

# Capital campaign at Aquinas gets big boost

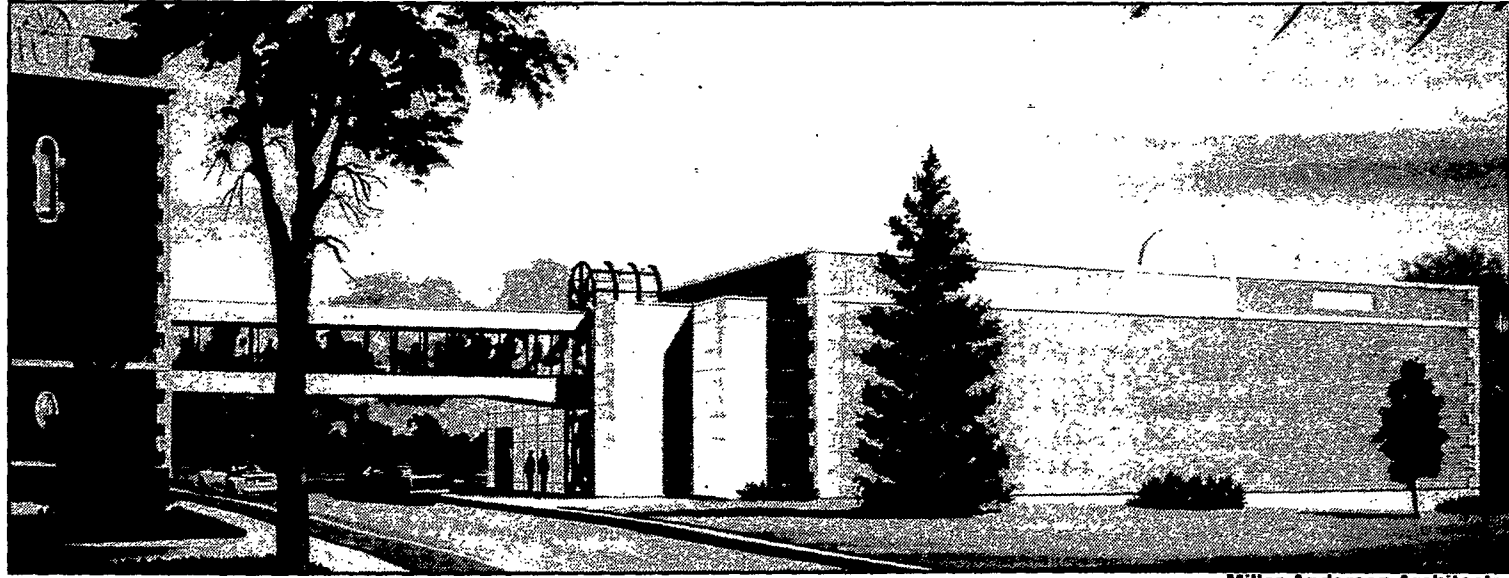
By Barbara Ann Homick  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Aquinas Institute announced March 20 that it is embarking on a \$7 million Campaign for Excellence. Half of the funds to be generated through the capital campaign are earmarked for school endowments that support student aid and faculty development. The remainder of the money is to be used for the expansion of school facilities.

Honorary campaign chairman Robert B. Wegman — chief executive officer of Wegman's Food Markets and a member of Aquinas' class of 1937 — announced the campaign during an assembly of the student body and the Aquinas Board of Trustees. Wegman said the campaign had already raised \$3.6 million, including a \$1 million personal gift from himself.

Endowment funds derived from the campaign will be used to underwrite the cost of fixing students' tuition throughout their years at Aquinas at the level established during their year of entry. Noting that recent tuition increases have averaged 7-15 percent per year, school officials said interest from the endowments will help to moderate tuition in coming years. Tuition in the current school year is \$2,567, and will increase to \$2,820 next year, officials said.

The idea of a fixed tuition, or tuition freeze, means that students will pay the



Miller-Anderson Architects

Funds from Aquinas Institute's \$7 million Campaign for Excellence will go toward the improvement of current facilities at the 66-year-old Dewey Avenue school. In addition, campaign funds will be used to build a new 1,500-seat sports complex on the campus' north lawn.

same amount of tuition in each of their years at Aquinas that they did in their year of enrollment.

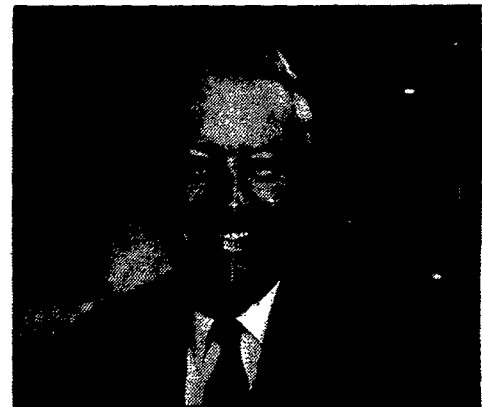
Aquinas also plans to further establish an endowment fund of \$150,000 to provide tuition assistance for needy students.

According to Father H.B. Gardner, CSB, school principal, about one in eight Aquinas students are now receiving some sort of financial assistance. "But more and more are needing it," he said.

Frank B. Iacovangelo, vice chairman of the campaign and a member of the school's 1958 graduating class, said that the financial assistance monies will be available for next fall's incoming classes.

Campaign monies will also be used to raise faculty salaries to levels competitive with the averages offered in public school systems.

"Teachers salaries are the principal reason for tuition increases. We need to



Honorary chairman Robert B. Wegman donated \$1 million as a personal gift to the campaign. The chief executive officer of Wegman's Food Markets graduated from the Aquinas Institute in 1937.

stay competitive with the public schools," explained Vincent L. Tofany (Class of 1944), general chairman of the campaign and executive director of the Rochester Homebuilder's Association.

"I think we've found the perfect mix of keeping tuition down and increasing salaries," remarked William Ouweleen, Aquinas' director of development.

Funds from the capital campaign also will be used to improve current facilities at the 66-year-old Dewey Avenue school, and to build a new 1,500-seat athletic complex on the campus' north lawn. Upon completion of the sports complex, Aquinas' ex-

Continued on page 15

## Budget ax aimed at non-public schools

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — According to the Council of Catholic School Superintendents, Gov. Mario Cuomo's proposed budget cuts in state aid to private and parochial schools would "carry disastrous consequences for children in non-public schools."

In a recent statement, the council noted that the governor has proposed major cuts in mandated-services reimbursement, remediation aid and asbestos-abatement grants.

Heading the list of worries held by Catholic school administrators is the gov-

ernor's proposed reduction in financial reimbursement to non-public schools for their provision of services mandated by the state. According to Brother Brian M. Walsh, diocesan school superintendent, examples of such services are the maintenance of daily attendance records at each school and its administration of Pupil Evaluation Program tests.

Last year, for the first time, the state Legislature appropriated only 70 percent, or \$22.8 million of the \$32.5 million needed to reimburse private and parochial schools for the cost of mandated services during the 1989-90 school year. In previous years, the Legislature has ap-

propriated 100 percent of the funds needed to reimburse non-public schools for their administration of mandated services, observers noted.

Last year's budget-cutting move left the Rochester diocese \$600,000 short of anticipated state funds to pay its bills this coming June, Brother Walsh said. He noted state reimbursement constitutes about 1.5 percent of the schools' total income, and pointed out that reimbursement funds are distributed in the school year following the year for which they are appropriated.

Cuomo has proposed that only \$29.2 million be appropriated this year to cover reimbursement costs. Under such a proposal, \$9.7 million would cover the balance owed to non-public schools for 1989-90, and provide only 60 percent of the mandated-services costs incurred by non-

Continued on page 15

## Anti-war activists could avoid trial stemming from trespassing

ROCHESTER — City Court Judge Teresa D. Johnson adjourned in contemplation of dismissal the cases against 11 protesters — including a Catholic pastor and a deacon — charged with third-degree criminal trespass after a January anti-war sit-in. Judge Johnson made the ruling on Tuesday, March 19.

Among the defendants in court on March 19 were Father Robert T. Werth, pastor of St. Bridget's Parish, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, and Deacon Eugene C. Fuerst, a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary's in Irondequoit.

John M. "Pat" O'Hara, a 12th defendant arrested in the Jan. 11 protest at Rochester's Federal Building, said he was scheduled to appear in court on April 2.

Judge Johnson's ruling means trespassing charges against the defendants will be dismissed after six months if they do not break any laws during that period. If the defendants do violate any laws in that time period, however, they would be faced with the original trespassing charges, as well as any new charges, according to Camille Ventura, the judge's secretary.

Judge Johnson also ordered the defendants to write letters of apology to the staff members in the offices of U.S. Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato and Congressman Frank Horton, whose Federal Building offices the protesters had occupied. The sit-in was designed to urge the two representatives to oppose a resolution authorizing President George Bush to use force to eject

Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The protesters who had occupied Senator D'Amato's office have already sent apologies to his staff, according to Jan Bezila, one of the defendants and a member of Faith and Resistance, a local Catholic anti-war/pro-life group. Bezila emphasized that the letters did not apologize for the protesters' stance on the war, but for the fact that they had inconvenienced the staff members through their demonstration.

The letter, written primarily by Carol Crossed, another Faith and Resistance member, was signed by five of the protesters and likened their efforts to past incidents of civil disobedience in U.S. history. The letter cited such figures as Henry David Thoreau, who protested the Mexican War by refusing to pay a poll tax, and Martin Luther King, who used non-violent civil disobedience in his fight against racial segregation.

The letter also stated: "Saddam Hussein is and was wrong. George Bush is and was wrong. Two wrongs do not make a right. Human life belongs to God alone and not to Iraq or the United States. It is necessary that we respect human life as sacred."

Bezila said Faith and Resistance has no plans for future protests, but that she nonetheless felt "the need to call the church and the nation to repentance for the war."

— Rob Cullivan

Law Offices  
**RON BUTTARAZZI**  
Full and comprehensive legal services for all personal, family and business concerns.  
"Counsel & support when you need it most."  
Wisdom, Justice, Judgement, Equity...Prov 1:1 **232-4640**

**Be Independent!**

If you or someone you know has difficulty in standing up or sitting down PrimaCare of Rochester can help return their independence with the flick of a switch. Our all electric, three position Lift Recliner provides safe, smooth movement with luxurious comfort, in a variety of colors & fabrics.

ORDER NOW — SAVE ALMOST 40%  
Sale Price Includes: Choice of Color, Fabric, Delivery, Set-Up, and One Year's Manufacturer's Warranty

**SALE PRICE \$795\*** Suggested List Price: \$1295

**PrimaCare of Rochester**  
Specialists in Home Medical Equipment & Supplies

654-6060 • 2294 E. MAIN ST. (Near Winton Rd.)

MON.-FRI., 9-5

VISA