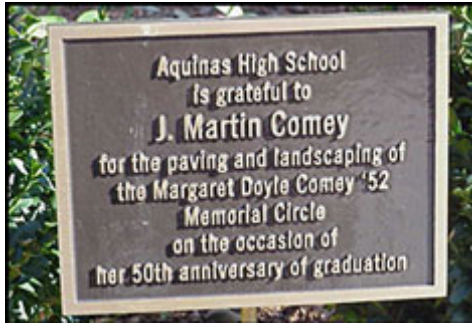


## Margaret Doyle Comey '52 Memorial Circle Dedicated



It was September 25, 2002, a time to remember and to give thanks. The newly paved surface of the circle, with its cerise "A" for Aquinas in an onyx-colored setting, surrounded the circular garden where roses were still in bloom. Msgr. John Graham, Principal of Cardinal Hayes High School, performed the rite of blessing: "As we give

thanks today for God's great kindness to us, let us remember to seek first God's way of holiness. Then all that we need will be given us as well."

There was much history and much significance in those words, especially for Mr. J. Martin Comey, generous benefactor of Aquinas. As Sr. Margaret Ryan told the group of students and teachers gathered, it was in 1994 that Mr. Comey established the first endowed scholarship at Aquinas in memory of his wife, Margaret Doyle Comey '52. He specified that the grants should be awarded to graduates of Incarnation School, which Margaret had attended. That \$50,000 endowment has supported seven Incarnation graduates at Aquinas High School to date. It remains a perpetual bridge from Incarnation to Aquinas, in memory of a young lady who made that transition over half a century ago.

Now the remembrance of her life is made visible in a very beautiful way through the newly paved Margaret Doyle Comey Memorial Circle, supported by another grant of \$50,000 from Mr. Comey. After the words of blessing, Mr. Comey spoke to the students with gentle humor and affection, explaining that he was happy to be in a position to do what he has done for Aquinas. He reminisced about the days when his father owned the Emerald Grocery Store at the corner of the apartment building where Peggy lived, near Incarnation Church. Martin worked in the store and got to know Peggy as a customer. So his advice to the students was, "Be nice to those hard-working young shop clerks. You never know what the future may hold!"

There was a lovely coming together of past and future in Mr. Comey's words to Aquinas students at this ceremony of blessing. It's been a while since these were his neighborhoods. The Emerald Grocery Store has long since become the corner bodega. But the dreams of the young in New York City are as cherished today as they were long ago. God blessed Martin and Margaret Doyle Comey with many dreams come true. In her memory, he has chosen to support the dreams of the young women of Aquinas today.