profess." And the wise Sancho assents.

And consider our captive: how could a cynical reading harmonize with the beautiful and touching story of the Muslim girl loved and chosen by Lela Marien for baptism and salvation? Cervantes lived imperfectly, but was faithful to the end, dying with the oil of chrism on his forehead.



Don Quixote in the Mountains, Honoré Daumier (1808–1879)

St. Vincent de Paul Lecture and Concert Series

Endowed by Barbara and Paul Henkels

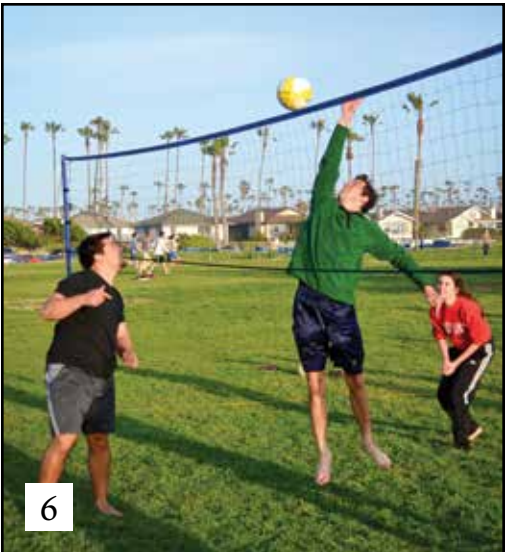
Highlights from the Last Quarter

- 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 spring semester's seminar took place on February 5 and focused on St. Thomas Aquinas's question "On Homicide" from the *Summa Theologiae*.
- In honor of President's Day on February 20, **Dr. John Agresto**, president emeritus of St. John's College, delivered a lecture entitled, "Equality as the Central Principle of America."
- **Dr. John Cuddeback**, a professor of philosophy at Christendom College, spoke on March 18 on the subject, "Friendship of Man and Woman according to Aristotle and St. Thomas."
- The College gathered on April 8 for the Spring Concert, in which the **Thomas Aquinas College Choir** performed Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.
- Periodically members of the faculty or chaplaincy present on-campus "tutor talks," informal lectures followed by question-and-answer sessions. These late-afternoon gatherings afford an opportunity for the speakers to discuss some topic of interest to them and to share their thoughts with other members of the community. On January 21 **Dr. Joseph Hattrup** gave one such talk, "Queen Dido: The Heart of Fire."

Text and audio from select lectures and concerts are available at thomasaquinas.edu/lectures.



CAMPUS LIFE



1. Sophomores Thomas O’Hara and Samantha Nunes take to the dance floor at the Spring Dance. 2. Michael Smillie (’18) and Timothy de Laveaga (’18) perform at Soul Butter, an annual folk and bluegrass concert in Ojai’s Soule Park. 3. This year’s winning team in the St. Thomas Day contest of Trivial and Quadrivial Pursuits, the Rhetoricians, who chose Star Wars for their theme. 4. Members of the underclassman team in this year’s All-American Game baseball contest, which ended in an 8-8 tie on account of time. 5. Sophomores Elizabeth and Theresa Gallagher light their candles just prior to a candlelight procession on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. 6. Members of the Class of 2017 play volleyball during “Rejuniorate,” the Junior Class’s annual mid-year beach party. 7. Student dancers perform for the Thomas Aquinas College community in St. Joseph Commons at the annual celebration of St. Patrick’s Day.

Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity Chapel
Summer Schedule of Masses *

Weekdays	Saturdays	Sundays & Holy Days
7:15 a.m.**	7:15 a.m.**	7:15 a.m.**
5:20 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.

* Schedules may vary; please confirm Mass times at thomasaquinas.edu/masstimes.
** The first Mass of each day is offered in the extraordinary form.

Calendar of Events

For more information, please see www.thomasaquinas.edu/calendar

West Coast Meeting of the Society for Aristotelian-Thomistic Studies	thomasaquinas.edu/SATS.....	June 16–17
Eighth Annual Conference on the Social Doctrine of the Church	thomasaquinas.edu/socialdoctrine	June 17–19
Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend #1	thomasaquinas.edu/summerseminars	June 24–26
Seminar: God’s Justice and Mercy		
Napa Institute Conference	thomasaquinas.edu/napa	July 7
Great Books Summer Seminar Weekend #2	thomasaquinas.edu/summerseminars	July 15–17
Summer Great Books Program for		
High School Students		July 17–30
Convocation		August 22

