

THE AQUINAS REPORT

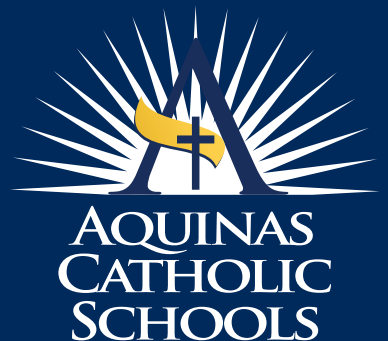
AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, & ALUMNI

Hats off to the **CLASS OF 2020**



What's Inside:

- 2020 GRADUATES
- REPORT FROM THE NEW DEAN
- ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT STEVE PAVELA'S STORY
- 2020 AQUINAS FEST



THE AQUINAS REPORT 2020/2021 FALL/WINTER

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A THANK YOU TO AQUINAS REPORT VOLUNTEERS

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AQUINAS REPORT PUBLICATION

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.



REPORT FROM THE DEAN

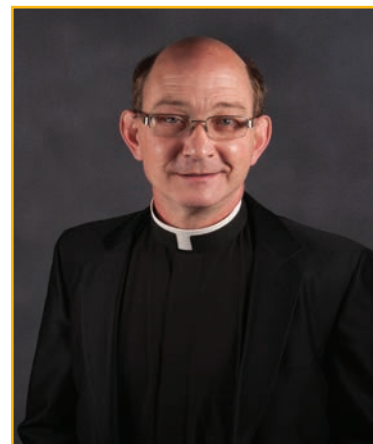
Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, Parents, Alumni, and Benefactors,

As I watched our newest Supreme Court Justice, Amy Coney Barrett, being sworn in by Justice Clarence Thomas, I noticed the integrity and dignity both had as they carried out the ceremony. I know that both had gone through a grueling process after they were nominated for the position. Both put up with verbal persecution and some false accusations. Yet through it all, they relied on the inner strength they carried because of their dignity and strong integrity. I could not help but think both of these justices are products of Catholic education. A Catholic education is more than just an education in knowledge. Catholic education is one which encompasses the dignity and integrity of the whole person in following the truth of the gospel. Christ, the Master teacher, proclaimed Himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. By being educated in this manner, we are able to use the abilities God has given to us to build His Kingdom, to build up society. We can walk in life with the dignity and integrity we have as Children of God, because we have been strengthened and educated in this manner.

As the new dean, and an Aquinas graduate, I am proud of the Aquinas system. I am proud in this day and age we can still offer the opportunity for our young people to be educated in the Catholic tradition, building up dignity and integrity. My prayer is that our young people who walk through our doors take the opportunity we place before them. Aquinas graduates, through the years, have excelled in all walks of life, building up society, building up the Kingdom with integrity and dignity. We can be proud of this as we continue to educate in the way of Christ.

In Christ,

Very Rev. Msgr. Steven Kachel
Dean of La Crosse



What's Inside:



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CATHOLIC
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REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of our 140 faculty members and staff and our 1000 students, I would like to thank you, our alumni and friends, for your ongoing support and prayers. As a student back in the late 1970's/early 1980's, I remember Father Robert Altman talking about the "Aquinas family". Never has it been more apparent than this year how the Aquinas community is family. Your generosity, advice, prayers, kindness and support this past year is truly appreciated. It has been a year like no other!!

I am so pleased to share with you that we were able to start our schooling in August on time and with all of our Pre-K-8th grade students in attendance for face to face/in person instruction. Our high school students were also able to attend in person but had a blended schedule that provided for half of the students in the building while the other half attended virtually. This alternated each day. We were able to offer our fall sports programs for our students and will be able to move forward with our early spring play.

I pray you all are staying healthy and sane! Enjoy this issue of the Aquinas Report, and I invite you to stop and visit the next time you are in La Crosse. I would really enjoy visiting with you once it is safe to do so. Thank you again for all you do for Aquinas. Your continued support is appreciated. The Blugold Pride continues to be as strong as ever!

God Bless,
Ted Knutson '80
President, Aquinas Catholic Schools

Ted Knutson

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Aquinas Catholic Schools is a Christ-centered family devoted to nurturing students of all faiths through educational excellence in its vibrant Catholic tradition.

FAITH: Serving Jesus and His Church

INTEGRITY: Cultivating moral character

EXCELLENCE: Pursuing daily improvement through life-long learning

LEADERSHIP: Inspiring achievement and stewardship

DIGNITY: Respecting God, others, and self





Dear Aquinas families,

Aquinas Catholic Schools is excited to welcome our students and staff back to campus for in-person instruction as we begin the 2020-21 school year. While the world we live in has greatly changed in recent months, so too have the challenges faced by our students, their families, our faculty and staff. As classes resume, you have the extraordinary opportunity to help us overcome these obstacles as we strive to meet the needs of our Aquinas Family.

On March 17, 2020, pandemic conditions led to school closures and forced teaching and learning to happen remotely, on short notice, and without a blueprint. School events, competitions, performances, senior ceremonies, and major fundraisers were modified or even cancelled altogether as the days and months passed. Students, teachers, and families showed their resiliency by facing these challenges, overcoming obstacles, and finishing the school year strong. Since then, our staff has used the summer months to evaluate, strategize and train for safely and effectively delivering a premium, faith-based, in-person education that our families desire for the new school year.

This planning process has resulted in even smaller class sizes to physically distance students, modified schedules, remote learning options, and an increased reliance on technology. We identified the need for new equipment and supplies, especially as they pertain to enhanced sanitation efforts and personal protective equipment. A focus was placed on targeted professional development opportunities for staff in the areas of educational technology to most effectively meet the needs of every student in our current environment. On August 26th, we welcomed our students back to our buildings for a new school year.

Now more than ever, we turn to you for support. We ask that you consider, to the extent you are able, making a meaningful gift to the Aquinas Fund to aid in our efforts to meet the needs of each student in mind, body, and soul.

Your commitment during the 2020-21 school year impacts the lives of our future community leaders. Thank you for keeping Aquinas Catholic Schools in your prayers and for your generous support of Catholic education and the Aquinas experience.

Gratefully,

Ted Knutson

Ted Knutson '80

President

Aquinas Catholic Schools

Matt Bimfeld

Preseident

Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation

Donations to the Aquinas Fund can be made online at aquinascatholicschools.org/aquinas-fund or mailed to our Development office at 315 11th St. S. La Crosse, WI 54601

Congratulations graduates

CLASS OF 2020



VALEDICTORIAN
Kayla Bahr



VALEDICTORIAN
Chloe Foor



VALEDICTORIAN
Zachary DeGroot



SALUTATORIAN
Brodyn Byington

2020 GRADUATES & POST GRAD PLANS

SHAYLIN ANCIUS
Western Technical College

BRONSON BAGNIEFSKI
Western Technical College

KAYLA BAHR
St. Norbert College

JUSTIN BAUSCH
University of Wisconsin-Stout

COURTNEY BECKER
Drake University

CLAY BERRA
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

LENNY BOBERG
St. Mary's University - Winona

CLAIRE BRANDT
University of Wisconsin-Stout

BRODYN BYINGTON
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

JACK CLEMENTS
Western Technical College

JACK COLEMAN
University of Wisconsin-Stout

NOAH DEGROOT
University of Wisconsin-Madison

ZACHARY DEGROOT
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

ALEXIS DONARSKI
Iowa State

CHLOE FOOR
University of Wisconsin-Madison

MARC FORTNEY
University of Florida

TAYLOR FOX
St. Thomas University

SARAH FRENCH
University of Iowa

THERESA GUNDERSEN
Regis University-Denver

RILEY HAAG
Western Technical College

SAMUEL HARKNESS
Iowa State

MACKENZIE HELFRICH
Edgewood College

JACOB KAISER
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

ZOEY KOBLITZ
Western Technical College

ZACHARY KRATT
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

BROOK KREIBICH
Bethany Lutheran College

GABRIELLE KUBAL
Joining The Workforce

EVAN KUJAK
Iowa State

CHARLES LANGEBOG
Loras College

LILY MANNING
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

CHARLES MEIER
University of Wisconsin-Platteville

SETH MERTEN
Opened Impact Nutrition

MACAULEY MILLER
Western Technical College

JERRY MORRISON
Navy

ETHAN NOTT
Catholic University of America

SIDNEY PAULSON
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

STEPHEN PEDRETTI
University of Wisconsin-Madison

LEWIS PETERS
Luther College

MARGARET RILEY
Undecided

NOAH ROGERS
Western Technical College

ETHAN ROUPE
Iowa State

MOLLY SCHMITZ
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

CHRISTOPHER SCHNEIDER
Western Technical College

RYAN SCHWARTZ
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

TAYLOR SERVAIS
Northwest Linemen College

TAYLOR THEUSCH
Mankato State

MASON VINER
Florida State

MICHAEL WEAVER
University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point

KAYLA WEISBROD
Mankato State University

GAVIN WETZEL
University of Wisconsin-Madison

HENRY WILSON
Western Technical College

ZIXIANG XU
Virginia Technical College

SARENA YOUNG
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

JAKOB ZHOVTIS
United States Army

2020 AP SCHOLAR AWARD

The following Aquinas High School students have been recognized by the College Board's Advanced Placement Program (AP) for their academic success on AP exams throughout their high school career, not only the current school year.

AP SCHOLAR WITH DISTINCTION:

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

- Brodyn Byington
- Chloe Foor

AP SCHOLAR:

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

- Seth Capelli
- Noah DeGroot
- Marc Fortney
- Sydney Paulson
- Stephen Pedretti

On behalf of Aquinas Catholic Schools and the Aquinas High School faculty and administration, we congratulate these individuals for their exceptional achievements.



Brodyn Byington



Chloe Foor



Seth Capelli



Noah DeGroot



Mark Fortney



Sydney Paulson



Stephen Pedretti



2020 ATHLETIC AWARD WINNERS

Female Olympathon Award for best female three sport athlete: Lexi Donarski

Male Olympathon Award for best male three sport athlete: Zachary DeGroot

Lee Gilbert Service Award for significant contributions to the athletic program and/or team(s): Coach Kevin Roop

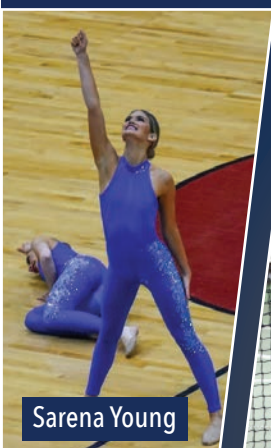
Father Rossiter Award for overall outstanding career or performance: Clay Berra, Courtney Becker, and Sarena Young

Jane Baker Award for a dedicated, good attitude, highly motivated, hard-working, inspirational, enthusiastic female athlete: Taylor Theusch and Kayla Bahr

Mike Pitz Award for a dedicated, good attitude, highly motivated, hard-working, inspirational, enthusiastic male athlete: Riley Haag

Female Scholar-Athlete: Taylor Fox

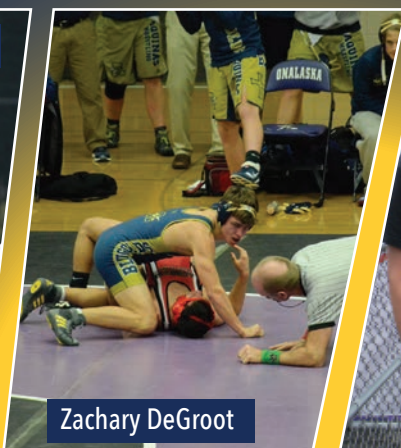
Male Scholar-Athlete: Noah DeGroot



Sarena Young



Taylor Fox



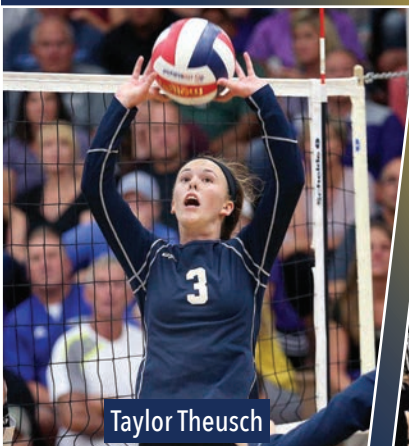
Zachary DeGroot



Riley Haag



Courtney Becker



Taylor Theusch



Lexi Donarski



Clay Berra



Kayla Bahr



Noah DeGroot

31ST ANNUAL

AQUINAS GOLF SCRAMBLE

The COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed the annual Aquinas Golf Scramble by one month, but ultimately it would not stop 150 golfers on 50 teams from gathering on a beautiful August afternoon for 18 holes of fellowship, fun, and fundraising. Thanks to our teams of alumni, past and present parents, friends of Aquinas, and more than 65 business partners, our day at Cedar Creek Golf Course was a huge success, generating more than \$17,000 for tuition assistance to help families in need at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

2020 AQUINAS GOLF SCRAMBLE CHAMPIONS

A FLIGHT - 61: Brett Nelson, Scott Nelson, Matt Nelson

B FLIGHT - 64: Matt Fellenz, Paul Bruha, Walter Rice

C FLIGHT - 67: Bob Jansky, Bruce Simones, Sam Simones



THANK YOU GOLF SCRAMBLE SPONSORS



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Forest Hills

Games People Play
GECU
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Kirchner Custom Builders
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Kwik Trip
L&C Insulation
La Crosse Graphics
La Crosse Insurance
Loffler Companies
Modern Crane Service
Morrison & Associates, S.C.
Nelson & Associates CPAs
Nickelatti Construction Company
Northern Battery

O'Flaherty Law LLC
Pepsi-Cola of La Crosse
Poellinger Electric
Preferred Insurance Agency
Rose Jewelers
Rush Creek Ranch
Schamberger Wealth Management
Schneider Heating & Air Conditioning
Smile Care Dental
The Charmant Hotel
Three Rivers Technologies, Inc.
Trust Point
Unity Fitness
Viterbo University
WNB Financial

CATHEDRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT



In March of 2020, I shared with you how significant it was that the March 19 Feast of St. Joseph was truly a guide to us during the initial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. That continues to be the case at Cathedral School. Bishop William Callahan announced that May 2020-May 2021 is the Year of St. Joseph in our diocese. The Year of St. Joseph brings the students, families, faculty, and staff back to our roots as a Cathedral School community. The first weeks of school students have learned and investigated the full name of our school, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral Elementary School. We have also placed a statue of St. Joseph in our school lobby. These are reminders of how fortunate we are to have St. Joseph as our patron and protector at Cathedral School. We have focused on how brave, loving, and strong St. Joseph the Workman was as the husband of Mary and father of Jesus. What an example to all of us – faculty and staff, students, and families – during this unprecedented time.

The Cathedral faculty and staff have done an outstanding job preparing for the

students within the new safety guidelines. Smiles, under the masks, are 'seen' daily as we are able to be in school, while social distancing, to teach our students. Families have supported efforts to keep students, faculty, and staff safe as we provide face-to-face instruction in a new and outwardly different fashion, while still holding true to the fundamental goal of helping children grow in faith, integrity, excellence, leadership, and dignity. The children have done an amazing job adjusting to hand sanitizer, masks, social distancing from friends, 'smiling with our eyes', elbow bumps, air hugs, and taking care of their desk space.

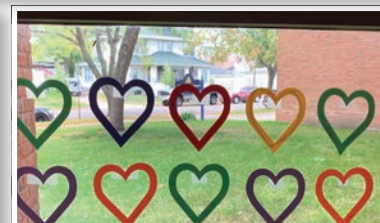
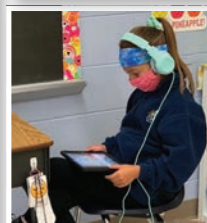
Respecting that the return to school was wanted by all, yet very uncertain and worrisome, homeroom teachers had their students create a heart for their parents and taped the heart outline on their classroom window. The message on the heart that went home was:

I decorated a heart today in the classroom at my school. I cut out the middle part because I wanted it for you. This inner part you keep with you to remember me each day, to remind you

that I'm safe and cared for at school where I will stay. I know it's hard to part with me, that's why I kept the edge. My heart is hanging in the classroom window on the ledge. All my classmates did the same so all the moms and dads could go about their day and not be worried or be sad. But if you start to doubt that I am having fun, just look in Mrs. _____ window for my heart that I have hung. (Author: Mrs. Tara Key, first grade.)

This message, shared with each family, reminds us of the importance of working together to care for our students, just as St. Joseph and Mary worked together to care for Jesus. God watches over all of us. As we journey forward, truly not knowing what our next days and weeks may look like in regards to instruction and learning, we hold fast to St. Joseph's example. My daily prayer is that we continue to find the courage and strength we need to persevere by keeping St. Joseph at our side. Please continue your prayers for our Cathedral and Aquinas Catholic Schools' families – past and present.

Patty Gallagher-Kosmatka, '79, Principal



ST. PATRICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT



St. Patrick School started the 2020-2021 school year with great excitement and a bit of trepidation. Students and staff were so happy to see one another. This was evident with the smiles that radiated from our eyes since we are unable to see one another's real expressions due to our newly added dress code requirement of masks. I am so impressed at how our students are following the new pandemic-necessitated rules we've implemented this year. I have heard from both students and staff that they will do whatever they have to so we remain in school.

We welcomed four new staff members to St. Patrick School: Mrs. Colleen Miller-Keys, our new First Grade teacher; Miss Katie Spillane, our new Second Grade

teacher; Mrs. Melissa O'Neill, our new Fifth Grade teacher, and Miss Cassandra Engen, our new Art teacher. These four teachers are a great addition to our school and have so much energy, enthusiasm, and love for education which is expressed in each of their classrooms.

It is with great joy we welcomed 19 new families to our St. Patrick School community this year. This brings our total school enrollment to 165 students. Our school is full of eager students who are ready to learn and supportive parents who are here to help.

The classrooms at St. Patrick School may look a little different this year, but our teachers are still providing a top-notch education for our students. As I walk

through the building, I can see and hear the students engaged in their learning. I can hear and see teachers enthusiastic about what they are teaching. These two observations are evidence enough that being in school is exactly where we need to be.

The biggest gift we have been given is the ability to attend Mass together in church. This is something we were able to do for our first Friday of the school year. This allowed us to reconnect as a Catholic school and to ask for God's protection during this unusual time we are experiencing in our world.

Angela Koblitz, Principal





BLESSED SACRAMENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT

School year 2020-21 has begun with one universal goal in front of us: let's do whatever we can in our buildings and with our daily routines and protocols as to keep students and teachers in the school working and learning together for as many days as we possibly can! One of the valuable lessons learned from our Spring closure was that we, as God's people, rely on one another for strength, courage, and encouragement, and that we are willing to persevere and do whatever is humanly possible to keep our school faith and learning community together. Our school year started on August 26 with 188 students in grades 3 to 6.

The entire summer was spent planning for how we would reopen our schools safely to staff and students. The days before students arrived, teachers had to come to grips with classrooms of 15 students with desks spaced six feet apart and little other furniture. Many teachers had to surrender their desks to another space in the building and much furniture

has been put into a storage container on the parking lot. Open House looked different as families made appointments to visit the classrooms in 20 minute time frames, and they were directed to enter the building one way and exit another. This year, students spend 90% of their day in their homeroom group. They only leave their homerooms for Physical Education classes and to pick up their school lunch that is consumed at their desk. The teachers in grade 3 are self-contained; however, in grades 4-6, students no longer move between classrooms but rather their teachers move classroom to classroom to provide instruction. Teachers load their materials on a cart, podium, or in a backpack, and forge ahead with their day. We currently cannot use the school library to browse for books, but students can search the online school library catalog and put books on hold, and then the librarian pulls the books, processes them for check out, and delivers them to homerooms.

We have developed strong routines and discovered that a few of the new ways might actually be better ways.

This school year, our elementary teachers and their students are using new resources that were purchased for instruction in Handwriting and Spelling. The students currently attend Mass just one grade level per week, but the prayers of the Rosary, as well as other daily prayer and religious instruction are embedded into the classroom schedule. Teachers make use of the outside areas around our school as much as they can for instruction. Things may be different without our usual assembly programs, concerts, and events, but we are making the best of the present situation and providing our students with opportunities for an outstanding Catholic education. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Kay Berra, Principal



AQUINAS MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL REPORT

Aquinas Alumni and Friends,

Students at Aquinas High School started the 2020-2021 school year in a blended learning style, with half of the students in the classroom and half of them virtually zoomed in to class for learning. We also offered students the option to go virtual for the entire quarter. These changes allowed us to ensure students have a six-foot distance apart in classrooms for safety. We have all teachers back, all students engaged in their learning, and all of the fall sports having a season. Athletics may look a little different. For instance, volleyball players send the ball just played to the sidelines for sanitization, and a new game ball goes in for the next serve. The opponents are not necessarily the same MVC opponents, but the fans are family! It is a little different, but we are back! It is exciting to hear students laughing in the hallways, and it is fun to hear teachers sharing ideas and apps. Everyone is working hard, thinking out of the box, and keeping the Blugold Spirit alive and well!

This year, AHS welcomed Fr. Daniel Sedlacek, who came to the Blugolds from Eau Claire Regis. Aquinas Middle School also was blessed with the addition of Fr. Aaron Becker, who came from Wisconsin Rapids Assumption. We are fortunate to have such wonderful religious leadership. AHS and AMS masses are held separately each week in the gym with students spread out in the bleachers and in chairs on the floor. Students at home are able to catch the video stream to attend mass virtually. The AMS students are back in the classroom with the exception of a few students who have chosen all virtual learning for the first quarter. Fr. Becker also offers morning mass every Wednesday and Friday for students as well as Reconciliation on Friday during lunch. The AMS staff has all students back, and in an unusual twist, the students stay in a cohort for all of their core classes. Encore classes, however, are a chance for students to move, and weather permitting, enjoy PE or music outside!

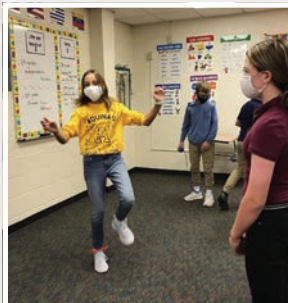
Support from our stakeholders has been wonderful! Some donations that we had



saved a portion of for unexpected times like this, came in handy to buy some Anatomy and Physiology online labs, some extra online book subscriptions, web cams, and some Spanish books that have the online options for learning.

We are very thankful for the students who understand wearing masks means staying in school. The Chromebooks we purchased almost 4 years ago allow us options we would not otherwise have to educate students virtually. Overall, students, staff, and parents are pretty excited to be back in school!

Respectfully yours,
Denise Ring, Principal AHS and AMS



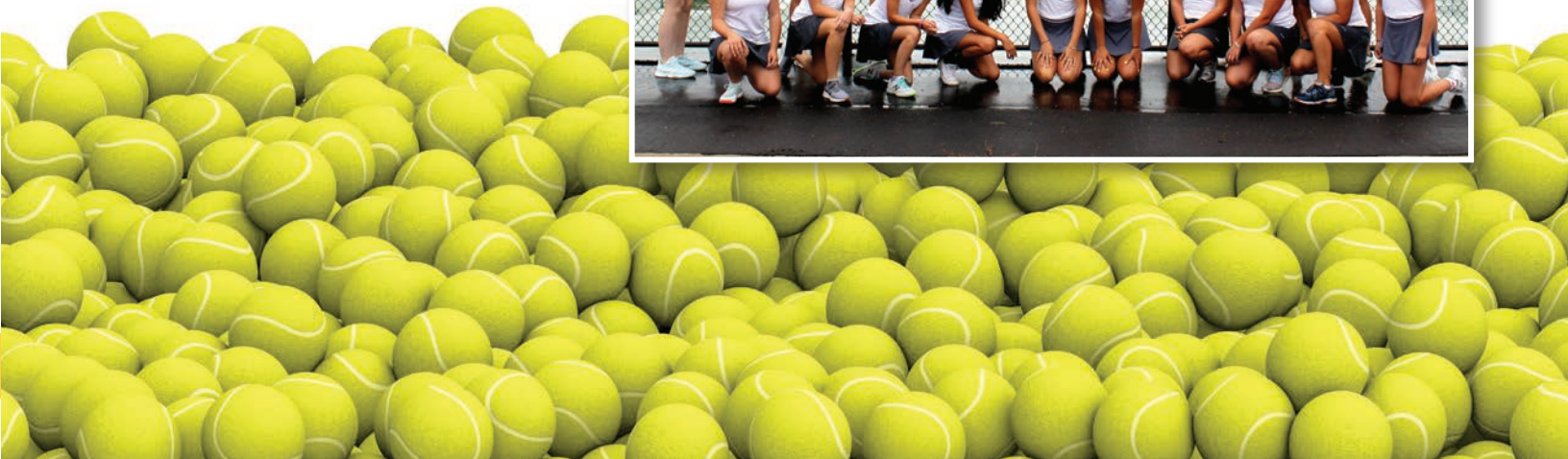
thanks FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Aquinas Catholic Schools, along with our athletes, would like to express our sincerest appreciation to families and businesses who helped support the building of our new Green Island Park Tennis Courts.

The Green Island project, located southwest of Gundersen Health system, is a collaboration between the city, the university, Aquinas High School, and the Coulee Region Tennis Association. It will be open to the public and will offer new youth and adult programs, like wheelchair tennis.

The first phase of construction, the 13 outdoor courts, began in April 2020, according to the Coulee Region Tennis Association. The final phase of the project, an indoor facility that will be built onto the existing ice arena, is scheduled to begin in late 2020 or early 2021, depending on when funding comes through. There is still work to be done! Be on the lookout for ways can you support this worthy project, or contact our Development office to find out more!



Learning from apart while staying close at heart



Due to the pandemic and the state mandate under Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, all five of our Aquinas Catholic Schools closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

We are proud to share with you that our faculty and administration were able to transition into an at-home-learning program and virtual learning environment overnight without skipping a beat. Homeroom was now a class Zoom meeting. Dining rooms, kitchen counters, and couches became student workspaces. While the educational surroundings may have changed, the connection between students and teachers remained strong and the educational process was able to continue successfully and without delay.

Aquinas Catholic Schools would like to extend a sincere THANK YOU to all of our families, teachers, staff, and students for their commitment to continuing their learning due to COVID-19 and the Safer-At-Home Order that created significant changes for the 2019-2020 year.



Our three elementary schools welcomed families on several occasions to complete a curbside drop off and pick up of at-home learning worksheets and materials. It was a great way for the kids to check in with their teachers and for the teachers to remind the kids just how much they missed them!



Our St. Patrick Elementary School staff had a "End of the Year Parade" to celebrate the last day of school! Families were able to drive through the mall parking lot to see all the decorated vehicles, wave to, and talk to staff.



Mrs. Schelfhout and Mrs. Weber from St. Patrick Elementary School really missed their preschoolers and made home deliveries to say good-bye to their students on the last day of school.



Our Aquinas Catholic Schools IMPACT Club and National Honor Society students hand made over 400 Easter cards! All the cards will be dropped off at local nursing homes.



Music classes got really creative with how they stayed connected and how they practiced.



In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, our students said thank you through their artistic talents.



Our principal, Mrs. Ring of Aquinas High School, along with other members of our PTO, hand delivered yard signs to our 2020 Aquinas Seniors.



Blugolds gave back during a time in need! Parks and Liv Tobin made spent a lot of time baking cookies for the local Cathedral Warming Shelter in La Crosse.

A Live Online VIRTUAL Event
hosted by the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation.

Online bidding opens
Saturday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m.
and closes at 7:25 p.m.



With your support, and that of Blugolds across the nation, we can make this event the most successful yet, as we shift funding towards Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics initiatives and update our curricular support for inquiry-based learning at each of our Aquinas Catholic Schools.

www.aquinaschools.org/Gold-Gala



congrats!

Congratulations to Girls Basketball Head Coach, Dave Donarski, for being selected by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association as a co-recipient of the 2019-20 NFHS Coaches Association Girls Basketball Coach of the Year Award for Wisconsin!

Annually the NFHS recognizes coaches from each state for significant achievement in their sport. State-level recipients are considered for NFHS Sectional recognition. National Coaches of the Year are then chosen from the sectional winners.

Award recipients are selected based upon a variety of criteria including their coaching record, background, coaching honors, and involvement in the community and school organizations.



LET'S MEET, CATCH UP & CELEBRATE

Monthly Class - Gatherings & Reunion

Class of 1947

Monthly Breakfasts: Meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. at The La Crosse Family Restaurant, 2120 Rose Street.

Class of 1954

Monthly breakfasts: Meets the 1st Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at King Street Kitchen, 7th & King Street. Contact: Donna (Zellmer) Puente (608) 788-4137.

Class of 1955

Quarterly breakfast: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the following months: February, May, and August at King Street Kitchen, 7th & King Street, at 9:00 a.m. For questions, please contact Grace Binner Smith at gracesmi80@gmail.com.

Class of 1957

Bi-Monthly breakfasts: Meets the 2nd Monday of every other month: February, April, June, August, October, and December at King Street Kitchen, 7th & King Street at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Charlotte (Farrell) Baier (608) 781-7395 or James Schams (608) 784-3316.

Class of 1960

Monthly lunches: Meet the 4th Tuesday of each month. Please contact Micki (Bicha) Banasik at 608-788-2817 if you would like to join.

Class of 1961

Monthly lunches: Meets the 1st Friday of the month at Ardie's on Lang Drive at 11:30 a.m. Contact: Mary Gokey, momladygokey@gmail.com, or call (715) 423-8073.

Planning a class reunion?

Contact Brad Reinhart for class lists and reunion updates.
Brad Reinhart - 608.784.0707
Email: brad.reinhart@aquinasschools.org

Class of 1964

Monthly Breakfasts: Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. For location please contact Sue King, smask_suzanne@aol.com or Joann LaFleur, 608-779-9355.

Class of 1975

Monthly lunches: Meets the first day of each month at Schmidty's Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. Contact: John Dvorak at (608) 526-6090.

Reunions

The **1967-1972 Aquinas Bugolds Wrestling Reunion** will take place on August 6, 2021 at Le Chateau Restaurant, La Crosse, WI from 5:00-9:00 pm. Dinner provided free, courtesy of sponsors. Cash bar available. Bring old wrestling pictures, news clippings, etc. to add to the fun. Reservations required by June 30, 2021. For more information mail: gracie_jits@rabiddogmma.com or (424) 352-5469.

The **Class of 1971** will have its 50th reunion on August 13th and 14th, 2021. Friday will be the meet and greet (TBA), and Saturday dinner will be at Piggy's. Hotel rooms are available at a discount. For more information, please contact Rose (Tydrich) Servais at rosetydrich@gmail.com, Paul Pierce at Munchkinusnavy@yahoo.com, or Joe Kotnour at joanko34@aol.com - 608.498-6177.

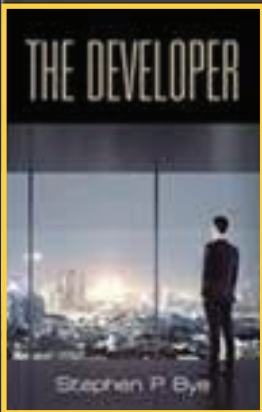
The **Class of 1970** new reunion date is August 7th and 8th, 2021. For more information, please contact Francis Formanek at DCFormanek@yahoo.com



Blugold

Alumni Anecdotes

For more Alumni information, please visit
[Aquinascatholicschools.org/Alumni](https://aquinascatholicschools.org/Alumni)



Stephen Bye, a graduate of Aquinas High School Class of 1969, has recently published his second novel, *The Developer*. Set in Denver in 1978, the story reflects the chaotic life of a fictional office building entrepreneur, Alexander (Xander) Kellogg III, who is the DEVELOPER. Known as Mr. X to his closest friends and business allies, Kellogg is a cunning manipulator who thrives on coercion to direct every aspect of his real estate business and private life.



Congratulations to alumna **Katie Poehling-Seymour**, class of 2000. Katie was the recipient of the 2020 Alice A. Martin Woman of the Year Award. Katie is currently the First Supply Kitchen and Bath stores Chief Administrative Officer and COO.

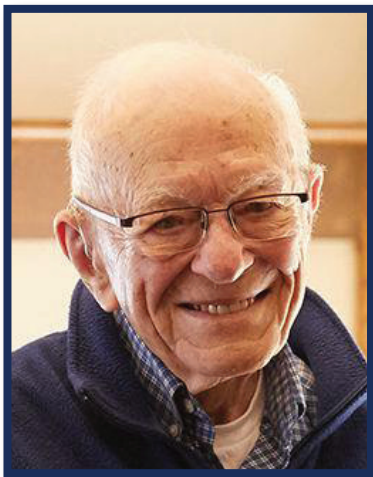


In September, our Dean, **Msgr. Steven Kachel**, held the 2nd Annual Blue Mass at St. Patrick Church in Onalaska to express gratitude to those who work in Law Enforcement. Alumni Jailer **Katherine Kachel** (13') and Deputy **Robert Kachel** (09') were both in attendance.



You're never too young to show your Blugold school spirit! Are you the parent or grandparent of Blugold? Show off your pride with one of our new baby bibs! They are available for \$10 each. Please send your requests to: chandra.frydenlund@aquinasschools.org

Steve Pavela paved new school of thought for prep sports!



To understand Steve Pavela's life, you should know he played the final game of his storied basketball career at La Crosse Aquinas a day after the University of Wisconsin won its only NCAA basketball championship. That was 79 years ago in 1941.

Steve Pavela, who lives in La Crosse, is 96, but remains physically healthy and mentally sharp. So when you're seeking perspective on current events – like, say, the COVID-19 pandemic that has shut down athletic events from the preps to the pros – he's your go-to guy, much as he was when he was setting scoring records with his two-handed set shot at Aquinas or during the 30 years he used his deft touch as the executive director of the old Wisconsin Independent Schools Athletic Association.

Indeed, this pandemic isn't the first national crisis Pavela has experienced. After playing basketball and baseball as a freshman and sophomore at Notre Dame, he took a three-year break to enlist in the Navy during World War II. No problem, it was what people did when the nation was threatened back then.

It's such a different world now," Pavela said (Thursday). "I was so fortunate to be born when I was born because those were great days. During World War II, I was in the Navy for three years, and later, Tom Brokaw wrote this book called *The Greatest Generation*. I said, 'The greatest generation?' I never thought about that. I was 18 and 19, and we just went to the war, and when it was over, we were just glad that it was over, and we could get back to normal."

After the war, Pavela dropped basketball but continued to play baseball at Notre Dame, earning the captaincy his senior year. He graduated and got married to Marian (she passed away last year) in an eight-day span, coached for seven years at a Catholic high school in Michigan City, Indiana, then returned home to work in the family construction business.

The construction business wasn't for him, but Pavela bided his time before a chance meeting led him to his life's work guiding WISAA through a period of change and helping to set the wheels in motion for its dissolution so its schools could join the much larger, public-school-only Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association.

At church in La Crosse, Pavela met Fr. Tom Ninnemann, a fellow Notre Dame grad who sat on the Board of Control for the Wisconsin Catholic Interscholastic Athletic Association, the precursor to WISAA. The WCIAA was seeking an executive secretary and Pavela, itching to get back into education and athletics, didn't mind that it was part time and paid only \$600 a year. He took the job in 1959, eventually becoming the most important figure in WISAA history.

"I was so glad to get out of construction, I took it for a pittance," Pavela said. "It eventually became WISAA, and I just loved my work. I had a very good life. I found my niche."

In time, Pavela became executive director and a full-time employee of WCIAA, shepherding it through a series of successful changes. The first was to move the state basketball tournament from De Pere to Milwaukee. In 1968, the previously all-Catholic group opened its doors to all non-public schools in Wisconsin, renaming itself WISAA. A year later, it held the first prep football playoffs in the Midwest. Girls' sports were added in the 1970s.

For much of that time, the WIAA and WISAA had a frosty relationship. However, Pavela developed a friendship with the WIAA executive directors — first John Roberts, then Doug Chickering — and the relationship between the groups thawed over time.

In 2000, some 12 years after Pavela retired, all of the state's high schools began playing under the WIAA umbrella. It took the threat of legislative and judicial action to get that done, but the respect WIAA administrators had for Pavela also played a role in a move that has expanded the opportunities for every prep athlete in Wisconsin. Al Bill, Pavela's successor, was the driving force for WISAA during the discussions in the 1990s, but Pavela played a behind-the-scenes role.

"The entire WIAA staff came to my retirement party and that was a change," Pavela said. "If there's any legacy that I have in my life, I think it's that we brought all of the (non-public) schools together as one and then eventually they were all together as part of the WIAA."

That legacy might have been different had Pavela stayed in the state to attend school. He set scoring records in the state Catholic school tournament (59 in three games) and the national Catholic school tournament (100 in five games). UW and Marquette recruited him hard, but they were no match for Notre Dame's network of local alumni clubs.

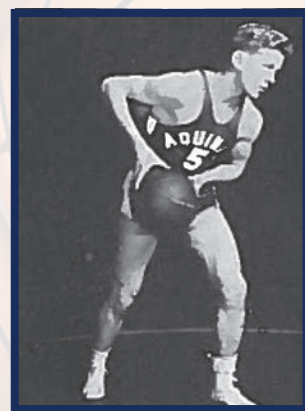
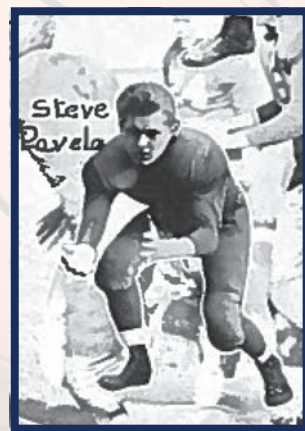
"The people with the Notre Dame club in La Crosse worked really hard to get me to go to Notre Dame," he said. "They were in touch with the athletic director and coaches. That's how I ended up at Notre Dame. I know Wisconsin was pretty upset with me because I didn't stay in Wisconsin. It would have been nice to play for Wisconsin or Marquette, but I didn't consider Marquette at all because they didn't have baseball. Wisconsin, of course, did have baseball. Notre Dame had everything, too."

Today's prep athletes also had everything, at least until the state tournaments in March and the entire spring season were wiped out by the pandemic. Pavela admits such losses would have been hard for him to deal with but offered advice for today's youth.

"You've got to make the best of whatever the situation is," he said. "I think I would have felt very bad about it, but what can you do? You just have to move on."

Pavela has moved on since his WISAA days, but he is not forgotten.

Story by Tom Oates
La Crosse Tribune (Reprinted with permission)



In Tribute & Memorials

Gifts given 7-1-19 thru 6-30-20

Tributes

Richard & Catherine Beyers 50th Wedding Anniversary
Patrica Stilp

Sharon & Jack Clappier 50th Wedding Anniversary
Patricia Stilp

Dan Ellenz's Birthday
Carl & Wendy Drago

Jean & Lyle Kothbauer 50th Wedding Anniversary
Patricia Stilp

Mike & Carol Mader 50th Wedding Anniversary
Joan McDonnell

Les Messerschmidt's 90th Birthday
Gregory & Kathleen Curti

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Adela, Anna & Vera Piggush
Yvette Piggush

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Our Recently Deceased

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

1938

Patrica (Raper) Williamson

1939

DeEtte (Moriarity) Gillmeister

1942

Pauline Wendling

1943

Donald Dinn

1945

Dorothy (Ness) Gofus

1947

Jim Knutson
Muriel Leske Nelson
Joseph Zirbes

1948

Father Robert Monti
Kathleen Anderson

1949

Leonard Ambrose

1950

Richard Merfeld

1951

Paul Flottmeier
Thomas Gautsch
Helen Shannon
Fr. LyLE Schulte

1952

Richard Schoen

1953

Elizabeth (Drendel) Keppel

1954

Marian Larkin Sake

1955

Joseph Flottmeyer
LaVerne (Knutson) Thelen
Joel Donahue
Mary Lou (Scherdin) Larkin

1956

Norman Jambois

1957

George Van Voorhis
Margaret (Eeg) Hanrahan

1958

Jerry Gschwind
Michael Forer
Kenneth White

1959

Karen (Dressen) Rieber

1960

Raymond Erickson

1961

Harold Tust
Nancy Gardner
Mary Jo (Kloneck) Rathman

1962

Sally (Zoellner) Murphy
Dennis Gianoli
David Beranek

1963

Patricia (Hammes) Byom
Annie (Opsahl) Schmidt

1964

William Mackie
Gregory Tanke

1967

John Stokes

1971

Nancy Ann (Mansheim) Formella
Ronald Melde

1976

Thomas Bonadurer
Terrance Welch

1977

Cheryl (Larkin) Castille

1978

Joan (Crogan) Gossman

1986

Bob Umhoefer

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

NEW WAYS TO SAVE



NEW TAX LAWS

DON'T PAY MORE TAXES

THAN YOU SHOULD

Recently, Congress made significant changes to our nation's tax laws. After 2020, taxpayers must take distributions from their IRA at age 72, not age 70½. Gone is the ability for children to inherit an IRA and stretch payments for their lifetime. They must now take the payments in 10 years. With these and all the other changes, it could be easy to miss some deductions and pay more than you should.

You have ways to reduce your taxes, increase your income and provide for your family and the causes important to you. Here are some quick ideas to take advantage of (or not be disappointed by) the recent tax law changes.

IF YOUR CONCERN IS:	TRY THIS:
INCREASED STANDARD DEDUCTION	If you want to have a higher income tax deduction, bunch your charitable donations. Gift more in one year, then take a year off. Take the itemized, higher deduction, then the standard deduction the next year.
STRETCH PROVISION OF YOUR IRA	Establish a charitable remainder unitrust that your IRA fully funds when you die. You can choose the length of time your children receive money from the trust without the 10 year limit.
NEED MORE INCOME	Establish a charitable gift annuity that pays you fixed, reliable payments for life.

These are just some quick ideas to show you that even with the new laws, you can still maximize your deductions and provide for your family and the charities you cherish. Call or email us to find out all we can do to help you end the year in a tax-favorable way.

FOUNDATION STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

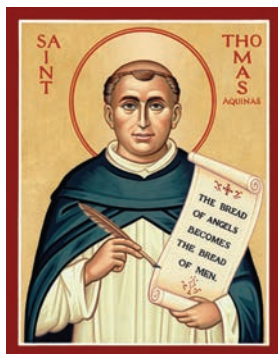
ASSETS	JUNE 30, 2020	JUNE 30, 2019
CURRENT ASSETS		
Checking/Savings		
River Bank Checking	\$31,745.91	\$135,732.13
River Bank Money Market	\$313,629.15	\$-
Total Checking/ Savings	\$345,375.06	\$135,732.13
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS		
Due to/from - Endowed Scholarship Fund	\$(37,500.00)	\$-
Due to/from - Legacy Fund	\$(312,429.72)	\$(81,887.83)
Due to/from - Next Step Fund	\$288,461.85	\$49,382.99
Due to/from - Nest Step Restricted Fund	\$61,467.87	\$32,504.84
Total Other Current Assets	\$-	\$-
Total Current Assets	\$345,375.06	\$135,732.13
OTHER ASSETS		
Investments Held at TrustPoint	\$9,904,577.73	\$8,417,325.43
Investments Held at JP Morgan	\$159,567.96	\$196,994.58
Total Other Assets	\$10,064,145.69	\$8,614,320.01
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,409,520.75	\$8,750,052.14
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Next Step Fund	\$1,545,175.46	\$1,296,139.67
Legacy Fund	\$1,510,137.32	\$1,519,332.53
Kiffe Trust Fund	\$1,341,528.20	\$1,330,899.34
Endowment Scholarship Fund	\$898,083.83	\$928,171.23
Endowment Trust Fund	\$1,108,925.96	\$1,100,139.96
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$6,403,850.77	\$6,174,682.73
NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS		
Kiffe Guardian Angel Fund	\$364,923.69	\$389,954.04
Next Step Restricted Fund	\$2,604,847.29	\$2,185,415.37
Donald & Louise Schams Scholarship	\$1,035,899.00	\$-
Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$4,005,669.98	\$2,575,369.41
Total Net Assets	\$10,409,520.75	\$8,750,052.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$10,409,520.75	\$8,750,052.14

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SOCIETY OF PLANNED GIFTS

In appreciation of those generous donors whose legacy will live on through their planned gifts to the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation, which help to ensure current and future generations of excellence at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Marcella (Cleary '41) Amundson
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Richard Carter
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Frank Daley
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Dr. Robert & Carol Edland
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Lorraine F. Gay
Don Gilbert '51
Eleanor Hackner
Marian Hammes '34
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Lorraine F. Johnson
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Celia Koll
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Earl G. Lowe
Dorothy (Roesler '36) Manske

James Maney '39
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To learn more about how you can donate and 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
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aquinasschools.giftlegacy.com



Have **Your Plans** *Changed*

For almost everyone, the answer to that question is yes.

Things have changed. Our plans have changed. Our lives have been put on hold. Most of us couldn't have anticipated the series of recent events that have so greatly impacted our sense of personal and financial security.

Need Assistance?
We are here to help.

Please know that we are thinking of you during this time. If we can be of help to you and your family, please don't hesitate to reach out.

During times like these, even the best-laid plans may need to be revisited.

If you are like most people, you are thinking about the impact of the current events on your future.

Clients are contacting advisors in record numbers to discuss their needs. If you need help connecting with someone to assist you and your family, please let us know. We can provide you with a list of advisors in your area that our friends and supporters have recommended.

Please also let us know if we can be of assistance to you as you think through your plans. We have a variety of resources available online and also that we can send to you that may be helpful in rethinking your retirement planning, inheritance planning for your family and ways to create your legacy.

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

Recognizing gifts to Aquinas Catholic Schools & the Aquinas Catholic Schools Foundation

BISHOP MCGAVICK FOUNDER'S ASSOCIATION

\$10,000 and above

This level of donor investment reflects the spirit of generosity embodied by the founder of Aquinas High School, Bishop Alexander McGavick

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thank you

July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2020

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AFFORDABLE!

PRINCIPALS CIRCLE

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Principals' Circle honors the former principals of Aquinas High School. The circle includes those, who like our former principles, remain dedicated to our growth.

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\$1,000 - \$ 4,999

The Franciscan Society honors the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and their dedication to Aquinas since its inception in 1928.

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FRANCISCAN SOCIETY \$1,000 - \$ 4,999

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Tim & Myrna Murphy
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Michael Zoellner

July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2020

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CATHOLIC EDUCATION AFFORDABLE!

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\$500 - \$999

The St. Thomas Aquinas Patron's Guild honors donors who carry on the spirit of the patron Saint of Aquinas Catholic Schools through their generous giving.

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Corrine Zielke Family Trust



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\$100 - \$499

The Blugold Century Club honors donors who show a commitment to Aquinas' continued influence in this century and the next.

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July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2020

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September 18, 2020

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