

**The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas**

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With Saint Francis de Sales, we remind the students that the greatest mortification will not be the external penances of Lent which we immediately think of when we hear the word “Lent” - fasting, extra prayers. The greater victory over self is won in the interior, by the faithful fulfillment of our duties of state, by overcoming ourselves in the countless hidden crosses that lie in our paths as we fulfill our duties.

Here are the words of the gentle Saint, “Truly it is good to mortify one’s flesh, but it is especially necessary to purify our affections and to renovate our hearts. God says to us: “Rend and tear your hearts, for it is against them my anger is provoked.” This is what we do by these little mortifications, frequently repeated and faithfully practiced: to suffer a little rebuke in a spirit of meekness, to act through obedience when we feel much repugnance in doing so, not to complain when we imagine there is great reason why we should, to endure the defects of those with whom we live. It is on these occasions that we must rend our hearts, and make a continual sacrifice of our own wills, our natural inclinations, and give some proofs to God of our love and our fidelity.”

**Winter 2020-2021**

Dear Benefactors and Readers,

We bless the good God who has brought us to this new year, giving us this precious time to merit heaven. May He grant us the graces to put our time to good use.

The work on the new convent continues. It is becoming increasingly engrossing as the project nears completion.



To save money, we decided to install the cobblestone for the walks and the convent drive ourselves. The cobbles are reclaimed antique stones from Belgium where the old roads are being dug up and the stones sold. Cobblestones are by far the most beautiful of paving materials. They are also the most durable and low maintenance. A cobblestone road will remain stable and functional for 100 years. When they do fail, it is because the base wears out, not the stones.

Much of the labor has been shouldered by some of our high school boys. The work has been grueling, and, needless to say, there has been trial and error in the process. Our crew is now proud to say that they are able to lay 500 square feet a day, matching installers in England, who are the world’s top professionals.

Work on the chapel interior is progressing at a feverish pace. In two short months the stonemasons have completed the installation of the Caen limestone on all the interior walls. They are currently installing the groin vault ceilings. The craftsmanship of these men is unmatched, and the beauty of



as we had to examine and critique every nook and cranny of the school's systems. All our staff was involved; our parents and students took surveys; and some of the students and parents were even interviewed during the operation.

Through the prayers and help of many, the school was granted full accreditation for an initial period of three years. This is the most favorable outcome of an initial visit. We thank our families for their help and support in this major endeavor.

With Lent here, we turn our minds with greater focus toward the purpose of all our work both in the convent and the school: the great work of our sanctification.

We commend the Sisters and their work, as well as the work of all God's faithful priests, to the prayers of our readers. We assure you that you have ours. May we all work ceaselessly towards the heaven of happiness where we shall receive the reward of all our labors.

In Jesus through Mary,  
The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

the chapel is truly breathtaking. We can only imagine how gorgeous it will be once the stained glass is installed. How good God is to His little ones! How much we owe to our generous benefactors!

In November the school was presented to WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) for accreditation. This is a very important step for us. Accreditation establishes the integrity of the report cards, transcripts and diplomas issued by Queen of All Saints. Online students enrolled in the school are no longer considered homeschoolers.

Accreditation also provides a basis for determining eligibility for federal student assistance. Students must attend an accredited institution to apply for federal grants or loans.

The process for accreditation is quite intense, making a close evaluation of every aspect of the school from mission statement, to teacher credentials, to crisis management policy. Although laborious, the procedure has been very enlightening and beneficial



The Vice President of operations at A.D. Morgan works with the high school boys on the cobblestones.

### A Visit from Saint Nicholas!

One of our donors surprised the schoolchildren with wooden desks which he crafted himself

