

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

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“If we want to have a good society, we must concentrate all our energies on the Christian education of the young. Experience has taught me that if we wish to sustain civil society then we should take good care of the young.”
- St. John Bosco



Winter 2019-2020

Dear Benefactors and Readers,

The Sisters pray that this newsletter finds you well and ever more closely united to Christ and His holy Mother.

The winter of 2019 passed quickly for the Sisters. The beautiful feasts of Christmas and New Year were celebrated with joy and expectation heightened by the penitential season of Advent which preceded them. Christmas vacation came and went, the Sisters and students returned to the labors of the school term, and then the Academy concert was upon us.

The concert was a continuation of our capital campaign Rebuild for the Future whose goal is to fund a new convent building for the Sisters and a new school for the students of Queen of All Saints. As you know, our recently increased numbers have outgrown our existing facilities

"A school without music is a school without a soul, for music aids education. It is a most effective means to obtain discipline and morality." St. John Bosco



The campaign was begun in January of last year and has proven thus far to be a tremendous success. The new Motherhouse is scheduled to be completed this June. Providentially, this is a most timely completion, as we do not have anymore space to receive more vocations.

The Sisters could never adequately thank all of those who have contributed so generously to our endeavor. But God will be the one to recompense you for your charity.

All of you know the beloved name of Saint John Bosco. This bright cheerful Saint surrounded by his many boys is an image dear to all of our hearts. He accomplished a tremendous work for the glory of God by founding and building hundreds of schools and orphanages for boys. St. John Bosco is a dear patronal Saint of the Sisters whom they call upon often in their endeavors with the youth.

It is related that every year this wonder worker of a saint would publish a letter to all of his donors reminding them of all that they had accomplished the previous year and the plans for the



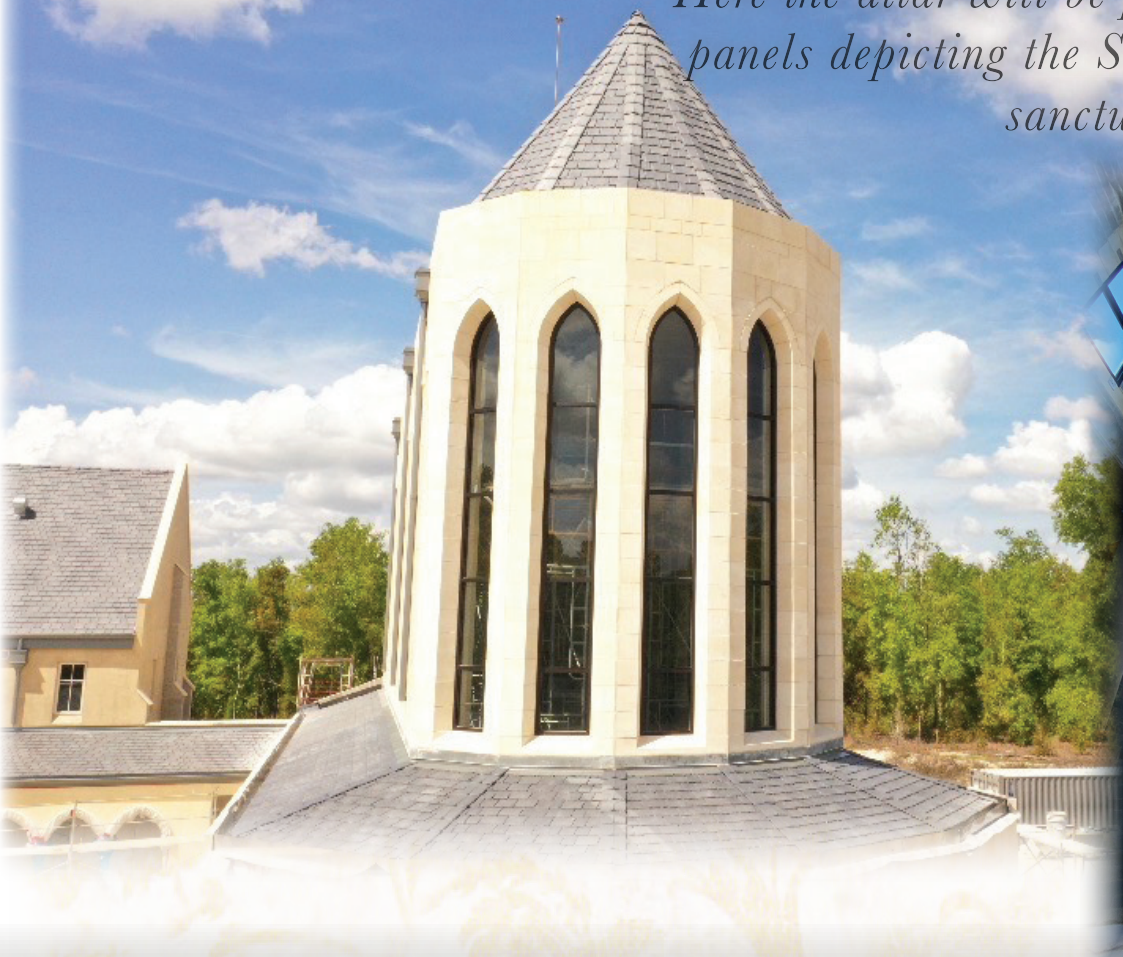
The Sisters spent Saturday staining the ceiling of the convent cloister

Mardi Gras was a welcome day of games and fun for the students.



"Steven's first day serving. A long-awaited day for a new server! He must have his Latin thoroughly memorized and must also master the various movements of the Mass."

*The apse will be the gem of the entire structure.
Here the altar will be placed. Stained glass
panels depicting the Saints will crown the
sanctuary.*



*The scaffolding in the chapel is set for work on the groin
vaults to begin.*

coming year. In the Saint's last letter to these generous donors, he outlined to them what was necessary for the future continuity and stability of all the work they had accomplished together with him. The letter contained nothing more than four thoughts. These he dictated on his death bed. The Sisters would like to mirror his thoughts and express these same sentiments to all of our donors:

1. First, he says: "If we want our spiritual and material affairs to go well, we should first of all strive to make God's works go well, promoting the spiritual and moral well-being of our neighbor with our alms."
2. Secondly, he continues, "If you want to have some favor more easily bestowed on you, you yourselves bestow a favor; that is, give alms to others before God and the Virgin may bestow it on you."
3. Thirdly, "With works of charity we shut off the doors of hell for us and open the gates of Paradise."
4. And lastly he closes, to all of them, saying, "I recommend to your charity all that which God has designed to entrust to me during almost fifty years. I recommend to you the Christian education of youth, vocations for the priesthood and the foreign missions; but most particularly do I recommend to you the care of the poor and abandoned boys who



Joseph, our handy man, receives much needed directives.



Everything fades away, but not our gratitude. We shall always pray that God will abundantly bless those who have been so good to us." St. John Bosco

have always been most dear to my heart here on earth and who, by the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ will, I hope, be my crown and my joy in heaven."

Thank you again for your contributions and support. All of our Sisters and students will pray that God graciously reward you both here on earth and in eternity. A Novena of Rosaries was offered by the Sisters for all our donors to St. Joseph, patron of the Church and of a good death.

We close this letter with the words of St. John Bosco, "God bless you" dear donors, "and may the Holy Virgin protect your whole family. May she guide all of you always along the path of virtue until you attain heaven."

In Jesus Through Mary,
The Sisters of the Congregation of St. Thomas Aquinas