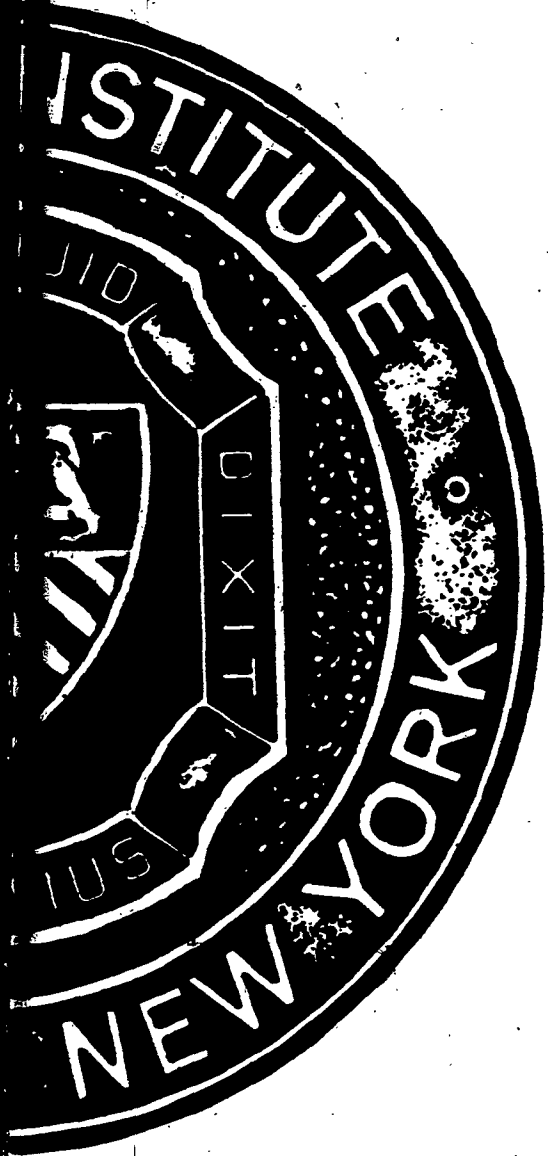


Development Program



Academics to Improve With Money Raised

A major portion of the \$2.5 million development project is scheduled to be invested in Aquinas' academic programs. Money will be used to set up more scholarships and student assistance programs for young men.

It will also be used to improve existing school equipment (science and language labs, expanding library facilities, etc.).

The Institute is as proud of its academic achievements as it is of its sports. In 1979, for example, only one in four schools across the country had an average-student score as high on the American College Entrance Test as did Aquinas.

Almost 80 percent of last year's seniors continued their education either in college or apprenticeship programs. On a statewide level, Aquinas had 25 Regents Scholarship winners last year; one of every six graduates was selected.

Aquinas attributes much of the academic success it enjoys to the school's faculty. Over 80 percent of the teachers at Aquinas have advanced degrees. The development fund will enable Aquinas to establish a sabbatical system for teachers to ensure the continued high competence of the staff.

Curriculum expansion is also planned. Currently, full academic offerings are taught on honors, regents and local levels. Advance placement college courses are available in English, math, physics, biology, American history and European history.

A new program is now offered, in cooperation with the new Edison Technical Center, for those students wishing occupational education courses.

The curriculum needs are always changing, however, and Aquinas wants to keep pace with those needs as they arise. The long-range development will help make this possible.

The Basilians and board of directors have also committed themselves to providing an Aquinas education to those who truly desire one, regardless of their ability to meet the current tuition costs. The \$990 yearly tuition does not meet the actual \$1,500 price tag. The difference has been made up, over the years, through the generosity of Aquinas alumni (through the annual appeal), and other fund raisers such as the Parents Association annual donation, bingo, socials and the student magazine drive.

The decision to undertake the development program was necessitated by inflation, the continuing rise in the costs



of education and the Aquinas tradition to keep tuition charges as reasonable as possible so that a Christian education might be offered to boys from all income families.

The school's philosophy has been that no qualified student be denied enrollment because of family need.

The success of the development program will allow Aquinas to maintain and improve these services to the community of Rochester.

Continues



Today, the winning tradition continues, but sports facilities must be improved. It is the hope of the Aquinas faculty and staff as well as the board of directors that the development program will answer those needs.

In addition to the general upgrading of existing sports facilities, the development funds will buy a new gymnasium to replace the original gym built 55 years ago, and add needed locker areas and sports equipment among other things.

The money will continue a tradition which every alumni fondly remembers.

A Brief History

The history of Aquinas Institute began in 1902, when the diocese established Cathedral High School for some 30 boy and girl graduates of St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School. In 1914 the school was renamed Rochester Catholic High School. It remained co-ed through 1916 when Nazareth Academy for girls moved into its new building on Lake Avenue.

Through the years enrollment grew at Catholic High and a larger building was needed. Land was acquired on Dewey Avenue, where the school now stands, and construction of the \$900,000 school building began in 1923. The new school, named Aquinas Institute, was opened in 1925.

Since that time the school has been a leader among all area high schools in academics, sports, music and drama. Graduates of Aquinas have gone on to become leaders in politics, medicine and business throughout the United States.

The Basilian Fathers took over Aquinas in 1937 and continue to conduct instruction today. The Basilians recently showed their commitment to the school by the order's investing \$300,000 for renovation of the priest house on Augustine Street.

From its beginning, Aquinas Institute has offered the opportunity to pursue an education in a Christ-centered environment to young men of the Rochester area.

More than 15,000 young men have been educated in this historic institution. Today more than 11,000 living alumni can reflect in their daily lives the expectations of the Basilian's motto, "Teach me goodness and discipline and knowledge."

Aquinas graduates have shown leadership in a

variety of fields because of their willingness to accept their responsibilities not only to themselves and their families, but to society.



Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, on right, and then Msgr. John F. O'Hern, vicar general, broke ground for the new high school on the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas on March 7.