

Aquinas Institute Launched

10-Year Drive Aims At \$2.5 Million

Plans for a ten-year, \$2.5 million development program at Aquinas Institute are now formally under way.

Following months of preparation by the Basilian Fathers, schoolboard members, and dozens of alumni volunteers, the economic program is geared to "preserve the half-century Aquinas tradition and continuance of the Basilian Fathers' influence in the education of area youth," according to an Aquinas release.

The development project is the first major fund raising campaign in Aquinas history. Those involved with the campaign are confident that the current appeal will receive widespread response.

In a statement issued by the Aquinas Board of Trustees, it was said, "Aquinas performs a very vital mission for the Church, the diocese and the communities within it and every effort must be made to maintain this role.

"As educational needs change, we must plan for the future. What was good and adequate in the past must be continually updated and expanded.

"Included in this fund is the need to expand the offerings of our curriculum, the establishment of a sabbatical system for teachers, and the necessity of keeping the faculty wage scale just and adequate in our inflated economy."

Funds raised during the ten-year program will go towards needed school renovation and property maintenance, including a new roof for the 55-year-old building, insulation and the winterizing of windows and doors, and renovation of the chapel and science laboratories.

Money will also be used to keep student tuition charges as reasonable as possible, so that "a Christian



education might be offered for families of various incomes."

The ten-year fund raising program is divided into two phases. Phase one, spanning the next three years, is designed to take care of Aquinas' immediate needs (building, refurbishing grounds, maintenance, etc.). Phase two will set up a long-range endowment fund that will provide academic scholarships, student financial assistance, faculty advancement, curriculum development and future preventive maintenance.

Phase two will also provide an expansion of Aquinas' sports facilities, including a new gymnasium, locker areas and renovation of the existing facilities.

The school is currently working hard to make ends meet. "Current economic stresses pose an ongoing challenge to the ability of Aquinas to guarantee a Catholic education. Current income at the school meets regular operational costs through good management," the release said.

To illustrate, the tuition is currently \$990, while the true cost of an Aquinas education is in reality \$1,500 per year. In comparison, recent figures for Monroe County indicate that it costs \$2,500 to educate each student in the public high schools.

While keeping the tuition at a reasonable level, the dilemma is how to provide for capital improvements to buildings and grounds and for continued investment in human development over the next ten years.

The Basilian Fathers, together with dozens of Aquinas volunteers have dedicated themselves to keeping the "spirit of Aquinas alive." Father Joseph J. Moffatt, Aquinas principal, defined the spirit, saying, "What is Aquinas but the true extension of the Catholic family. Our vitality and spirit come from the caring for each other. This school will always be alive because the Aquinas spirit is forever."



Sports Tradition

Aquinas Institute is usually thought of as a football powerhouse. Through the years, beginning in 1930 when football was introduced to Aquinas, Little Irish football teams brought national recognition to the Dewey Avenue school.

From 1930-1945, under coach John Sullivan, Aquinas football teams won 66, lost 29 and tied 8. In the late 40s, under the tutelage of Harry Wright, and in the 50s, with coach Mickey Connelly, the football teams racked up impressive records.

Aquinas football games were also very popular with most Rochester residents. In one year, for example, a season attendance of 128,343 was recorded. That season was highlighted by the Boy's Town game watched by more than 23,000 people at Red Wing Stadium (now Silver Stadium).

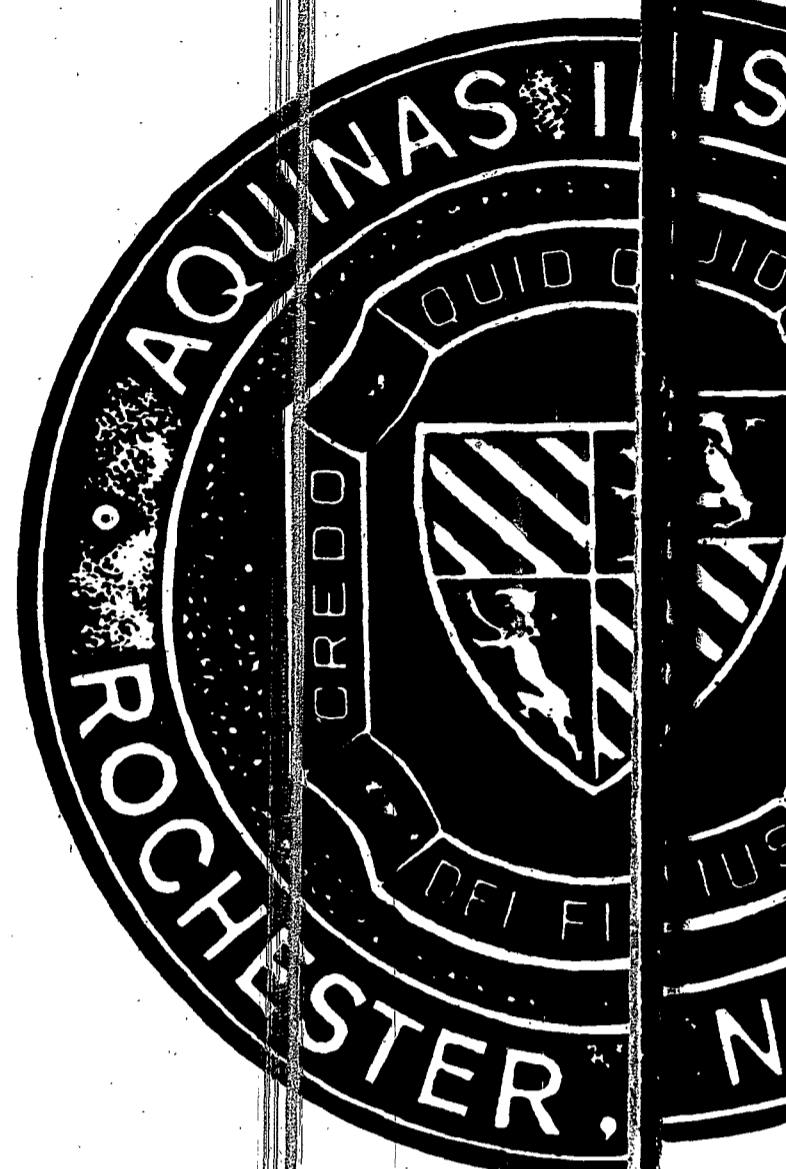
To accommodate these large crowds, Aquinas Stadium was built in 1949, through donations from the schools' alumni and friends. Most Sunday afternoons in the fall would find Aquinas Stadium filled to capacity with Little Irish fans.

In the 1970s Aquinas Stadium was renamed Hollender Stadium honoring one of the school's most renowned alumni, Don Hollender. Hollender starred for Aquinas and later became an All-American end at West Point. He was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967, shortly after attending Father Carter's Testimonial Dinner.

More recently, Aquinas football teams, under head coach Nick Teta, have won several City Catholic championships and have been ranked high in state polls.

In addition to football Aquinas has made its mark in a number of other sports. Track and field, baseball, basketball, soccer, hockey, cross country teams and the annual Aquinas Mission Sports all contribute to the school's sports tradition.

Aquinas sports were personified by the late Father Cy Carter, who served as athletic director at Aquinas for more than 20 years. Father Carter was actively involved in all phases of Aquinas sports and is remembered by thousands of alumni for his efforts.



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