

# EDUCATION

## First Catholic college slated for Georgia

By Priscilla Greear  
Catholic News Service

DAWSONVILLE, Ga. — With \$10 million already raised and an estimated \$24 million still to go, construction has begun on the first Catholic college in Georgia, scheduled to open in the fall of 2003.

Some 400 benefactors, volunteers and other supporters attended the groundbreaking this spring on the cleared site of the 356-acre campus for Southern Catholic College in Dawsonville, about 40 miles north of Atlanta.

Southern Catholic will be an independent Catholic liberal arts college, dedicated to providing a technologically advanced learning environment grounded in the teaching of Catholic values and the Catholic intellectual tradition.

"Things have happened in the last two-and-a-half years because God directed people to come forward and actually participate in this project," said Tom Clements, Southern Catholic chairman, at the groundbreaking.

Clements recalled that two years ago Jeremiah Ashcroft, then president of East Georgia College in Swainsboro, e-mailed him wanting to help in the school's development. After launching a nationwide search for a college president, looking at more than 200 candidates, Ashcroft was the committee's choice as first president of Southern Catholic.

"If you want to deepen your faith, go back to the work of being obedient to what you feel the Holy Spirit is telling you," Clements said. Ashcroft "is the individual who contacted us first — if I just would have paid attention."

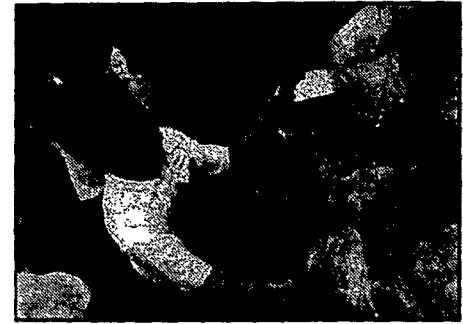
Ashcroft pledged that the school will provide a quality education, enabling graduates to make a good living but also to have the moral and ethical formation necessary for a good life. He plans to form partnerships with sister schools, especially North Georgia College and State University and Gainesville College.



Andrea Dixon

First-graders (from left) Tim Tirabassi, Ray Maher and Emma Dupre wait to donate their toys to the annual Heart and Home Project April 30 at St. Louis School in Pittsford. The project, which is organized by the sixth grade, encourages students to bring in items from their homes to donate to people and organizations. Recipient organizations include Catholic Family Center, Head Start, inner-city Catholic schools and shelters.

## Kids share 'Heart and Home'



Alana Cummings loads a bike tire into a van to be delivered to one of the charities.

Linda Williams, president of the Dawson County Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the benefits to the area, including increased social, cultural, recreational and educational venues, and the economic benefit through jobs, business opportunities and tourism.

"On behalf of all your new neighbors here, we support you and look forward to the many opportunities for partnerships that will benefit both Southern Catholic College and the community," she said.

Archbishop John F. Donoghue of Atlanta gave the opening prayer of dedication, asking for blessings "on this center of seeking, of learning, and of teaching what is true."

"The Catholic college is a place where this revelation of faith, and this enlightenment of the human spirit, can and will take place," he said. "Too long, our home — this beautiful state of Georgia — has been without a temple for this synthesis of faith and reason."

The Rev. Jim Gaines of First Baptist Church, Dawsonville, said, "The faith community of Dawson County is overjoyed and

looks forward to working with Archbishop Donoghue and Ashcroft together as we serve this community." He added that, with such a large Baptist turnout at a Catholic event, "it's got to be God's will."

Southern Catholic has set a goal of \$34 million to cover start-up costs, the first phase of buildings and operating costs through the 2006-07 academic year.

The first phase includes construction of a residence hall, academic/office/administration building, gymnasium and a facilities building. The expected completion date is next fall.

There will be 61 hours required in the core curriculum, which will explore what it means to be human and people's relations to God, nature and community.

### McQuaid Jesuit High School adds new trustees

McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester recently named the following new members to its board of trustees:

- William M. Carpenter, former chairman and chief executive officer of Bausch & Lomb
- R. Wayne LeChase, a member of the class of 1961 and chief executive officer of LeChase Construction
- Father Arthur Madigan, SJ, rector of the LeMoyné Jesuit Community
- James J. Malvaso, Jr., president of the Diocese of Albany and community relations generalist, Human Resources, Health Care
- Daniel J. Mason, president of the Diocese of Rochester and general manager of the Rochester Red Wings
- Father Edward J. ... of the LeMoyné Jesuit Community

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Seton Catholic School

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### 40 Years

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St. Andrew School

Dolores Monahan SSJ  
St. Michael School, Newark

Katherine Ann Rappi RSM  
St. Rita School

### 35 Years

Kathleen Carroll  
St. Louis School

Eileen Daly SSJ  
Corpus Christi School

Mary Beth Fuehrer  
Holy Rosary School

Delia Nicolas  
Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Mary Rusinko  
St. Joseph School, Auburn

Colleen Spellecy  
St. Michael School, Newark

Sharon Stiegman  
St. Pius Tenth School

### 30 years

Mary Anne Young  
St. Mary School, Dansville

Elaine Andrews  
Corpus Christi School

Nancy Anselm  
St. Pius Tenth School

Elaine Morrow  
St. Francis deSales-  
St. Stephen School

Victoria Rose  
St. Agnes School

### 25 years

Mary Malone  
St. Joseph School, Penfield

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Immaculate Conception School

Lynn Condon  
St. John of Rochester School

Sally Fahy  
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Charlene McCarthy  
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Margaret Oberst  
St. Andrew School

Diana Oravec  
St. Patrick School, Seneca Falls

Eileen Perryman  
St. Rita School

### 20 years

Mary Barrese-Frime  
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St. John the Evangelist,  
Spencerport

Susan Cecere  
St. Francis deSales-  
St. Stephen School

Elizabeth Coughlin  
St. Rita School

Diane DeCracker  
St. Michael School, Newark

Martha Grant  
Sacred Heart Cathedral School

Dorothy Hinkle  
St. Michael School, Newark

Margaret Kamas  
Holy Family Junior High School,  
Elmira

Sandra Lund  
St. Louis School

Lucyann Ormiston  
St. Boniface School

Carolyn Wagner  
St. Louis School