

II. Gary Young's *"The Thomas Merton Academy"*

The merger of three Catholic elementary school facilities in Louisville has resulted in the Thomas Merton Academy, the first school named for Merton in the state of Kentucky and, indeed, in the United States.

Resurrection, Guardian Angels, and St. Ignatius Martyr parishes have united to develop a more efficient educational program for their children without surrendering any buildings or parish identities. As a result of a contest, the name of the new entity surfaced as a tribute to the influential monk, who was a rural neighbor. It is interesting that Merton's name was entered in the contest by Amy Underwood, a ten year old fifth-grade student at St. Ignatius Martyr. The canonical pastor of the new school is Fr. James Valk, C.R., of Resurrection Parish. The Thomas Merton Academy encompasses an area only a short distance from the Merton Center located at Bellarmine College.

Michael Owens, a parent, made the following statement when the naming was announced: "Thomas Merton, as the namesake of the new, clustered school, offers a model of scholarship, humanity, and Christian discipleship for both faculty and students. Thomas Merton, out of his love for God and creation, taught all of us how to be concerned Christians in the modern world."