An Open Le er to My Parents

"You Knew me Be er than I Knew Myself"

By Coco Asjes ('20)

Dear Mom and Dad.

Four years ago, you proved your immense patience as I cast about for a "practical" education close to



Love,

Coco

66 Today I hardly recognize the social-media-addicted freshman I once was."

Diving In Parents Angela and Jack Connelly Restore Aquatics Center on New England Campus

Campus Life

Turkey Bowl





Walk for Life

... e next day some 300 of their California counterparts, all clad in red sweatshirts, made the case for life on the streets of San Francisco at the Walk for Life West Coast, TAC students have



Epiphany Dance



Trivial and Quadrivial Pursuits



March for Life



On January 24 every available student on the New England campus was in the nation's capital for the National March for Life. ey could be seen singing and praying all along the Mall, easily identied by their crimson TAC ski hats. ...





t of St. omas with a ing combination of prayer, scholarship, and fun. A er cipated in the annual game of Trivial & Quadrivial Pursuits. In California (le), approve an answer.

Mt. Lafaye e Hike





When the rst snow of the season fell on the New England campus in November, students made the 150-mile trek to New Hampshire's White Mountains to scale Mount Lafaye e (elev. 5,249 .), where they saw plenty more of the u y white stu.

New Telescope



anks to a recently installed telescope on the balcony of St. omas Hall — the gi of a local astronomy bu — students on the California campus were able to watch Mercury pass between the earth and the sun on November 11.





Outpouring of Generosity

Parents Join E ort to Furnish New England Chapel

t has been heartening to see how many people have sacri ced for the good of omas Aquinas College, for our students, and for the spiritual life of our new campus," says Rev. Greg Markey. "And it is remarkable how many of those people are the parents of our students and graduates."

Last November, Fr. Markey sent out an email asking friends to help make the century-old chapel on the New England campus a ing home for Catholic worship. Although an anonymous benefactor had paid for the major renovations of the building — including installation of an altar and confessionals — Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel was still lacking many basic liturgical items.

Within minutes, gi s started coming in from across the United States — gi s of communion patens, Stations of the Cross, ciboria, and more. e total value of the items purchased is just shy of \$85,000.

"Nearly half of all the gi s — 15 out of 34 made so far — have come from parents," says Robert Bagdazian, coordinator of the TAC Parents' Association. "Measured in dollars, parent giving accounts for 69 percent of all funds given to help furnish Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel."

What is extraordinary, Mr. Bagdazian points out, is that so few TAC parents have any rsthand experience of the New England campus. " ese are not people making a gi that will directly bene t their children, most of whom graduated from the California campus long ago," he explains. "Rather, they are passing along to others the same blessings that their children received at

omas Aquinas College."

Despite the outpouring of generosity, a few items on Fr. Markey's wish list still remain. ey can be purchased at thomasaquinas.edu/omph-registry.

Giving Made Easy
Parents Support College — for Free! — via Amazon Smile

e've used the Smile program for a year orj $0.1~\mathrm{Tw}~11$ (a) $5~\mathrm{5}$ (sCs $0.137~\mathrm{(eA5.1~(a)50~be)}6~\mathrm{(ca)}10~\mathrm{(TJ0~Tw(o)3)}$

"We Need You"

Alumni Professionals O er Advice, Encouragement to Students

A orney Andrew Emrich ('93)

lumnus a orney Andrew Emrich ('93) returned to the California campus last fall to o er advice to students who hope to pursue careers in law or public policy.

In a presentation that covered topics ranging from choosing the right law school to law-school admissions, Mr. Emrich shared how, despite his early plans to enter criminal law, he



made a career, rst, in public service and, later, in representing corporate clients. "You can have a perfect idea of what your trajectory is going to be, and it may not turn out that way — and that's ne," he advised. "Sometimes those experiences you don't

expect and don't chart out turn out to be the most valuable."

A partner at Holland & Hart LLP in Denver, Mr. Emrich earned his from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1996. He then went on to serve for four years as legislative counsel for Sen. Michael Enzi, followed by four more as counsel to the assistant a orney general at the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2005 he le public policy for private practice.

In the course of his discussion, Mr. Emrich outlined six "traits of good lawyers," — all of which, he observed, are the fruits of liberal education. "You are ge ing one of the nest educations in all of academia," he said. "And from it I acquired six traits essential for the practice of law: integrity, good listening, problem-solving, good judgment, e ective advocacy, and resilience."

As students discern their professional paths, Mr. Emrich urged, they should above all else seek to do God's will in their lives. "Realize that you are here because the God of the universe intended you to be here from all eternity," he said. "All these other things will work out. Make good choices and be prudent, but always keep that in mind."

erapist Marie a Grumbine ('14)

e need ethical therapists, and this is why I have come to talk to you today," Marie a Grumbine ('14) told a group of omas

Aquinas College, California, students at a fall talk about psychology and counseling, sponsored by the O ce of Career Services. "I have been where you are, and I know the formation that you have had. We need you."



In the last year of a three-year Marriage and Family erapy master's program at Fuller eological Seminary, Miss Grumbine is a counseling intern at the Phoenix Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter and addiction-recovery center where, she reports, she is blessed to perform daily three Spiritual Works of Mercy — "counseling the doubtful, comforting the a icted or the sorrowful, and instructing the ignorant."

e work of a therapist, however, "is not pre y, it's not glamorous, and it's heartbreaking sometimes," Miss Grumbine cautioned. "Being a therapist is looking at all those things no one wants to look at — trauma, abuse, neglect, addiction — no one wants to look at those things. . . . But we were told to do that. We were told to wash one another's feet. We were told to look at the ugly things and serve. Being a therapist is that. It's being a foot-washer."

In the course of her hour-long presentation, Miss Grumbine answered students' questions about graduate-school options, various kinds of therapeutic practice, and the ethical challenges that a Catholic therapist may encounter. Counseling, she continued, serves an essential human need. "Everyone needs mental-health care, because we are human beings, just as everyone needs to be taken care of physically sometimes," she explained. Because clients are o en vulnerable, and the information they disclose can expose them to exploitation and manipulation, therapists must possess the highest ethical standards.

"ere is a lot of beautiful work that can be done in therapy," Miss Grumbine said. "But in order to do that work, you need to be trustworthy with people's lives in your hands. at's why I'm talking to you, because I'm hoping that you are those people, and I want to convince you to go be therapists."