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## Thomas More, at 85, stays true to its Catholic mission

BY HOWARD MCEWEN | ENQUIRER CONTRIBUTOR

Thomas More College celebrates its 85th anniversary today. The college, established in 1921 to prepare women to become teachers, has grown into a co-educational school with 35 degree programs.

"These changes occurred as the result of serious study and reflection and in response to the changing needs of our community," said Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, Thomas More's president. "Yet, no matter what change occurred, the college has remained true to its mission as a Catholic liberal arts institution."

The school that began as Villa Madonna Academy in downtown Covington moved to Crestview Hills in 1968. With the move, the school chose to honor the Catholic martyr Thomas More who stood against Henry VIII's claim to be head of the Roman church in England.

Thomas More has repeatedly been named one of "America's Best Colleges" by U.S. News and World Report magazine and a "Best College Buy" by Money magazine. However, Stallmeyer doesn't see third-party rankings as a mark of success.

"While we are proud of these rankings and statistics, what is most important for us is our graduates, and there is no indicator or ranking that can evaluate their quality," Stallmeyer said. "This college has gifted the community with women and men whose lives are marked by faith and a commitment to service."

Dr. Christopher Bolling, a 1983 graduate and associate professor of pediatrics at Children's Hospital, agreed. His three siblings also attended Thomas More.

"We were all attracted by the science program and that, combined with the strong concern for social issues training there, made medicine a logical choice for me," Bolling said. "It was a great place to foster that sort of sense of social responsibility."

"The small class sizes and the quality of the academic piece was something that I was initially drawn to," said Wanda Winkler, who received a degree in psychology in 1990 and is associate operating officer for Brighton Center. "But more than that, it definitely set a foundation for understanding your place in the community and what leadership is about."

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