

Aquinas campaign hopes to build on tradition

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — A recent fundraising effort reveals just how valuable an Aquinas Institute education is to the high school's alumni and supporters.

The \$7 million drive, known as the "Campaign for Excellence," has accelerated rapidly in recent months. Donations and pledges have ensured that Aquinas, 1127 Dewey Ave., will benefit from a major building addition as well as long-term financial support for its students and teachers.

According to Brian Buff, Aquinas' associate director for development, money raised thus far distinguishes the "Campaign for Excellence" as one of the largest high-school fundraising drives in the country.

Approximately half of the \$7 million is being invested in a new physical-education and science complex, currently being built by LeCesse Construction Co. Clearing for the facility took place during the summer of 1992, and construction began this past June.

When completed, the complex will occupy 35,000 square feet on the north side of the high school. The addition and main building, which was built in the mid-1920s, will be connected by a skyway.

Buff said the athletic area should be ready for use by the time basketball season opens in late November. The gymnasium will feature seating for approximately 1,000 spectators — more than twice the capacity of the current gym.

The science portion of this complex, containing six laboratories and classrooms, is scheduled to open in January, 1994. It will provide a more centralized facility than that offered by Aquinas' existing science department, which is housed on three different floors in the main building.

The other \$3.5 million raised from the "Campaign for Excellence" will be put into endowment funds that will provide financial aid for students as well as supplemental pay for teachers.

School principal Father Dennis P. Noelke, CSB, noted that these resources are necessitated by rising tuition costs, along with teachers' salaries that generally fall below the level offered by that public-school systems.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Construction of Aquinas Institute's new physical-education and science building began in June. The building's athletic area is expected to open in late November while the science portion is slated for use in January.

Much of the endowment-fund money was generated by pledges and will come in over the next few years, said Buff. Approximately \$1.5 million still must be raised as of last month in order to reach that campaign portion's \$3.5 million dollar goal.

The physical-education and science building, however, is being paid for in cash, largely due to some sizable donations made earlier this summer.

Back in March 1991, the "Campaign for Excellence" was kicked off with a \$1 million donation from Robert B. Wegman, chairman and chief executive of the Rochester-based Wegmans Food Markets Inc.

With contributions for the new building still approximately \$2 million short this past January, Wegman offered a challenge for donors to contribute \$1 million — a figure he would match if the money came in by June 30.

The deadline was narrowly met, thanks to a \$300,000 contribution made on the final day

from Jane Napier, widow of AQ graduate William J. Napier. Wegman, a 1937 AQ graduate, held up his end of the deal by writing a \$1 million check two days later, thus doubling his total investment in the drive.

With most of the \$7 million now either collected or pledged, Father Noelke ac-

knowledged that positive effects from the "Campaign for Excellence" will be felt for several decades to come.

"It's moving us forward more than any single event could do, by asking people to invest in Aquinas in this way," said Father Noelke. "This lets people know we're here for the long term."

Superintendent announces appointment of principals

ROCHESTER — Timothy W. Dwyer, superintendent of diocesan schools, has announced the appointment of the following nine principals for the 1993-94 school year.

In the Southeast Quadrant, Sister Kathleen Lurz, SSJ, will serve as principal of Seton Catholic School on Our Lady of Lourdes campus, 165 Rhinecliff Drive, Brighton. Steve Schockow was named principal of Siena Catholic Academy

on St. Thomas More Campus, 2617 East Ave, Brighton. Marilyn Dewey will be principal of St. Joseph School, 39 Gebhardt Road, Penfield.

In the Southwest Quadrant, Carol Robinson will serve as principal of St. Helen, 150 Lettington Drive, Gates.

The Northwest Quadrant will see Robert Edelman as principal of St. John the Evangelist, 2376 Ridge Road W., Greece, and Christopher Meagher as

principal of St. John the Evangelist, 55 Martha St., Spencerport.

Kathleen Peters was named principal of St. Michael, 320 S. Main St., Newark, in the Finger Lakes Cluster.

In the Genesee Valley Cluster, JoAnn Struck was named principal of St. Joseph, 209 Fremont St., Wayland, and Diane Sauerbier was appointed to St. Mary, 43 Elizabeth St., Dansville.

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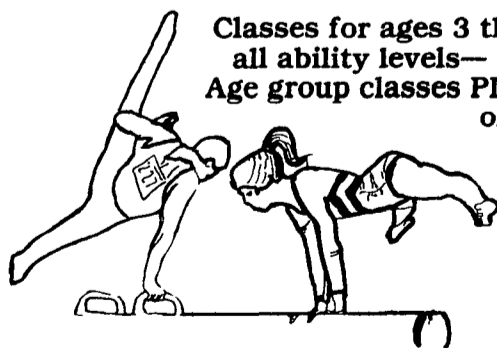
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