The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER · BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA

Queen of All Saints Academy · QASA France

Dear Readers and Benefactors,

News from France

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas have begun a new foundation in Montauban-de-Bretagne, France, where Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Mary Bernard are stationed. Its aim is to carry out the secondary end of our Congregation, the Catholic education of youth, and to help answer a dire need among the faithful there. Apart from those of the Society of Saint Pius X, there is not a single traditional Catholic high school in all of northern France, and many Catholic families have had to resort to sending their children to the Society's schools. This autumn the Sisters took the first step in this work: on September 28 they welcomed their first three students, young ladies in *Seconde*, the first of the three years of lycée and the equivalent of tenth grade. The goal is a complete three-year lycée for girls. The Sisters' most pressing need now is a house of their own; please see page 4.

For Catholic families who wish to teach their children at home, the situation is more difficult still. Until recently, parents had only to inform the authorities that they were homeschooling. Since a law passed in 2021, they must first obtain government authorization, which is granted only on a few narrow grounds. Most Catholic families who apply are refused. Rather than send their children to the state school and expose their faith to danger, some of these families have left their homes and moved to another region. Such courage is deeply edifying. It reminds us that sanctifying grace, the life of God in the soul, is an infinite treasure, worth guarding at any cost.

"For the sake of one child, I will go to the ends of the earth."

SAINT MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT

SECOND CLASS PATRON OF THE CONGREGATION

To help the Sisters purchase a house in France, please see **page 4**, or scan the code.



Sister Mary Margaret, Mother Mary Theresa, and Sister Mary Bernard before Notre-Dame de Paris.



Arrival at Charles de Gaulle in January.



With Father Dutertre and Father de La Chanonie at the Basilica of Sainte-Anne-d'Auray, in the first weeks of the foundation.



Praying before the incorrupt body of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, patron of the Congregation, to ask her intercession for the foundation in France.

AUGUST 2025
Visas at the French consulate in Miami.

JANUARY
Mother Mary Theresa brings Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Mary Bernard to France.

WINTER
Visits to schools in Paris, Nantes, and the south; visit to the Sisters of Verrua Savoia.

SPRING
Ten weeks of intense French study; the DELF B1 in Paris, written and oral.

SUMMER
Degrees recognized, the *dérogation*, the association.

SEPTEMBER 28
The lycée opens and receives three students.

NEXT
Purchasing a convent for the Sisters: page 4.

A Year of Perseverance

The journey began in August 2025, when the Sisters traveled to Miami to apply for their visas at the French consulate. Mother Mary Theresa brought them to France the following January. Wishing to benefit from the experience of those already running schools in France, the Sisters began by visiting international schools in Paris and Nantes, whose principals generously took the time to explain how their schools navigate the French system. The Sisters then traveled to the south of France to visit a traditional Catholic school run by another community of Sisters, who gave a great deal of help with the curriculum and with preparing for inspections. Every school in France must meet the standards of the national curriculum, which is revised regularly and grows ever more progressive, pressing upon students ideas harmful to faith and morals. These Sisters showed how they teach even its most difficult parts, such as certain lessons in biology or moral education, in the light of the Faith. Their assistance was truly invaluable.

The Hurdles of Language and Law

The first hurdle was the language. French law requires every teacher to demonstrate command of French at the B1 level, and so the Sisters returned to the classroom themselves, this time as students. Four hours a day for ten weeks, they immersed themselves in French lessons. Then came the DELF B1, the French government's language examination for foreigners: the Sisters went to Paris to sit the written examination and returned the following week for the oral. After the long wait for results, they received the good news that they had passed, reaching the level required to teach in France. Then came the law. American degrees are not automatically recognized in France, so each Sister's degree had to be formally declared equivalent to a French one. Because they are not citizens of the European Union, and because French is not their mother tongue, they needed special permission, known as a *dérogation*, to teach. With the help of two education lawyers they prepared form upon form; they consulted an immigration lawyer to secure their right to remain in France; and they set up an association under French law to support the mission. The meetings with the lawyers took the Sisters back to Paris several more times, and on each trip they visited the incorrupt body of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, foundress of the Society of the Sacred Heart and a patroness of our Congregation, to ask her intercession for the work.



Our Sisters with the Sisters of Verrua Savoia, Piedmont, who received them after the visit to southern France; the plain of the Po below, the Alps behind.

Under Watchful Eyes

Private schools in France are subject to inspection, and the inspectors always arrive unannounced. Detailed records of what is being taught, and of how it is being taught, must therefore be kept up to date and ready to show at any moment. Below is the French high school timetable.

EMPLOI DU TEMPS · SECONDE

Semaine B

École La Maison Sainte Anne
Semaine 4 sur 33 · du 19 au 23 octobre

	Lundi 19 oct.	Mardi 20 oct.	Mercredi 21 oct.	Jeudi 22 oct.	Vendredi 23 oct.
8h40	*Prière à la chapelle*				
8h45	**Méthodologie (français)** Mme Gobin	**Français** Mme Gobin	*Étude* sem. B · sinon E.M.C.	**Français** Mme Gobin	**Français** Mme Gobin
9h30	**Histoire** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Margaret	**Français** Mme Gobin	*Étude (devoirs)*	**Géographie** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Margaret	**Histoire** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Margaret
10h15	*Étude* sem. B · sinon Latin (L.C.A.)	*Étude* sem. B · sinon Latin (L.C.A.)	*Travail dirigé* Mme Gobin	*Devoir surveillé*	**Catéchisme** Sr Marie Bernard
11h15	**Catéchisme** Sr Marie Bernard	**Espagnol (L.V.2)** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Bernard	*Messe*		**Espagnol (L.V.2)** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Bernard
12h00	*Angélus, examen de conscience*				
12h15	*Repas, puis récréation à 12h45*				
13h20	**Maths** (travail dirigé) Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Physique-Chimie** (travail dirigé) Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Physique-Chimie** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Maths** (travail dirigé) Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Espagnol (L.V.2)** (travail dirigé) Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Bernard
13h50	**Anglais** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Bernard	**S.E.S.** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret sem. B · sinon S.N.T.	**S.V.T.** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Maths** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Maths** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret
14h40	**Anglais** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Bernard	**S.V.T.** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**E.P.S.** Mme Gobin · Sr Marie Bernard 14h20–16h20	**Anglais** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Bernard	**Anglais** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Bernard
15h25	**Maths** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Maths** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret		**Physique-Chimie** Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret	**Physique-Chimie** (TP) Mme Rastater · Sr Marie Margaret
16h20	*Sortie des élèves*				

The timetable for the week of October 19, as it appears on the school portal: French, history, geography, catechism, Spanish, Mass, mathematics, physics and chemistry, the life sciences, economics, English, and physical education. In Week A the study periods become Latin and civics.



The house the Sisters are purchasing: a Breton longère near the school.

A Home for the Sisters in France

Mother Mary Theresa has traveled to France three times, spending several months there since January to help establish this new foundation. The work has required a great investment of time and resources. Yet, like the sacrifices of the families who have left their homes for the Faith, every effort has been amply repaid, for a single soul is beyond price. The Sisters now live in a rented house. Their greatest need is a house of their own, close to the school, where they can have a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament and room for postulants. They have found one, pictured above; the price is $320,000 (€280,000). We ask you to consider a gift toward it, of whatever size; such gifts together will give the Sisters a permanent home from which to serve the families of northern France and to receive postulants.

Prayers for the France Project

A lycée such as this one offers Catholic families a place of refuge. However, keeping the doors of a Catholic school open in France remains a constant struggle, and no school can stay open without God's help. We therefore ask you, most earnestly, to pray for this work. Please pray for these Sisters and for the postulant they are preparing to welcome. Please pray that this lycée may remain open for many years to come, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. For, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, "the good of grace in one is greater than the good of nature in the whole universe."

To give toward the house
scan the code or visit
sistersofstthomasaquinas-bloom.kindful.com
and designate your gift "France."

By check: The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas, 26331 Rosecrans St., Brooksville, FL 34602 — memo *France*.



Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Mary Bernard at the house where they now live in Montauban-de-Bretagne.



Some of the Sisters pose after the vestition ceremony: (1) Sister Mary Alphonsus Liguori, (2) Sister Mary Michael, (3) Sister Mary Bonaventure, (4) Sister Mary Philip, newly professed.



Three young women entered the postulancy on September 22.

Twenty-Three Years

In June, Queen of All Saints Academy celebrated twenty-three years with its annual concert and commencement. This year's graduating class was remarkable: five of its young men have entered Most Holy Trinity Seminary. Please pray that they persevere in their vocation.

A School Near Boston

After commencement, the Sisters visited Sacred Heart Chapel near Boston, where the parish hopes to open a school run by the Sisters in 2027.

> **We need only three more students to begin.** If you know a family in the Boston area who would welcome a Catholic school, please tell them about it.

New Novices and Postulants

At the close of the Sisters' annual retreat, Sister Mary Bonaventure, Sister Mary Alphonsus Liguori, and Sister Mary Michael received the habit, beginning their two-year novitiate of study and prayer. Sister Mary Philip made temporary vows.

On September 22, three young women entered the postulancy of the Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas. Please pray for more vocations, for the harvest is great but the laborers are few. Several grades at Queen of All Saints Academy have waitlists, and the demand for Catholic education grows every year. Each new Sister means more children can receive a Catholic formation.

A Growing School

Queen of All Saints Academy welcomed more than fifty new students this year: about twenty on campus and thirty online. We now serve 105 students on campus and 130 who join classes online, along with 60 more in our FLEX homeschool program. With fifteen parish children in kindergarten for the second year running, we took down walls and renovated classrooms just before school began. Within a few years, we will need another building for either the high school or the elementary grades.

More states are opening their doors to private education. Texas's new Education Savings Accounts provide roughly $10,000 a year toward private school tuition, and Texas is now the eighth state, alongside Florida, Alabama, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Utah, Arizona, and South Carolina, where Queen of All Saints Academy families can apply for state private school funding.

Curriculum

Sister Mary Francis and the curriculum team made good progress this summer, bringing us ever closer to the standards of the pre-Vatican II Catholic tradition:

- Father Larabee's Civics course now includes *A Class Manual in the Philosophy of Human Society* by Rev. Paul J. Glenn, which pairs well with our Dialectics and Apologetics courses.
- We welcome Father Ingham as our new high school Religion teacher.
- We are rebuilding the English curriculum, grade by grade.



Mass at camp.

Summer Camp 2026

After the retreat and family visits, several Sisters drove to Georgia for our summer camp for girls ages 12 to 18. Fifty girls attended, and the camp was a joy from start to finish.



Fifty girls at the lake in Georgia.



An afternoon on the water with Sister.

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Catholic Singles Connect

The weekend after our parish's All Saints Day Festival, Queen of All Saints will host Catholic Singles Connect: a weekend of vocational talks for young Catholics called to the married state, with a welcome reception, a parish BBQ, a formal dinner, and daily Mass and night prayers on Friday and Saturday.

Register
csc.qaschapel.org



At Mass during the Young Ladies' Retreat.

2027 Young Ladies' Retreat

Registration for the 2027 Young Ladies' Retreat is open. Scan the code to register.

Register
for the 2027 retreat

Thank You for Your Prayers and Support

We are grateful for your prayers for Sister Mary Savio through her surgeries this past year. Sister is awaiting her second surgery in early November. Please keep her in your prayers.

How You Can Help

Please remember our apostolate in your rosary: the work in France, our future school building, and the formation of new Sisters. You may give by check to The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas, 26331 Rosecrans St., Brooksville, FL 34602, or online.

Thank you for your faithful support. Your prayers and generosity sustain our apostolate, and we remember all our benefactors each day in our Mass intentions, our rosary, and the Divine Office. May God bless you, and may our work here below give honor and glory to Him.

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

Give online
sistersofstthomasaquinas-bloom.kindful.com



Sister Mary Savio in France.

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas
26331 Roscrans St.
Brooksville, Florida 34602

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Lumen: Chants for Meditation

Lumen has a release date! On January 15, 2027, the album will arrive on streaming platforms. We have ordered a limited run of 500 CDs. Each comes with a 24-page illustrated booklet containing the lyrics, translations, and a short reflection on each of the twenty tracks.

Many of you first heard our music through a short video and wrote to tell us that a few minutes of chant brought quiet to a busy day. We hope this album does the same, and that it becomes part of your prayer, your rest, and your home.

Pre-order the CD
sistersofaquinas.org/music