



VERITAS Views

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‘HAVLIN’: A NAME INSCRIBED IN THE HEART OF AQUINAS

The 1970's were the Havlin era at Aquinas High School. Mary and Eamonn Havlin, both teachers in the Bronx, had moved with their four daughters from the Belmont section to Throggs Neck. However, the distance was no barrier in their minds to connecting with Aquinas, the excellent high school they had chosen for their daughters. So every day began with Eamonn at the wheel determined that he and his girls would reach their schools on time - a goal that had a somewhat limited success! But there was no limit to the love of Aquinas and the value placed on education by two parents who instilled the same priorities in their daughters: Sheila, Peggy, Mary and Moira.

Little did the Havlin family realize in those heady days of the girls' trying to escape late detention and their father working energetically in leadership of the Parents Association that the next-to-youngest would be taken from them in the prime of life. Their deep sorrow would become an occasion of generous outreach, and it would be through her name that the Havlin era would continue throughout the future of Aquinas.

When Mary's life was tragically cut short in an airplane crash at the age of 35, her husband Bernie Carr decided that establishing a scholarship in her honor at Aquinas was the natural way to remember



Bernie and Michelle Carr with son and daughter, Peter and Regin.



Mary and Eamonn Havlin and their daughters (l. to r.) Mary, Peggy, Moira, and Sheila celebrating Eamonn's 70th birthday.

Mary and honor her own Christian commitment to helping those in need.

The first Havlin Scholars graduated from Aquinas in 1996. Later that year, Bernie married Michelle Margan, who had been a friend and co-worker of Mary's. Michelle shared Bernie's desire to remember Mary as well as his interest in helping this very special community of faith and learning. Now, almost eleven years later, through their combined efforts, their own personal generosity and that of the Havlin family, along with the wise investment policies of the school, the scholarship has grown substantially and provided assistance to a total of twelve young women, almost all of whom have gone onto higher education.

Bernie and Michelle continue to live in the Bronx with their daughter Regin, age 24, and their son Peter, age 4, and Aquinas remains a big part of their lives. They have served together on the Development Committee, and each year they look forward to meeting the newest Mary Havlin Scholars and their families. What began as an effort to remember a lost loved one has become an important and cherished part of their lives together. It has given the name Havlin and enduring presence at Aquinas High School.