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## Aquinas Begins 10-Year, \$2.5 Million Development Plan

Aquinas Institute has embarked on an ambitious fund development program that will enable the 55-year-old school to "preserve the Aquinas tradition and continue the Basilian Fathers' influence in the education of the area youth," into the eighties, according to a statement issued by the Aquinas Board of Trustees.

The board of trustees hopes to raise \$2.5 million for the school over a ten-year period. Funds received from the project will be used for needed school renovations, expansion of athletic facilities and equipment, and an expansion of the continuing student financial aid and scholarship programs.

The program will involve an ongoing effort by Aquinas staff and hundreds of volunteers from the "Aquinas family."

The Aquinas development program marks the first major fund raising program in the school's history. The decision to begin the venture was made "after months of preparation" by the Aquinas board and faculty, the release said.

The decision to begin a fund drive came after the board of trustees studied current cost trends in secondary education. Today's economic stresses pose a problem for Aquinas as they do for other high schools. Through prudent administration the school has been self-supporting. Current income, however, meets operational costs, allowing no provision for necessary and, in some cases, long-delayed capital expenditures, the board said.

The financial venture is also a reaffirmation of the school's commitment to the city of Rochester.

"Aquinas is proud and committed to being the only Catholic high school for young men located in the city of Rochester. This presence allows families in the urban as well as suburban areas to have the opportunity to choose an Aquinas education.

"Access and availability of Catholic education continues to be foremost among the principles in the Aquinas philosophy," the release said.

The board continued, saying, "The school and the 26-acre grounds carry a market value of \$3 to \$5 million, although reconstruction costs today reach \$8 to \$10 million.

"The building is structurally sound, thanks to renovation in 1969 and funds from the sale of Aquinas stadium (now Holleder Stadium) in 1973... Yet even with these improvements, there still remains the need for modernization throughout the building and grounds."

Money will be raised in a two-phase format. Funds from phase one, that will span the next three years, will be used to make needed capital investments that include a new roof for the school, energy conservation measures (including insulation and winterizing windows), and renovation of the 90-year-old priests' residence, the school chapel and laboratories, among other things.

To kick off the first phase



of the project the Basilian Fathers have committed \$300,000 for renovation of the priests' residence on Augustine Street. The priests' house is currently under repair.

Phase two will establish an endowment fund to insure academic scholarships, student assistance programs, faculty advancement, and expansion of sports facilities, including a new gymnasium.

Solicitations will be conducted in phase one through May. Several hundred alumni

are now being organized to make personal visits to some 3,000 prospects for the development program, the release said.

Prospective contributors to the visit through the mail, together with literature outlining the purposes of the campaign.

The program also offers a number of "select memorial or sponsorship opportunities, making it possible for everyone to help in a way he or she chooses."

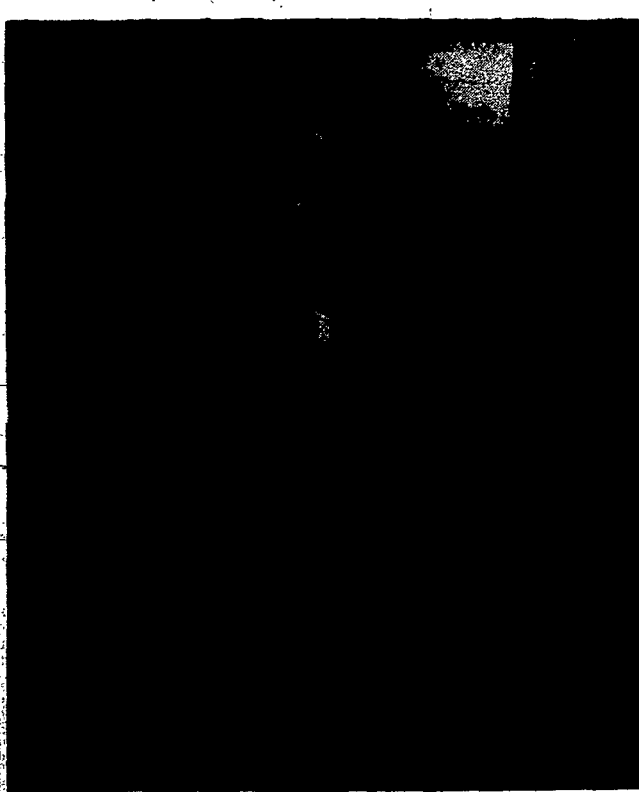
Gifts may be of cash, stocks, securities, trusts or properties. Contributions are tax deductible. They may be pledged and paid over a three-year period. Donors of substantial gifts may spread payments over five year if this will serve their tax purposes, the release said.

Memorial inscriptions will be permanently displayed near the school entrance.

A slide show titled "Aquinas Story — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" will also be available for alumni gatherings in conjunction

with the development program.

One important aspect of the fund development project will be to keep tuition costs as affordable as possible. Aquinas' tuition (now \$990 per year) does not cover the full price of the student's education. The funds raised during the next ten years will make sure tuition costs can be kept as low as possible. Aquinas is dedicated to the philosophy that no qualified student be denied enrollment because of family financial need.



FATHER JOSEPH MOFFAT, CSB

## Statement from the Principal

Excellence in Catholic Education has not only been a long and honored tradition at Aquinas but also a way of life. A caring community of students, traditional Catholic theology, a true spirit of Christianity, academic superiority, athletic prowess, artistic, musical, and dramatic accomplishments have always been the distinguishing marks of Aquinas graduates. These are the things of which our "way of life" is composed. These are the matters which make the Aquinas spirit "Forever!" These are also the facts which have made Aquinas such a vital part of the City of Rochester.

From these realities have come the outstanding graduates who today are our leaders in the banking community, the teaching profession, our lawyers, doctors, dentists, our priests, religious, our businessmen and the day-to-day laborer whose contributions mean so much to this city, to the Church, and to solid family life. A 1980 Aquinas graduate made this statement: "Aquinas has added to the

community a flavor it would have undoubtedly gone without, had the notion of the 'Little Irish' never been conceived."

These distinguishing marks of Aquinas in particular and of Catholic Education in general have long become the familiar and the expected. They are now the hallmarks of a genuine Aquinas student and they shall so continue. The Spirit of Aquinas is forever!

Joseph J. Moffat, CSB  
Principal