

THE AQUINAS REPORT

Aquinas Catholic Schools Magazine For Families, Friends & Alumni

SUMMER 2026



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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ALUMNI NEWS

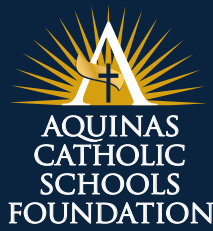
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OUR RENEWED MISSION,
VISION, AND COMMITMENT:

**Christ-Centered.
Excellence-Driven.
Future-Ready.**

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 3



The Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Foundation's mission is to raise funds and supervise the investment of those funds, which are used for scholarships, special projects and specific needs. These funds ensure that high quality Catholic education is affordable and accessible to all who wish to attend Aquinas Catholic Schools.

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National Blue Ribbon School

2008

2013

2017

THE AQUINAS REPORT

SUMMER 2026

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Roncalli Newman
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St. Charles Borromeo
Rev. Timothy Reither

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Rev. James Weighner

St. James the Less
Rev. Robert Letona

St. Joseph Ridge &
St. Peter, Middle Ridge
Rev. Sengole Vethanayagam

St. Joseph the
Workman Cathedral
Rev. Msgr. Richard Gilles

St. Patrick
Rev. Msgr. Steven Kachel

St. Teresa of Kolkata
Rev. Msgr. Jeffrey Burrill

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Aquinas Middle & High Schools

J.T. Gilbert
Dean of Students
Aquinas Middle & High Schools

Megan Bauer
Blessed Sacrament Elementary School

Teresa Eliason
Cathedral Elementary School

Tara Key
St. Patrick Elementary School

Thank You to Aquinas Report Volunteer

Kathy Keppel

Photo Credits:

Cam Reinhart, Jessica Boland, Coulee Sports Page
Ben Morrison ('08) / Morrison Media

Aquinas Report Publication

The Aquinas Report is published twice a year. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy of the information published.

Aquinas Catholic Schools recently completed a collaborative Strategic Planning process to establish a renewed mission, vision, commitments, and future direction for our school system.

We are excited to begin sharing this work with our community and are pleased to unveil our new mission, commitments, and vision. Additional strategic planning materials and finalized documents will be shared soon and made available online once complete.



OUR MISSION

Christ-Centered.
Excellence-Driven.
Future-Ready.

OUR COMMITMENTS

Faithfulness.
Integrity.
Responsibility.
Growth.
Service.
Communication.

OUR VISION

A community where our Catholic faith shapes character, learning fosters growth, and each student is prepared to lead and serve.



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**INTRODUCING OUR INAUGURAL
“10 UNDER 10” LIST**

We’re excited to celebrate alumni from the classes of 2016–2025 who are achieving extraordinary things in their careers and making a difference in their communities within their first 10 years of graduation.

READ MORE ON PAGE 33

Join Us!

49TH • ANNUAL

Aquinas Fest

.....2026

Benefitting all five of our Aquinas Catholic Schools!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH

Aquinas High School • Cameron St. Parking Lot

3:00PM–8:00PM

Aquinas Football Game at UW-L @ 7pm



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Kids Games,
Train Rides, Cornhole,
Inflatables



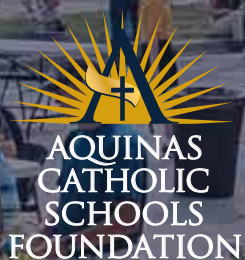
FOOD, DRINKS & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Beer Garden, Pig Roast,
Brats, Hot Dogs,
Live Music by Ryan Sauter



WIN BIG PRIZES!

Sweepstakes Drawing*,
Cash Prizes,
Tuition Credit Raffle



AQUINAS
CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
FOUNDATION

Learn more by visiting:
aquinascatholicschools.org/aquinas-fest

*Grand Prize:
\$10,000 CASH or
\$15,000 MSRP Discount
at Clason Buick-GMC

Sweepstakes Presented by:





A LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

Dear Alumni, Benefactors and Friends of Aquinas,

In John Chapter 14, Jesus proclaims Himself as the Way, the Truth and the Life. In stating this, He is offering to us a chance to build a relationship with Him by getting to know Him. At Aquinas Catholic Schools, we provide the opportunities for children to build that relationship with Jesus. For religion isn't taught – religion is to be lived. Aquinas Catholic Schools is an environment in which souls can be nurtured in the way of Jesus.



Once again at St. Patrick, we undertook for Lent support for Casa Hogar, the Diocesan orphanage in Peru. The students were conscious to not waste milk. The motto "drink all your milk" was a theme in support of the orphans in Peru who, without our help, would not have milk to drink. I took great pride as many of the little ones would come up to me and say, "Msgr. I drank all my milk!" The school raised close to \$5,000 to support this cause.

At the High School level, a group of students went to the orphanage. They saw first hand the poverty these little ones faced. Yet, with so little they were happy and grateful. The students encountered the little ones' hugs, smiles and cheerful disposition. They saw that a majority of the clothes they wore were second-hand from the United States. They encountered the warmth of every child's sincere greeting.



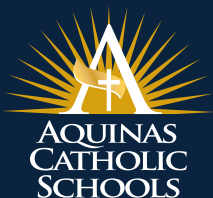
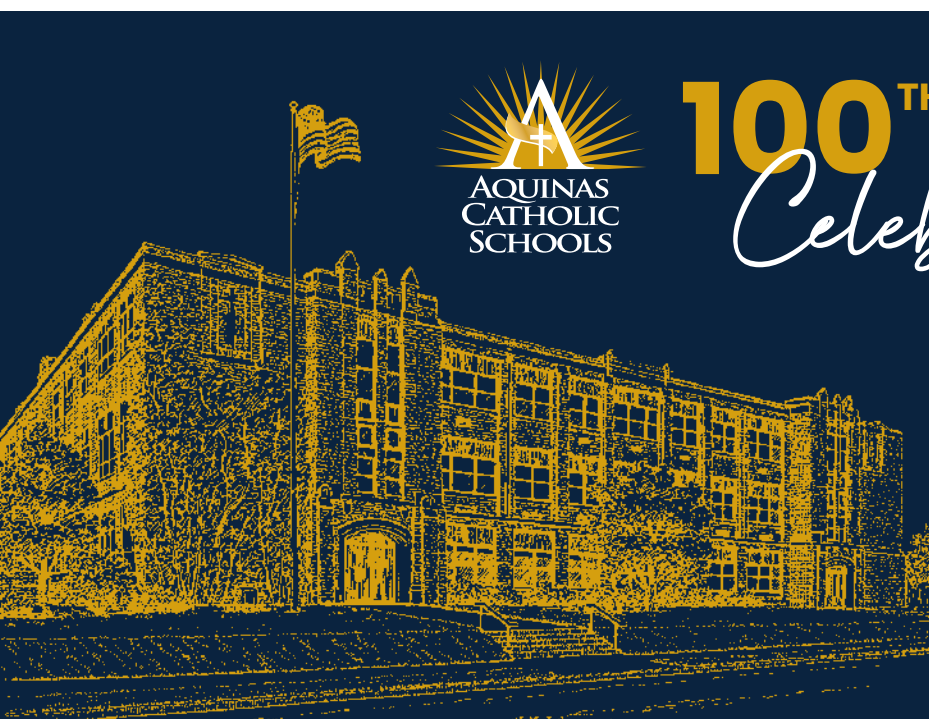
Aquinas Schools offer this holistic education in a world that many times turns a blind eye. I am grateful to see how our students at all levels think unselfishly to aide others in a rather selfish world. I am proud of all the efforts that are given, I am proud to also say I drank all my milk today in solidarity with our little orphans in Peru.

Aquinas Schools, we walk in the way and truth and live the life that Christ has shown us.



Aquinas Schools, we make a difference.

God Bless,
Msgr. Steven Kachel ('82) Dean



100TH YEAR *Celebration!*



Aquinas Catholic Schools will mark a milestone anniversary during the **2027-28 school year**. We will be celebrating 100 years of Aquinas High School. Watch for exciting events throughout the school year, culminating in one large celebration. Stay tuned for details!

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As a 1980 graduate of Aquinas High School, it continues to be one of the greatest blessings of my life to serve our Catholic schools. This summer marks my ninth year as President of Aquinas Catholic Schools, and I remain humbled and grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such outstanding students, families, faculty, staff, alumni, pastors, and supporters.

Our alumni and friends continue to faithfully support the mission started by our founders in 1928, and I remain deeply grateful for the generosity, pride, and commitment shown to Aquinas Catholic Schools year after year. I also want to sincerely thank our local parishes for their extraordinary dedication to Catholic education and for the tremendous support they provide our schools. Because of your prayers, sacrifices, and generosity, Aquinas Catholic Schools continues to thrive and uphold its tradition of excellence in academics, faith formation, athletics, fine arts, service, and leadership development.

Our schools are blessed with exceptional faculty and staff who challenge, encourage, and inspire students every day. Their dedication to forming young people spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally is remarkable. We continue to see tremendous growth and enthusiasm throughout our system, and I could not be more excited about the future of Aquinas Catholic Schools. Because of your support, we are better equipped than ever to meet the needs of our students and staff, though the work of strengthening our schools is never finished.

Across our five Aquinas Catholic Schools, students continue to excel in countless ways. Our academic offerings remain strong with the addition of workforce education, outstanding college preparation, and innovative learning opportunities that prepare students for future success. Our music and fine arts programs continue to be among the very best in the region, while our athletic teams proudly represent the Blugold tradition with dedication, sportsmanship, and competitive excellence.

Just as importantly, our students continue to live out our Catholic mission through service and leadership. Programs like IMPACT and many other student-led initiatives provide thousands of hours of service to our community each year. Watching our young people grow into compassionate Christian leaders gives all of us great hope for the future.

One of the greatest strengths of Aquinas has always been the pride and connection shared by our alumni and friends. We continue to be blessed by graduates who return to serve our schools as teachers, coaches, mentors, parents, and supporters. That sense of tradition and family remains as strong today as ever.

As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, there is tremendous excitement throughout our system. We continue to invest in our students, strengthen our programs, and build upon the mission that has guided Aquinas Catholic Schools for nearly a century.

Thank you again for your continued prayers, encouragement, and generosity. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of our students and staff each day. Please know how deeply grateful we are for all you do for Aquinas Catholic Schools.

I invite you to stop by and visit whenever you are back in La Crosse. I always enjoy hearing alumni stories and reconnecting with fellow Blugolds.

Blugold pride remains as strong as ever!



Ted Knutson

Ted Knutson ('80)
President
Aquinas Catholic Schools



Visit our Hall of Honor Interactive Display

Explore decades of tradition through a modern, engaging experience. This interactive touch-screen display celebrates the people, history, and legacy that have shaped Aquinas Catholic Schools. The Hall of Honor also serves as a digital archive of school history, offering a fully searchable collection of all 98 Aquinas yearbooks — a treasure trove of memories spanning nearly a century. Explore from your mobile device or desktop computer by scanning the QR code. Or, experience it in-person inside the Cass St. lobby.

We strive to keep our interactive Hall of Honor accurate and up to date. If you notice information that needs updating, have questions about accuracy, or would like to suggest additional content, please contact Brad Reinhart, Director of Development at brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org.

*Experience
it here!*

HALL OF HONOR





IMPACT REPORT

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Supporting Students & Staff at Aquinas Catholic Schools

2 YEARS

Aquinas Catholic Schools is completing its **SECOND YEAR** of an in-house mental health program supporting students and staff.



DRIFTLESS RECOVERY

SERVICES works closely with the Aquinas Guidance Counselors, parents, and teachers at each school.

42

ACTIVE CASES

IMPACT

Throughout the **2025-2026** school year, Driftless Recovery has served:

11 STAFF MEMBERS

47 STUDENTS

There are **42** active cases.

In addition to the counseling services and EAP programs, we do:

- Small group work
- Classroom observations
- Mental Health Minute



Summer support is available.

5 SCHOOLS

Supporting students and staff across all **5** Aquinas Catholic Schools through expanded access to **mental health services**.



Mind Over Matter Mental Health Club

available for students in

GRADES 9-12



Mind Over Matter is a **student-led** club promoting mental health awareness, education, and peer support.

Mind Over Matter Activities:

- "Mental Health Minute" over lunch periods
- Mental Health bulletin board
- Teacher appreciation gifts
- Green ribbons & wristbands
- Ice cream social
- Upcoming mental health mural



Students Hand Out "You Matter" Bracelets
Aquinas High School

For additional information or questions, please contact Mike Desmond: mike.desmond@aquinasschools.org

SCHOOL REPORTS

Aquinas Catholic Schools, through its vibrant Catholic tradition, aspires to be the premier educational choice, empowering students to fulfill their God-given potential for the betterment of all.



CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY

Cathedral Elementary School is proud to be part of the Aquinas family, a community dedicated to nurturing young minds and hearts. Our students, ranging from three-year-old preschoolers through second graders – our youngest Blugolds – fully embody our system's core values of faith, integrity, excellence, leadership, and dignity. These foundational principles guide our daily work and permeate everything we teach. Complementing these values, we cultivate kindness through thoughts, words, and actions, modeling the example of Jesus. Our young learners live out this commitment actively, serving as readers and choir members during weekly Mass and assisting with altar preparation, understanding from their earliest years that faith is not merely taught but lived.

At the heart of Cathedral Elementary lies a profound commitment to creating an environment where Catholic faith and educational excellence thrive together. Our faculty and staff work tirelessly to ensure that from the classroom to the cafeteria, playground, and beyond, children practice cooperation and respect as these virtues become woven into the fabric of our school community. We believe that learning flourishes when students are engaged through high-quality curriculum enhanced with manipulatives, music, movement, and diverse instructional strategies – ensuring every child learns through interaction, practice, collaboration, and play. This year, our students are embracing an exciting new reading curriculum grounded in the science of reading, featuring compelling stories and informational texts that capture their imagination and build essential skills. The results speak for themselves: our learners have demonstrated remarkable

growth in reading and writing proficiency, a testament to both their dedication and our teachers' expertise.

Community is central to the Aquinas school experience, and this truth was beautifully demonstrated during Catholic Schools Week this winter. Our families enjoyed wonderful celebrations that brought our school community closer together. The festivities began with an evening at the Children's Museum, graciously hosted by our dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization. Throughout the week, children participated in spirit days and engaging classroom activities that fostered school pride and excitement. The celebration reached its pinnacle when our entire school community joined together for a special Mass at Aquinas High School, a powerful reminder of our unity across all grade levels. The week concluded with a family breakfast and exciting field trips to local favorites like Playgrounds and High Roller, creating cherished memories that will last long after the school year ends.

Spring brought abundant learning, meaningful connections, and enriching experiences that extended beyond our classroom walls. The Shamrock Club and Mardi Gras celebration crew visited to spread joy and festive cheer, adding cultural richness to our school calendar. Middle and high school mentors generously read books aloud to our younger learners, fostering a love of reading across grades and demonstrating the power of peer mentorship. Students explored local gardens, parks, and restaurants on field trips that connected classroom learning to the world around them, making education

tangible and real. The year culminated with our annual spring concert, where students proudly showcased their musical talents, sharing the fruits of their artistic growth with families and friends.

Yet perhaps most importantly, service and stewardship remain at the heart of our mission at Cathedral Elementary. Throughout Lent, our students collected donations for Casa Hogar and other Diocesan missions, learning the profound value of giving to those in need. Monthly, we contribute to our local food pantries, extending compassion beyond our walls and teaching our youngest citizens that they have the power to make a difference in their community. Our Garden of Faith, cultivated by students and Mr. Weaver, grows as a living symbol of how our faith and learning flourish together. As our plants grow from tiny seeds into flourishing plants, so too do our students grow in faith, knowledge, and character.

As we reflect on all that Cathedral Elementary has accomplished this year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our families, supporting parishes, alumni, and friends. Your passion and generous support make our mission possible of living like Jesus. Please know that we hold you in our prayers as we continue our work together, nurturing the next generation of faithful, excellent, and compassionate leaders. We look forward to continuing this beautiful journey with you in the years to come.

Thank you,

Teresa Eliason, Principal
Cathedral Elementary School





BLESSED SACRAMENT ELEMENTARY

As we complete the 2025–2026 school year, the students and staff at Blessed Sacrament School continue to grow in academics, faith, service, and community. Throughout the year, our students and teachers have embraced meaningful learning experiences, strengthened their faith life, and worked together to serve others in our community. It has been exciting to see the creativity, collaboration, and compassion demonstrated throughout our school.

Faith continues to be at the center of all we do at Blessed Sacrament School. During Catholic Schools Week, students gathered together as a school system to celebrate Mass, reminding us of the importance of worship and unity. In addition to weekly Mass, students also participated in monthly rosary services throughout the year and were given opportunities to attend additional Masses during Lent as they continued to deepen their relationship with God.

Service has remained an important part of student life at Blessed Sacrament School. During Advent, students partnered with the Warming Center by collecting needed items such as socks, gloves, hats, and paper products. During Lent, students supported the Hunger Task Force through food and monetary collections. Students also participated in a Penny War fundraiser for Casa Hogar, visited local nursing homes during Catholic Schools Week, and shared their spring vocal concerts with residents at Benedictine Living Community and Cass Street Assisted Living. Through the Rosary Club, students created rosaries for themselves, family members, Cathedral second graders preparing for First Communion, and residents at Benedictine Living Community.

Our school community also benefited from many opportunities to build connections with others. We welcomed incoming second graders from Cathedral for a “bump up day,” and hosted Aquinas High School students for games and Eagle Spirit Day activities. Special visits from local Oktoberfest, Mardi Gras, and Shamrock Club representatives added even more fun and community involvement throughout the year.

This year marked the completion of our first year using the CKLA ELA and Reading program. Students have been introduced to a wide variety of engaging texts and topics, and teachers have enjoyed watching students grow in both reading and comprehension skills. The new curriculum has encouraged curiosity, discussion, and critical thinking across grade levels.

Hands-on learning experiences have continued to make learning exciting and meaningful. Our fifth-grade students participated in an interactive Oregon Trail simulation where they practiced teamwork, problem-solving, and real-world math skills while experiencing the challenges pioneers faced during Westward Expansion. Our sixth-grade students took part in a Roman Aqueduct STEM Challenge connected to their Ancient Rome studies. Through testing, redesigning, and collaboration, students applied scientific thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills in a highly engaging and cross-curricular learning experience.

Additional classroom projects this year included a study of National Parks focused on rocks and fossils that can be found there, designing earthquake-resistant structures to protect 3D printed objects created in technology class, creating biome cubes to

demonstrate understanding of ecosystems and human impact on the environment, and learning about conservation through a presentation from Dairyland Power Cooperative. Students observed the life cycles of ladybugs, praying mantises, and butterflies. They also had the opportunity to compare plant growth through hydroponic systems and traditional planting methods. Students in band learned about and practiced conducting, which ended with a fun learning experience of a student conducting while Ms. Andersen played with the band! Our teachers continue to find creative ways for our students to apply the knowledge they are learning in class.

As we reflect on this school year, we are grateful for the continued support of our parents and families. Your partnership, encouragement, and dedication to our school and teachers help make Blessed Sacrament School a faith-filled and thriving community where students can learn, grow, and succeed. Thank you for all you do to support our students, staff, and mission.

In Christ's Peace,

Megan Bauer, Principal
Blessed Sacrament School





ST. PATRICK ELEMENTARY

This spring at St. Patrick Elementary School has been filled with faith, service, celebration, and community. During the Lenten season, our students and staff focused on prayer and reflection through many meaningful faith opportunities. We began Lent with Resolution Burning and continued with weekly Stations of the Cross throughout the season. During Holy Week, our sixth graders prayerfully presented the Living Stations of the Cross for the school community. Students also participated in confessions, monthly rosary and adoration, and a Seder meal experience. One of the most special moments of the spring was celebrating our second graders as they received the sacrament of First Communion. In addition, our third through sixth grade Religion Bowl team competed alongside other local Catholic schools and proudly earned first place this year.

Our school community also enjoyed many opportunities to come together in celebration and fellowship. During Catholic Schools Week, we gathered with our Aquinas Catholic Schools family to celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas and the gift of Catholic education. Our active PTO continued to provide meaningful family events, including another successful Daddy Daughter Dance and Mother Son Event. St. Patrick's Day was especially memorable as our families proudly represented our school in the local parade. Students also showcased their talents during our school talent show and enjoyed a special visit from the Shamrock Club. In addition, our fifth graders participated in the Kindness Retreat with Blessed Sacrament students, while our sixth graders joined other local

Catholic schools for Bump Up Day at Aquinas Middle School to learn more about the opportunities awaiting them next year.

Service and outreach remained an important focus throughout the spring months. Our students and families generously supported local organizations through Children Feeding Children, the Warming Center meal donations, and a cereal drive benefiting the Hunger Task Force. Beyond our local outreach, our school community enthusiastically supported Project Milk, raising over \$5,000 to provide powdered milk to Casa Hogar in Peru and help provide nutrition to families in Lima. We also continued our support of Kim, a third grade student at San Pedro School through Casa Hogar, demonstrating the compassion and generosity that are hallmarks of the St. Patrick community.

As the school year came to a close, we celebrated the many gifts and talents of our students through the spring orchestra,

band, and vocal concerts. It was wonderful to witness the growth and dedication students have shown throughout the year in the fine arts. Our sixth grade class concluded their elementary school journey with commencement exercises and a parent-sponsored Amazing Race activity that provided a fun and memorable ending to their time at St. Patrick Elementary School.

We are incredibly grateful to our families, supporting parishes, alumni, and friends for their continued support, prayers, and generosity throughout the school year. Your partnership and commitment to Catholic education make all of these opportunities possible for our students. Please continue to keep St. Patrick Elementary School in your prayers, as we continue to pray for all of you.

Peace in Christ,

Tara Key, Principal
St. Patrick Elementary School





AQUINAS MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

As we conclude the 2025–2026 school year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that our Aquinas community has accomplished together. Congratulations to the Class of 2026 on an outstanding year. We are proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing the wonderful things you will do in the future. We also congratulate our 8th-grade students on their commencement and are excited to welcome them to Aquinas High School next year.

This spring brought tremendous success across academics, athletics, arts, theater, extracurricular activities, and service. Our music students showcased their talents through concerts, Solo & Ensemble competitions, and participation in the Memorial Day Parade. We are grateful to our music directors for their dedication and leadership throughout the year.

Our art students also had an outstanding spring, earning recognition at the State Art Competition and displaying several pieces at the Pump House. Both our middle school and high school athletic programs experienced great success, and it has been wonderful to see so many students participating, competing, and growing through athletics.

Our theater programs delivered exceptional performances this spring, with the high school production of *Whistle Stop* and the middle school performance of *Enchanted Bookshop* highlighting the incredible talent of our students. In addition, our IMPACT Club continued to make a meaningful difference through countless service projects supporting families both locally and beyond our community.

Whether in the classroom, on stage, in competition, through athletics, or acts of service, our students consistently demonstrated what it means to live out the Aquinas mission.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce several new high school course offerings for next year, including Intro to Culinary Arts, Intro to Trades, Child Development, and Outdoor Adventures. As we continue to grow, we remain committed to providing strong academic rigor while expanding opportunities for students pursuing four-year colleges, two-year programs, the trades, military service, and the workforce.

Our goal is to equip students with practical, future-ready skills while remaining grounded in our Catholic faith and mission of service. We want every student to discover their God-given talents and leave Aquinas prepared to make a positive impact in their communities and future careers.

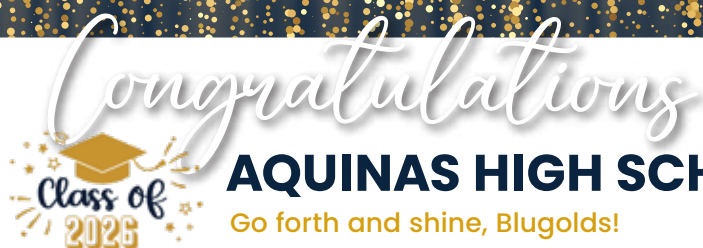
Thank you to our parents, teachers, staff, parish communities, alumni, and friends for your continued support of Aquinas Catholic Schools. Your commitment to faith-based education is what makes Aquinas such a special place.

May God continue to bless our Aquinas family, and I hope everyone has a safe and restful summer.

Go Blugolds,

Adam Poellinger ('08)
Principal
Aquinas Middle School and High School





AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026

Go forth and shine, Blugolds!

Sirena Alvarado
Kaleb Azene
Rase Bakalars
Logan Becker
Everett (Louie) Berendes
Elyse (Elly) Binsfeld
Lucy Boland
Kristen Brynd
Gwyneth (Gwen) Buck
Oliver Buck
Isaac Capelli
Aedan David
Samantha (Sammy) Davis
Vincent (Vinny) DeBauche
Alexis (Lexie) Desmond
Alaina Elias
Kiersten Elskamp
Roger Flege
William (Will) Flottmeyer

Grace Gagermeier
Ruby Gauger
Alex Gilberts
Robert (Bobby) Glodowski
Emma Grello
Harrison (Harry) Griffith
Madelynn Grossbach
Bethany Hale
Elizabeth (Liz) Hancock
Waylon Hargrove
Ruby Harkness
Julia Jakes
Ryan Johnson
Emily Kamrowski
Marcus Klar
Griffin Marcou
Samuel (Sam) Marcou
Tyson Martin
Jace Massa

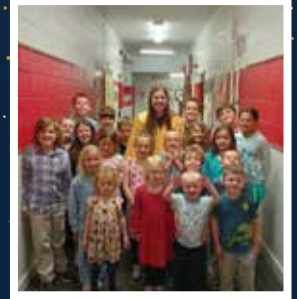
Kaitlyn McGovern
Felicity Mitchell
Grace Mueller
Alexa Myre
Tenzin Nelson
Subin Park
Eleanor Paulsen
Anthony Petullo
Norah Poellinger
Natalia Poterucha
Talan Reinhart
Lucy Reyerson
Ava Robinson
Caden Schams
Tegan Schott
Phoebe Seay
Jaedan Silcox
Nolan Skrede
Alyson (Aly) Small

Calin Smith
Finley Strom
Molly Swift
Lydia Theodoropoulou
Violet Thrush
Parks Tobin
Jasmin Valera
Kori Verrall
Lauren VonRuden
Aaron Vruwink
Addison (Addie) Walker
Leah Waller
Andrew Watson
Keira Wengel
Evelyn (Quinn) Williams
Jackson Woolever
Myah Wozney
Hayden Zehren
Abigail (Abby) Ziolkowski

AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



SENIOR STROLL



GRADUATION CEREMONY



Class of 2026

CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR AWARDS

Valedictorians
Quinn Williams
Kaitlyn McGovern
Alexa Myre

Salutatorian
Emily Kamrowski

Bishop's Medal
Quinn Williams

Wisconsin Academic
 Excellence Scholarship
Alexa Myre

M&M Memorial Scholarship
Samuel Marcou

Aquinas Class of 1976
 Scholarship
Kristen Brynd

Edward & Ella Poehling
 Scholarship
Kaitlyn McGovern

George P. & Evelyn Miller
 Scholarship
Gwyneth Buck

Charles J. Mathy Jr.
 Scholarship
Elyse Binsfeld

A.J. Petras Scholarship
Alex Gilberts

Coach Nockels Scholarship
Eleanor Paulsen

Donald & Louise Schams
 Memorial Scholarship
Kiersten Elskamp
Robert Glodowski
Waylon Hargrove
Calin Smith

Marian Pavela Pro-Life
 Nursing Scholarship
Felicity Mitchell

Will Reckase Memorial
 Scholarship
Tegan Schott

Tau Shalom, Secular
 Franciscan Scholarship
Emily Kamrowski

Albert Wee Jr.
 Memorial Scholarship
Marcus Klar

Positive Pat Stephens
 Scholarship
Quinn Williams

William Gilster Jr.
 Memorial Scholarship
Oliver Buck
Griffin Marcou
Julia Jakes
Finley Strom
Tenzin Nelson

Jay F. Leinfelder Memorial
 Scholarship
William Flottmeyer
Tyson Martin

Vivian and Clayton Veum
 Scholarship
Elizabeth Hancock

Peter DeCicco Scholarship
Lucy Reyerson

William & Lorna Vafeas Art
 Scholarship
Alyson Small

Borton Construction
 Scholarship
Jackson Woolever

La Crosse Family Playhouse
 Theater Scholarship
Kiersten Elskamp

Oktoberfest Gemütlichkeit
 Foundation Scholarship
Hayden Zehren

Kiwanis Club Scholarship
Sirena Alvarado

La Crosse Lions Club
Waylon Hargrove
Molly Swift

DAR Good Citizen
 Scholarship
Quinn Williams

Live Like Drew
William Flottmeyer
Tyson Martin

WIAA Scholar Athlete
 Scholarship
Logan Becker

Rotary Club of La Crosse
 Service Above Self Award
Grace Gagermeier

La Crosse Extra Effort
 Awards
Ruby Gauger
Nolan Skrede

La Crosse Rotary East
Natalia Poterucha

Aquinas Booster Club
Robert Flege
Norah Poellinger

Eagles Club Scholarship
Logan Becker

Blood Drive
Elizabeth Hancock

Brian & Paula Soller
 Leadership Award
Kaitlyn McGovern

Dick Lommen Family
 & McDonald's Youth
 Achievement Scholarship
Madelynn Grossbach

Terry & Sue Erickson
 Family Scholarship
Talan Reinhart

Virterbo University's
 Boys & Girls Club Youth of
 the Year Pathway Scholarship
Aedan David

Aaron Hass Memorial
 Scholarship
Lucy Reyerson

Health Science Academy
 Scholarships
Bethany Hale
Alexa Myre
Abigail Ziolkowski

Vernon Electric
 Cooperative Scholarship
Felicity Mitchell

Chaseburg Farmers Union
 Cooperative Scholarship
Alex Gilberts

Wisconsin Basketball
 Coaches Association
 Jim Nedelcoff Catalyst
 for Success Award
Talan Reinhart

Hope Diocesan Scholarship
Robert Glodowski

Junior Achievement
Robert Glodowski
Aaron Vruwink

St. Charles PTO
Felicity Mitchell

Hagan Scholarship
Emily Kamrowski





CELEBRATING THE ARTS

2025-2026 School Year
Highlights



Visual Arts Classic
Regional Competition



James and the Giant Peach



Student Art on display
at the Pump House



2025 Disney Trip



The Whistle Stop



2025 Christmas Concert



Wisconsin Concert Band
Association All State Band:
Lucy Boland, Kori Verrall,
Hope Hawker



Pep Band Pat Stephens Tribute



Dorian Band Concert: Alex Boland,
Lucy Boland, Hope Hawker, Vincent Fanciulli,
Innis Grace, Maleah Wehrenberg



2026 Spring Concert



— *Save The Date* —

AQUINAS WALL OF FAME

FRIDAY • AUGUST 21, 2026

Wall of Fame introduction at halftime of the football game

SATURDAY • AUGUST 22, 2026

Aquinas High School - Small Gym

2026 Honorees:

Robert Besch (Class of 1962)

Ed Servais (Class of 1976)

Sandy Squier Allred (Class of 1984)

Scott Christopherson (Class of 2007)

Sam Pederson (Class of 2008)

Zach Wilhelmy (Class of 2008)

Coach Geoff Wilhelmy

2007 Boys State Cross Country Runners



The Aquinas High School Athletic Wall of Fame was started in 2005 to honor the individuals, teams, and coaches who left their mark on Aquinas Athletics. To nominate someone, please scan the QR code to download a nomination form. Email your completed form to mike.desmond@aquinasschools.org.

NOMINATION FORM



SPORTS REPORT

FALL + WINTER 2025/26 SEASON SUMMARIES



WRESTLING

Head Coach: Deke Stanek • **Season Record:** 16-3 • **Conference Place Finish:** 2nd
Playoff Finish: 1st at Individual Sectionals, 1st at Team Sectionals, 1st at Team State

Season Highlights

Placing 2nd in Division 3 at Bi-State and 5th overall out of 70 teams. Placing 1st at Team State to be the **first area team to ever win a wrestling team state title.**

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Martez Sheard @ 126, Roger Flege @ 144, Marcus Klar @ 165, Waylon Hargrove @ 175 and Tyson Martin @ HWT; 2nd Team: Reid Nicklay @ 132, Tyler Paulson @ 138, Jacob Penzkover @ 150, and Grady Nicklay @ 175; Honorable Mention: Peter White @ 106 and Isaac Miller @ 190; Sportsmanship Award: Cal Smith

Individual State Results

State Champions: Martez Sheard @ 126 and Tyson Martin @ HWT
2nd Place at State: Roger Flege @ 144; 3rd Place at State: Tyler Paulson @ 138 and Waylon Hargrove @ 157; State Qualifier: Marcus Klar @ 165

Other Post Season awards

Division 3 Team State Title. Six Members were recognized to the Academic All-State team. 1st Team Included: Roger Flege, Waylon Hargrove and Tyson Martin. Honorable Mention included: Peter White, Lincoln Stanek and Isaac Miller.

BOYS SOCCER

Head Coach: Ryan Loeffler

Season Record: 8-7-3

Conference Place Finish: 7th

Playoff Finish: Regional Semi Final

Season Highlights

Record of 8-7-3, 7th in the MVC

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: Harry Griffith,

2nd Team: Connor Benz,

Jonathan Woolever,

HM: Calin Smith, Talan Reinhart,

Sportsmanship: Riley Servais

DANCE

Head Coach: Jamie Dahl

Playoff Finish: Regional Champs -

D3 Jazz, Regional Runners Up - D6 Pom /

State Champions D6 Pom,

D3 Jazz - 4th place

Season Highlights

Ashwaubenon Competition:

2nd place D6 Pom, 2nd place D3 Jazz

Little Chute Competition:

1st place D6 Pom, 4th place D3 Jazz

Kaukauna Competition:

1st place D6 pom, and 2nd place D3 Jazz

All-State Selections

Aly Small - All-State





SPORTS REPORT

FALL + WINTER 2025/26 SEASON SUMMARIES

FOOTBALL

Head Coach: Tom Lee

Season Record: 11-1

Conference Place Finish: 1st in
Coulee Conference

Playoff Finish: Lost in WIAA
Division 4 Quarterfinals

Season Highlights

The Aquinas Bugolds outscored opponents 430-113, and were undefeated Coulee Conference champions. The defense recorded 3 shutouts in the regular season, plus another in the playoffs. Highlights include a non-conference 34-13 victory over state power Columbus, and a 20-13 win over West Salem to clinch the outright conference championship. The season ended with a 27-20 loss to perennial power Baldwin-Woodville in a competitive and exciting WIAA D4 quarterfinal game. Although the boys were disappointed to be eliminated from the playoffs after an incredible run, they represented Aquinas with class, contagious enthusiasm, and fierce competitiveness. The senior class departs with an incredible career record of 48-5, and 2 state championships.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team Offense - Quarterback: Ryan Johnson; Running Back: Marcus Klar; Wide Receiver: Logan Becker, Waylon Hargrove; Offensive Line: Will Flottmeyer, Chase Schams

1st Team Defense - Defensive Back: Brady Lee, Henry Berns; Linebacker: Tyson Martin, Marcus Klar; Defensive Line: Will Flottmeyer, Brandon Pierce

2nd Team Offense - Running Back: Isaac Miller; Offensive Line: Charlie Kirchner

2nd Team Defense - Linebacker: Waylon Hargrove; Defensive Line: Charlie Kirchner

Honorable Mention - Wide Receiver: Calvin Bahr; Offensive Line: Will Horihan; Defensive Line: Chase Schams, Punter: Brady Lee; Special Teams: Waylon Hargrove

All-State Selections

1st Team WFCAL ALL-STATE:
William Flottmeyer, Offensive Line & Defensive Line; Honorable Mention WFCAL ALL-STATE: Logan Becker, Wide Receiver

Other post season awards

Coulee Conference Player of the Year:
Waylon Hargrove

Coulee Conference Lineman of the Year:
Will Flottmeyer

WFCAL All-Region:
William Flottmeyer, OL & DL
Tyson Martin, LB
Logan Becker, WR
Brady Lee, DB

Academic All-State:
Waylon Hargrove, Logan Becker, Tyson Martin, Ryan Johnson

The entire senior class was recognized by the WFCAL for Academic All-State for their cumulative GPA

BOYS HOCKEY

Head Coach: Charlie Marshall

Season Record: 14-12

Conference Place Finish: 2nd

Playoff Finish: Lost in second round to state champions Madison Edgewood

Season Highlights

2nd in newly formed conference. Playoff win 2-0 at Madison West in first round.

All-Conference Selections

1st Team: James Siebert

SPORTS REPORT

FALL + WINTER 2025/26 SEASON SUMMARIES

VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach: Danielle Schamberger
Season Record: 16-15
Conference Place Finish: 2nd
Playoff Finish: Regional Champions -
Lost in Sectional Semi-Final

Season Highlights

This year was a season of growth for the Lady Bugolds. After a difficult start to the season, the team worked hard to improve everyday and make a post-season run. We tied for 2nd in the MVC and beat the #1 seed in the Regional Final! What started as a team of 15 individuals, who had rarely played together, turned into a team of players who fought hard in a heart-wrenching 5 set loss to Luther in the Sectional Semi-final.

All-Conference Selections

All Conference Offensive Player of the Year: Samantha Davis
1st Team: Samantha Davis
2nd Team: Adelaide Bezemek
Honorable Mention: Kiersten Elskamp, Aubrey Coyne
Sportsmanship: Lauren Von Ruden

All-State Selections

1st Team WVCA: Samantha Davis

Other post season awards

1st Team All Tribune: Samantha Davis

GIRLS SWIMMING

Head Coach: Abi Schauske
Season Record: 7-1
Playoff Finish: 4th (section)

Season Highlights

First state qualifiers in 10 years.

CROSS COUNTRY

Head Coach: Shandy Scheidt & Connor Lonning
Conference Place Finish: Girls: 2nd
Playoff Finish: Girls team took 2nd at sectionals to advance to State.

Kaleb Azene advanced to State for the boys. State results: Kaleb Azene - finished 34th in a field of 152

Girls: Sanjana Musafir, Caitlin Wengel, Emily Bagniefski, Alexa Myre, Bethany Hale, Helen Onyeabor, and Madelynn Grossbach finished 3rd in a field of 16 teams at State.

Season Highlights

The girls team only lined up their fastest 5 on the start line together at the sectional and state meet. Many girls overcame their own setbacks and worked very hard to get back to running together as a team. They worked hard together, they sometimes sacrificed their own time and place to better a teammate. They showed real team work and it paid off with a trip to state and a 3rd place finish!

All-Conference Selections

Sanjana Musafir was 1st team. Caitlen Wengel & Alexa Myre were 2nd team. Helen Onyeabor was Honorable Mention. Kaleb Azene was 1st team. Oliver Buck was Honorable Mention.





SPORTS REPORT

FALL + WINTER 2025/26 SEASON SUMMARIES

BOYS BASKETBALL

Head Coach: Brad Reinhart

Season Record: 20-5

Conference Place Finish: 3rd MVC (9-3)

Playoff Finish: Regional Semi Finalist

Season Highlights

Aquinas Holiday Tournament Champions, victory over ranked Regis at Midwest Players Classic, victory over MN ranked Cotter at Target Center, beating Onalaska on the road, defeating Holmen after Calvin Bahr hit a 3 point shot to beat the 2nd half buzzer and send the game to overtime, Logan Becker finishing as the program's 3rd All-Time Leading Scorer with 1483 points and setting an individual record for 3 pointers made in a career at 240.

All-Conference Selections

Calvin Bahr - 1st Team and Conference Player of the Year, Logan Becker 2nd Team, Ryan Johnson and Finley Strom Honorable Mention and Talan Reinhart Sportsmanship Team.

All-State Selections

Calvin Bahr WBCA 1st Team
All State D3

Other post season awards

Calvin Bahr La Crosse Tribune
All-Area Team Player of the Year
Logan Becker All-Area
Team Honorable Mention
Logan Becker WBCA D3 All-Star

GYMNASTICS

Head Coach: Carrie O'Hearn

Season Record:

Mankato Invite 136.7, 3rd out of 10
West Salem Invite 140.45, 1st out of 8
West Salem Conference Tri 140.925, 1st out of 3
Tomah Invite 140.475, 1st out of 7
Wisconsin Rapids Invite 140.325, 1st out of 8
Caledonia 139.825, 1st out of 2
McLellan 142.2, 2nd out of 16
Spartan Invite 139.0, 3rd out of 20
GMC Conference Tri 140.575, 1st out of 3
Conference Tournament 139.45, 1st out of 3
Sectionals 139.00, 2nd out of 8
State 138.7667, 7th out of 10
Conference Place Finish: 1st
Playoff Finish: Sectional Runners up, 7th at D1 State

Season Highlights

The 2025-2026 Gymnastics season was a successful year. The team had 14 gymnasts from West Salem, Aquinas, and Bangor. The team won the Coulee Conference Championships for the 5th season in a row at the JV and Varsity level. They also were sectional runners up in Division 1 and earned a trip to the state tournament where they placed 7th out of 10 teams. The team motto this season was "ALL in" as they helped each other accomplish new skills and achieve high goals. This was a successful season in Division 1 and we are proud of the whole team.

Other post season awards

All-State Academic 3.5+ Cumulative GPA
2026 Emily Lepak (MGR)
2026 Caitlin Wengel

** The following Fall and Winter Programs did not submit season summaries prior to the print deadline for this publication: Girls Tennis, Ski & Snowboard and Girls Basketball.*

SPORTS REPORT

FALL + WINTER 2025/26 SEASON SUMMARIES

GIRLS HOCKEY

Season Record: 4-19-2

Season Highlights

As a coaching staff, we are in year two since taking over the Coulee Region Girls Hockey team. It would be a lie to say that the season did not have its ups and downs and major challenges but in the end we are very proud of the ladies for persevering and staying positive. Our record this year was 4-19-2 which is not where we want to be, but the gains we saw with the girls' understanding of systems and game play has tremendously changed since last year - which is a win for our program moving forward. Our next step with the rebuild is getting players faster and stronger in order to compete with the top teams in the state. As a staff, we feel like we have the girls returning as well as girls coming up who can make that a reality. Obviously, our highlights are the 4 wins and 2 ties that went into overtime, but more important was seeing the interaction with the girls on the bus rides and constantly joking around in the locker room and at practices. Those moments will last in the team's memories far longer than our record. The coaching staff would like to wish our seniors the best of luck in the future as we turn our attention to the returning players and the challenges we face ahead of us to turn the program around.

GIRLS GOLF

Head Coach: Jamey Makepeace

Conference Place Finish: 4th

Playoff Finish: 2nd Place Regional Finish, 6th Place Sectional Finish

Season Highlights

Molly Swift fired a 2-over par 73 to win the Viking Invitational. Best score in Aquinas girls golf as far as records are kept. Could very well be a school record. Molly took home hardware from numerous competitions, including the champions trophy from the Viking Invitational. Molly played the season tournaments in 46 fewer strokes than the prior year. Gabby Stratman had an 11-stroke personal best, 87, at the Viking Invitational. Molly played the season tournaments in 40 fewer strokes than the prior year. Lucy Reyerson showed incredible improvement, playing the season in 58 fewer strokes than the prior year and cementing her position as our #3 on varsity. Hayden Zehren brought a lot of leadership and consistent play this year, contributing a varsity team score at each meet, and helping to lead the team through regionals to the sectional meet. The rest of the team was very young, but it was fun to watch a rotation of players vie for the final varsity spot.

All-Conference Selections

Molly Swift 2nd Team All Conference,
Gabby Stratman Honorable Mention



AQUINAS BOOSTER CLUB

The Aquinas Booster Club meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the High School Commons. All are invited to attend. If you would like more information about becoming a Blugold Gameday Sponsor, please contact **Jessica Schams** at jessie_rn04@yahoo.com.

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FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



Sister Thea Bowman



Meg Paulino, left, and Sidney Paulson (Aquinas Class of 2020), right, at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi.

“Sometimes people think they have to do big things in order to make change. But if each one would light a candle, we’d have a tremendous light.”

– Sister Thea Bowman

Aquinas Schools Teacher Sister Thea Bowman’s Canonization Cause Furthered by Work of Aquinas Alumna

She was a scholar. A teacher. A civil rights activist. And an inspirational speaker. Ask those who know of her ministry what makes Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman unique and you will hear stories about her deep faith in the midst of injustice, her willingness to step into spaces where she was different, her strength and joy as she faced cancer and her commitment to love and inclusion in spite of the racism she encountered.

And now Sister Thea Bowman, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration and past teacher in Aquinas Catholic Schools, is on the path to potential sainthood.

The journey to canonization is never walked alone; it must be taken up by others who complete the pilgrimage. Though they never met, as a recent graduate of Aquinas Catholic Schools, Sidney Paulson walked the same halls as Sister Bowman, and now she is bridging Aquinas’ past and present as an essential member of the team pursuing Sister Bowman’s canonization cause.

It all came about as Paulson was studying archeology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse when her professor reached out to FSPA Archivist/Heritage Curator Meg Paulino, to see if there were any internships available for his students. She needed an assistant to help with Sister Thea's canonization cause, and a skill Paulson had learned at Aquinas enabled her to step into the extraordinary opportunity.

"My first question was, who can read and write in cursive?" Said Paulino. "Sidney was the only one." While reading and writing cursive have become somewhat of a lost art, it is essential to deciphering archival materials which are frequently written by hand.

The demands of the role called for more than cursive writing skills, the FSPA needed someone with organizational skills, research capabilities and a passion for the project. Paulson was a great fit. "I've always had a deep love of history, so working in archives is a great way to apply that interest," she explained.

That's how for months afterward Paulson could be found pouring over the FSPA archival materials as she painstakingly transcribed a lifetime of Sister Bowman's teachings including interviews, handwritten notes and speeches. Sometimes she worked remotely from Scotland, where she was finishing her Master's Degree, and sometimes she was in the lower level of St. Rose Convent, where FSPA archives are preserved.

"As I was working on the transcription and digitization process, I honestly avoided reading any books about her or watching any videos about her. I wanted to learn about her from the perspective of her own documents," Paulson explained. Paulino says Paulson's deep respect for the Church's history, the FSPA and Aquinas Schools was evident throughout the project. "She really got to know Thea on a very personal and intimate level," she said.

"She suffered many losses throughout her life," Paulson said, "but as I worked through her writings, there was always that sense of faith – that things would happen as they were supposed to – and her joyous hope for the future."

Paulson's call to the canonization cause seems to flow naturally from her personal experience and family ties. She started attending Aquinas Catholic Schools early in life and graduated from Aquinas High School in 2020. In addition, her grandmother attended schools run by FSPA in Spokane, Washington. But while she knew of the FSPA growing up, she says it took longer to fully understand the scope of their ministry. "I never realized the far-reaching impact that so many of them had throughout the country and the world through their work. And Sister Thea is a great example of how far the influence of their ministries reached."

The project was challenging but rewarding even as Paulson was working on her often-stressful post-graduate studies. "Having time to delve into



Conclusion of the Diocesan phase of Sister Bowman's canonization cause on February 9, 2026. Bishop Joseph Kopacz led the ceremony and Mass of Thanksgiving.

Sister Thea's work and immerse myself in who she was when times got tough with my schoolwork...it provided a sense of perseverance with her writings. It was a peaceful process. The messages of love that she sent out to the world were very comforting to me."

In February, the Diocesan phase of Sister Bowman's canonization cause was drawing to a close. Paulson, Paulino and several FSPA made the pilgrimage to celebrate Mass and a closing ceremony in Jackson, Mississippi, among them: Sisters Laura Nettles, Georgia Christensen and Sue Ernster. It offered a chance to better understand Sister Bowman's roots, the civil rights issues in our country and the people whose lives she had influenced in her ministry.

"Entering into Thea's history was really touching to me." Sister Christensen said. The pilgrimage the sisters took included sites related to the murder of Emmett Till, a stop in Memphis to visit Sister Bowman's grave, and civil rights museums in Memphis and Jackson. "As I was going through the museum, all of a sudden the word integration shifted, and it was immigration. Everything about the actions are still happening today."

"Our diversity is our greatest gift to one another. Our diversity is a source of enrichment for our world, our church, our society, and our country. "

– Sister Thea Bowman

From "Lord, Let Me Live Till I Die," an interview by Fabvienen Taylor.





“So much of the trouble of the world is caused by fear, hurt, and ignorance. If we trust in humanity, if we teach, help, and reconcile each other, then we can love one another into life.”

– Sister Thea Bowman

Taken from “Trusting the Prophetic Call,” an article in Creation Magazine.



“There is a particular complexity in three white sisters traveling to honor a Black woman from our predominantly white community,” wrote Sister Nettles in a reflection published in Global Sisters Report. “She navigated a religious life that was not always prepared to receive the fullness of her identity. But she loved us faithfully. She challenged us unflinchingly. She remained.”

On February 9, the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson filled with people who had been touched by Sister Bowman’s ministry throughout her life and beyond, as the Diocesan phase of Sister Bowman’s canonization came to a close. Paulino and Paulson were invited to the front to help tie and seal the last two boxes of documents. Then that massive labor of love totaling 10 boxes containing 15,000 pages was sent off to Rome.

Those who know of Sister Thea recognize how she bridged racial and cultural divides through her ministry. “She spoke a lot about the injustices that people from marginalized groups face. Being from the segregated Jim Crow South as a Black woman, she encountered a lot of that firsthand,” explained Paulson. “She was always there encouraging people to work for

change on a personal level within their communities and eventually that would trickle into wider change.”

Sister Bowman was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi and grew up in Canton. She entered FSPA in La Crosse in 1953 as the first Black woman to join the congregation. She passed away in 1990 and was granted the title “Servant of God” in 2018, officially opening her cause for canonization. Currently, the Diocese of Jackson has received confirmation that the collected works and testimonies for Sister Thea’s canonization cause arrived at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, and officials have opened the documents. From here, the canonization process goes through stages: Servant of God (current stage), Venerable, Blessed and finally, Saint.

While her internship has come to an end, Paulson’s expertise and hard work continue to be valued at St. Rose Convent. She is now hired as FSPA’s associate archivist and assistant heritage curator.

From one generation to another, from teacher to student, from the halls of Aquinas schools and St. Rose Convent to Rome, the journey of Sister Thea

Bowman’s canonization cause has had an enduring influence on our world. For Paulson, having the opportunity to contribute her unique skills and knowledge to the cause has been personally fulfilling. “It has truly been a blessing and an honor to work on this.”



Sidney Paulson, associate archivist and assistant heritage curator for FSPA, is leading a photo identification project for the FSPA archival collection. Thanks to the help of sisters, including Sister Eileen Shaw, this project works to identify the individuals in the collection of loose, unidentified photographs.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased Alumni

1938

Eleanor (Skemp) Sullivan

1946

Kathleen (Schmitt) Hefti

1948

Charles Boma

Lavonne (Townsend) Grabinski

1950

Ronald Phelps

1952

Joan (Svec) Deyo

Larry Powers

1953

Sandra (Schmidt) Besl

Jude Ann Rand

1955

Donna (Servais) Clements

Phoebe (Clark) Kitzke

Jane Temp

Jane (Lipovetz) Vorel

1957

Harold Pretasky

James David Schams

1958

Gerald Arenz

Willard Culver

Ann (Soller) Graff Fluekiger

Jim Kadlec

Robert Senn

1960

Sandra (Paulson) Allen

Jean (Biebel) Primm

1961

Larry Cina

1962

Patricia (Potaracke) Frommelt

Steven Fuchsteiner

1964

John Michael Oestreicher

1965

Sheila (Beranek) Bross

1966

Mary Ann (Lund) Dolle

Barbara (Franklin) Kolter

Elizabeth (Ristow) Robson

1968

Michael Kleist

Deborah (Grutzik) Roesler

1969

Richard Dunger

1971

Barbara Wurzel

1972

Cindy Sacia

1974

James Squier

1975

John Sauer

1977

John Bissen

1978

Therese Boisvert

1982

Diane (Holinka) Robinson

Recently Deceased Friends of Aquinas

Betty Baier

Patricia (Hawes) Darling

Pat Edgerton

Goodwin Hass

Allan Johnson

Elizabeth Knutson

Nancy (Ermatinger) Meyer

Marie Servais

Paul Steingraeber

Pat Stephens

Sharon LeJuene Tarpene

Patrick Tierney

Daniel Weinberger

Arnold Wyland

*"Blessed are the
poor in spirit,
for theirs is
the kingdom
of heaven."*

MATTHEW 5:3



Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation
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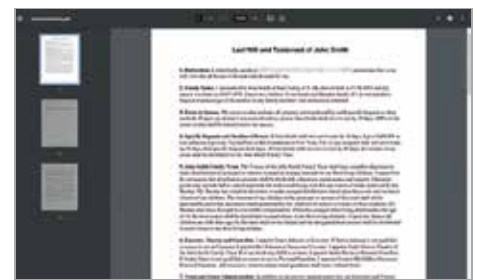
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- Beneficiaries and executors
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- A complete will you can sign and use



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Contact Director of Development Brad Reinhart for more information.



AQUINAS' GIFT PLANNING PAGE

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ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

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Marian Hammes '34	Steve & Marian (Stellick '44) Pavela '41	Harry & Charlotte Woods
Bertha Hoch '42	Constance Picazo '53	Francis E. Zahn '37
John B. Janis	Edward W. & Ella J. Poehling	John F. Zanter '46
Lorraine F. Johnson	Patrick M. Pralle '60	



To learn more about how you can join the St. Thomas Aquinas Society for Legacy & Planned Gifts, please visit aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com, or contact Brad Reinhart at (608) 784-0707 brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org





Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation
315 S. 11th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
608-784-0707
brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org
aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com

GIFT PLANNING HOME PAGE



Blended Gifts: THE BEST of Both Worlds



WHAT ARE BLENDED GIFTS?

Blended gifts use different types of charitable gifting strategies such as outright gifts, planned gifts and estate gifts to accomplish your giving desires. Which combination of these strategies to use depends upon your unique personal situation. Taking into consideration your current and future financial, tax and charitable planning goals, blended gifts can be formulated to help you determine best how to give, what to give and when to give.

EXAMPLE OF A BLENDED GIFT

Joan is a generous annual donor who owns an IRA from which she must annually take a required minimum distribution (RMD). By making a direct qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to charity, she will not have to recognize this distribution as taxable income, and it will qualify toward her annual RMD. Since the IRA is highly taxable when left to heirs, she also decides to name charities as the beneficiary of the IRA's remaining balance at her passing.

Outright/ Current Gifts	Planned Gifts	Estate Gifts
Cash	Charitable Gift Annuity	Bequest
Appreciated Assets	Charitable Remainder Trust	Beneficiary Designation
Donor Advised Fund	Charitable Pooled Fund	Payable on Death / Transfer on Death
IRA QCD	Charitable Lead Trust	



**MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT
OF YOUR GIVING TODAY
AND IN THE FUTURE**

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

UPCOMING 2026 AQUINAS EVENTS



FOOTBALL GAME
Friday,
August 21, 2026

INDUCTION CEREMONY
Saturday,
August 22, 2026

49TH ANNUAL **Aquinas Fest** 2026

Friday,
September 11, 2026

Aquinas High School
Cameron St. Parking Lot
3:00pm



AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS **GOLD GALA**

Saturday,
November 14, 2026

Aquinas High School
5:00pm

**AQUINAS ALUMNI
RECKASE TENNIS
TOURNAMENT**

AUGUST 8TH
GREEN ISLAND TENNIS COURTS

EVENT DETAILS AT:
<https://aquinasclassof11.replit.app/tennis>

CONTACT EMAIL:
reckase.alumni.tournament@gmail.com

FOLLOW ACS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow @AquinasCatholicSchools on Facebook and Instagram for more events.



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM

STAY UP TO DATE

with Aquinas activities by downloading the Activity Scheduler App or checking the calendar online.

EVENTS CALENDAR





Congratulations



EVENT RECAP: FOUNDER'S DAY 2026

Presented by the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation

Congratulations to our 2026 Founder's Day award winners! All of our winners have had a crucial impact on the development of Aquinas Catholic Schools and their respective communities. We were pleased to honor the following award winners this past spring:

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award **La Crosse Police Department**



The strong and ongoing partnership between the Police Department and the Aquinas community is evident in a wide range of efforts, including the School Resource Officer program, DARE/GREAT initiatives, student education on topics such as drug prevention and internet safety, and ongoing consultation on school safety and security.

The department also supports Aquinas through staff training in areas such as Mental Health First Aid and active threat response, participation in career days, and day-to-day collaboration to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and families.

A longstanding connection between the La Crosse Police Department and Aquinas Catholic Schools is reflected in the many alumni who have served – and continue to serve – within the department, including members of its leadership team. Through strong partnerships with schools and the broader community, the department strives to build trust, strengthen communication, and create positive outcomes for the next generation.

St. Francis Staff Award **Dennis Ross**



Mr. Dennis Ross has dedicated his life to education, guided from an early age by a clear and simple goal – to become a teacher. After attending UW-River Falls and UW-La Crosse, Dennis began his teaching career, eventually finding his “perfect job” teaching 5th and 6th grade Social Studies at Blessed Sacrament .

Over the years, he inspired countless students through engaging lessons, memorable classroom traditions, and a genuine love for learning. Whether in the classroom or through athletics and activities, he built meaningful connections and left a lasting impact on generations of students and families.

Reflecting on his career, Dennis shares, “I wasn’t planning on spending 38 years teaching, but it just happened so fast – and it was good. Very good. I am truly honored to be recognized alongside past recipients.”

St. Thomas Aquinas Award
Mary Ann Campbell



Dr. Mary Ann (Ellenz) Campbell's lifelong connection to Aquinas Catholic Schools is rooted in her experiences as a student, alumna, parent, and dedicated volunteer. A graduate of Blessed Sacrament School and Aquinas High School, Class of 1976, Mary Ann's commitment to ACS spans generations.

Over the years, Mary Ann has generously given her time and leadership to support the mission of ACS, including eight years of service on the Aquinas High School Foundation (2009-2017), involvement with the Aquinas Parents Organization, continued dedication to Founders Day, and leading the Gold Gala from concept to reality.

Through her lifelong dedication, professional excellence, and unwavering support of Aquinas Catholic Schools, Dr. Mary Ann Campbell exemplifies the spirit of community and service.

St. Thomas Aquinas Award
Roxie Tobin



Roxie Tobin's connection to Aquinas Catholic Schools spans nearly two decades, marked by dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and a genuine commitment to strengthening the school community. Her passion for ACS soon led to broader leadership roles, including serving two four-year terms on the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation (2013-2021).

During her time on the board, Roxie played an instrumental role in the creation of the Gold Gala – even guiding the event to virtual success during the pandemic. She remains actively involved with the event today and continues to lend her time and energy to initiatives that support the long-term vitality of the school system, including the upcoming 100-year anniversary celebration.

Through her leadership, generosity, and sustained involvement, Roxie Tobin has made a lasting impact on Aquinas Catholic Schools.

St. Thomas Aquinas Award
Elisa Houser



Elisa Houser's connection to Aquinas Catholic Schools began as a parent but quickly grew into a lasting commitment to supporting the school's mission and community. Even after her youngest graduated, Elisa remained actively involved, driven by a strong belief in Catholic education and a desire to give back to a community that had given so much to her family.

Elisa served two four-year terms on the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation Board (2017-2025). Her ongoing dedication – particularly through her leadership with the Gold Gala – has played a meaningful role in supporting the continued growth and success of ACS. She has helped support initiatives including investments in classroom technology, STEM and fine arts programming, school safety improvements, and expanded mental health resources.

Elisa continues to serve as an Emeritus Director on the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation Board. Through her quiet leadership, generous spirit, and unwavering dedication, Elisa Houser continues to make a meaningful impact on Aquinas Catholic Schools.

NOMINATION INFORMATION



If you would like to nominate someone for a Founder's Day award, please scan the QR code for a nomination form. Submit your nomination by December 2026. For questions, contact Brad Reinhart at 608-784-0707 or email brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

CLASS GATHERINGS

Class of 1947

Meets the second Monday of each month at 8:00am at The La Crosse Family Restaurant, 2120 Rose Street, La Crosse

Class of 1954

Meets the first Monday of each month at 9:00am at Tom Sawyer's, 136 Clinton Street, La Crosse
Contact: Donna (Zellmer) Puent at 608-788-4137

Class of 1955

Meets the second Tuesday of January, April, July & October at 9:00am at Perkins Restaurant, 9428 Highway 16, Onalaska
Contact: Grace Binner Smith at 608-667-6085 or gracemi80@gmail.com

Class of 1957

Meets the second Monday of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 9:00am at Tom Sawyer's, 136 Clinton Street, La Crosse
Contact: Phil Hess at 608-788-9417, James Schams at 608-784-3316 or Mary Ferguson Wakeen at 563-529-9071

Class of 1962

Men's Group meets fourth Thursday of each month (except holidays)
Contact: Robert Rusch at bobrusch@clasonbuickgmc.com or rjrcar1969@gmail.com for location and time.

Class of 1963

Meets every fourth Tuesday at Barre Diner for breakfast at 8:30am. Meets annually on the second Saturday in September at 5:00pm at Bluffside Tavern.

Class of 1964

Meets the second Wednesday of each month
Contact: Sue King at smasking_suzanne@aol.com or JoAnn La Fleur at 608-399-3129

Class of 1975

Meets the first day of each month at 12:00pm at Schmidty's Restaurant, La Crosse **Contact:** John Dvorak at 608-526-6090

Class of 1977

Meets the second Friday of the month at various locations
Contact: Paul Bruha at 608-317-4254 or visit the class website at www.Aquinas77.com

PLANNING A REUNION OR GATHERING? WE CAN HELP!

Contact **Brad Reinhart** at (608) 784-0707 or brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org.

Services include: class contact info, school tours, Masses, venue recommendations, mailing labels, and more!

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1976 • 50 Year Class Reunion

Thursday-Saturday, August 27-29, 2026

Thursday, August 27, 2026
5:30PM MoonTunes at Riverside Park

Friday, August 28, 2026
4:00PM Aquinas Tour
5:00PM Freighthouse Restaurant - Cocktails
6:00PM Freighthouse Restaurant - Class Picture
6:30PM Dinner followed by reconnecting

Saturday, August 29, 2026
11:00AM Golf Outing & Social

For additional details, cost, & RSVP info please scan the QR code.

To keep up to date:

Visit the Facebook class page "La Crosse Aquinas 1976" or contact DeeDee (Miller) Burns at dburns1013@gmail.com or Sue (Ruetten) Kratt at skratt1957@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1976
REUNION INFORMATION



Class of 1981 • 45 Year Class Reunion

Friday -Saturday, July 24-25, 2026

Friday, July 24, 2026
5:30PM Bluffside Bar - Snacks provided. Cash Bar available. Back Room party space.

Saturday, July 25, 2026
12:00PM Golf Outing at Coulee Golf Bowl, Onalaska
Contact Ryan Roesler to sign up: ryanroesler@yahoo.com or text him at 608-792-0275

5:30PM Get Together at The La Crosse Club
Located behind the Radisson Hotel. Park in the Radisson hotel parking lot. Cost: \$50/per person. Casual Attire.

RSVP: As soon as you can to Kathy Roberts-Redalen 608-658-5160. Venmo @Kathy Roberts-Redalen or mail checks to Kathy Redalen, 114 Shore Acres Rd., La Crescent MN 55947

Class of 1986 • 40 Year Class Reunion

Saturday, August 8, 2026

4:30PM-5:30PM Guided School Tour
(meet at the front doors on Cass Street, by the parking lot)

6:00PM-11:00PM Drinks, Dinner, & Music at the Onalaska American Legion - 731 Sand Lake Rd, Onalaska, WI 54650 (banquet room)

6:00PM Cash Bar
7:00PM Prime Rib/Salmon Dinner - Blue Moon Catering
Casual Dress

Details were sent via Evite email on 4/8/26 by reunion organizers. Must RSVP in Evite and pay for dinner by 7/8/26.

Any Questions: or if you did not receive the Evite, please email Linda (Balts) Harmon at lharmon003@gmail.com

INTRODUCING OUR INAUGURAL “10 UNDER 10” LIST



We're excited to celebrate alumni from the classes of 2016–2025 who are achieving extraordinary things in their careers and making a difference in their communities within their first 10 years of graduation.

This year, the Aquinas faculty and staff helped us identify these standout young alumni. For future lists, we are seeking nominations from the entire Aquinas community. To submit your nomination email Brad Reinhart at brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org.

1



ERIC WILSON

Aquinas Class of 2016

College or University:

Keene State College, 2020;
Marquette University Law School, 2023

Current City/State:

Oskaloosa, IA

Employment:

Corporate Counsel at
Musco Sports Lighting, LLC

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas prepared me for my current role by teaching me to solve problems, manage my time, and stay grounded when facing challenges. Through my academics and athletics at Aquinas, I developed these skills and a strong spiritual foundation that continues to guide me today in both my professional and personal life."

2



SHEALYN MCCOY

Aquinas Class of 2018

College or University:

Saint Cloud State University, 2021

Current City/State:

Fargo, ND

Employment:

Social Media Project Manager at SCHEELS

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas gave me the chance to work collaboratively with classmates on different school projects as well as build my knowledge of sports and team connections through my athletic endeavors. Additionally, the challenging criteria and busy extracurricular calendar helped me with time management, prioritizing my education, the importance of volunteering, and creating strong friendships along the way!"

3



JACK GAGERMEIER

Aquinas Class of 2022

College or University:

University of Notre Dame, 2026

Current City/State:

Chicago, IL

Employment:

Investment Banking Analyst at
Guggenheim Securities

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas taught me not just to think critically, but to evaluate every decision through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. The core values instilled in my education continue to shape my professional worldview and drive me to make a positive impact."





Join our Aquinas Alumni Page
on LinkedIn to nominate an
Alumni

AQUINAS ALUMNI
LINKED IN GROUP



4



SAM KEARNEY

Aquinas Class of 2023

Current City/State:

Marquette, MI

College or University:

Northern Michigan University, 2026

What you're doing now:

Kayak Guide at Pictured Rocks
National Lakeshore

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas taught me a lot of personal skills and how to stay involved in a community. Throughout college, I stayed involved in my university, and that opened many doors for me. It introduced me to opportunities that I wouldn't have found otherwise, including a study abroad in France, a research project studying Climate Change Perspectives at National Parks, involvement in high-profile university events through my job at the NMU foundation, and playing on a men's club volleyball team. I've also found a great faith community at our Catholic Campus Ministry and my local parish, St. Christopher's."

5



MADESSA (COLLINS) ELLIS

Aquinas Class of 2018

Current City/State:

La Crosse, WI

College or University:

Viterbo University, 2022

Employment:

Behavior Interventionist in the School District
of La Crosse at Hamilton Elementary

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas always pushed me to do my best in sports and to be my best in life. The staff not only helped shape me into the person I am today, but also into the teacher I strive to be. The strong sense of community, faith, and support that was modeled has helped me develop confidence, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the importance of serving others. Through this, I learned the true meaning of kindness, respect, and perseverance. These values continually influence the way I build relationships with my students and approach teaching every single day. If it were not for the people at Aquinas who helped me along the way, I would not be the person I am today, and for that, I am forever grateful. I am proud to be a Blugold!"

6



CJ NOLTE

Aquinas Class of 2017

Current City/State:

Denver, CO

College or University:

Georgetown University, 2021
University of Colorado School
of Medicine, 2027

Employment:

4th Year Medical Student at the University of Colorado
School of Medicine Applying into Orthopedic Surgery

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas helped me develop the essential critical thinking & organizational skills necessary to excel in college, medical school, and as a future surgeon. More importantly though, my time at Aquinas helped teach me how to be a person for others - whether through our Catholic curriculum, community engagement initiatives with Dr. Koehne, or commitment to a student culture built on collegial support. The people and experiences I had the pleasure of engaging with at Aquinas have been foundational in my development as a future doctor and individual, and for that, I could not be more grateful to be a Blugold!"



7



JONATHAN SKEMP

Aquinas Class of 2024

Current City/State:

Annapolis, MD

College or University:

United States Naval Academy '28

What you're doing now:

Data Science student and Track/Cross Country athlete at the United States Naval Academy

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Growing up in the Aquinas school system prepared me very well academically and mentally for the Naval Academy, helping me form good habits that I have carried into both military training and secondary education alike. By demanding timeliness and quality academic work, the teachers at Aquinas helped me develop a work ethic that helps me find success in the new, unique challenges that come with life after graduation."

8



JESSA (PETERSON) PETRICEVIC

Aquinas Class of 2018

Current City/State:

Onalaska, WI

College or University:

UW-La Crosse, 2022

What you're doing now:

Director of Franchise Development at Garage Force

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas helped prepare me for what I'm doing now by teaching me the value of hard work, professionalism, and building strong relationships. The emphasis on serving others has carried over into my career in franchise development, where I spend my days helping people pursue business ownership and achieve their goals."

9



ETHAN GREGG

Aquinas Class of 2019

Current City/State:

Rochester Hills, MI

College or University:

UW-La Crosse, 2024

What you're doing now:

Professional runner for Brooks Running and will compete for a spot on the 2028 Olympic Team

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"Aquinas prepared me for what I am doing now by providing an excellent coaching staff that includes Geoff Wilhelmy and Shandy Scheidt. Aquinas has had a great history of runners and we have Coach Wilhelmy to thank for that. His developmental philosophy and his coaching allowed me to keep progressing past high school and gave me the tools to become the runner I am today."

10



ISAAC SCHUMACHER

Aquinas Class of 2023

Current City/State:

New Orleans, LA

College or University:

UW-Stout, 2026

What you're doing now:

Field Engineer Intern at Kiewit Corporation

How did Aquinas prepare you for what you're doing now?

"The standard that Aquinas holds its students to is undoubtedly one of the primary reasons I have been able to step outside of my comfort zone and take on new challenges with confidence. The rigorous coursework, extracurriculars, and culture of service at Aquinas instilled a mindset in me to strive for continuous improvement and excellence in all areas of my life."



ALUMNI ANECDOTES

Getting married? Family addition? Career move? Accomplishments? If you have an alumni update to share, please email brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

SAM CLASON

Class of 2014



The La Crosse Police Department honored Officer Sam Clason with the **Superior Achievement Award** for his extraordinary efforts in gaining access to a subject in crisis, building rapport and negotiating a peaceful surrender.

On October 18, 2025, dispatch relayed a request for assistance from the Houston County Sheriff's Office. A suspect in a violent domestic dispute had fled from their county in a stolen vehicle and the pursuit led him to La Crosse.

Houston County reported that the suspect had jumped into the Mississippi River and eventually gained access to one of the grain silos along the river, climbing over 150 feet to the top. He barricaded himself at the top and refused to communicate with any law enforcement for several hours.

Officer Sam Clason arrived on scene and after a quick briefing, determined the best way to gain access to the suspect was to climb a neighboring silo. After over one hour of negotiating, the suspect agreed to make his way to the ground. On the last platform, the suspect was provided a blanket, allowing negotiations to continue. Eventually, the suspect descended to the ground and was taken into custody safely.

Please join us in congratulating Officer Sam Clason for this achievement.

BEN BARRETT

Class of 2022



Benjamin Barrett was recently nominated for the **Tommie Award**, an annual award presented to a University of St. Thomas senior who embodies scholarship, leadership, and campus involvement. He was recently featured in an article written by the University of St. Thomas about his passion for music, campus leadership and musical endeavours. To read the article online, scan the QR code.



Ben Barrett performing with his band, Monarch, at Green Room in Minneapolis

DAN LEE

Class of 1997

Dan Lee was recently awarded the **2026 WSIA Leadership Award** (Water Sports Industry Association) in Lake Tahoe, California. The award recognized Dan's leadership in strengthening the future of water sports through advocacy, education and dealer partnerships. Congratulations, Dan!



ALUMNI & FRIENDS RECENT GATHERINGS

Thank you to those who attended our recent Alumni Gatherings in Phoenix and Milwaukee. The groups enjoyed sharing memories, celebrating successes and connecting with members of the Aquinas Family. Watch for more upcoming Aquinas socials in your region at: www.aquinasatholicschools.org/alumni



>>> PHOENIX / 2.22.26 / American Family Fields: Brewers vs. Royals Spring Training



UPDATE YOUR
CONTACT INFORMATION



BE SURE WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED
EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER SO YOU
DON'T MISS OUT!

>>> **SCOTTSDALE** / 2.24.26 / Fate Brewing Co.



>>> **MILWAUKEE** / 5.14.26 / The Explorium BrewPub



Is there a group of Bugolds in your area? We would love to hear from you and explore the possibility of hosting a social in your region. Please contact Brad Reinhart at brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

YOU'RE INVITED

— TO THE —
2026

Gold Gala

A KICKOFF TO THE HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026 AT 5PM

Aquinas High School

Mingle with Aquinas families, alumni and supporters while enjoying:

Music by Tom Conrad

Appetizers and a sit-down Dinner

Catered by 4 Sisters • Beer, wine, cocktails and non-alcoholic options

Emcee Yve Rojas ('87)

returns this year to lead the Auction and Fund-A Need

Proceeds from this event will support needed technology upgrades, including teacher work stations. For more information on sponsorships opportunities, or to reserve a table or individual reservations, please contact brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org



AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

GOLD GALA

an Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation event



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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La Crosse, WI

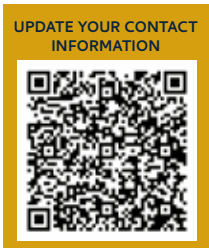
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ Duplicate mailings
- ☐ Remove from mailing list

Please mail your request to:

Aquinas Report

315 11th Street South, Suite 2200
La Crosse, WI 54601

(608) 784-0707
or email info@aquinasschools.org



*Receiving multiple mailings?
Have alumni who are living
on their own now? Help us
clean up our records by updating
your contact information.*

**Aquinas High School • Aquinas Middle School • Cathedral Elementary
St. Patrick Elementary • Blessed Sacrament Elementary**

Our Mission

Christ-Centered. Excellence-Driven. Future-Ready.



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