

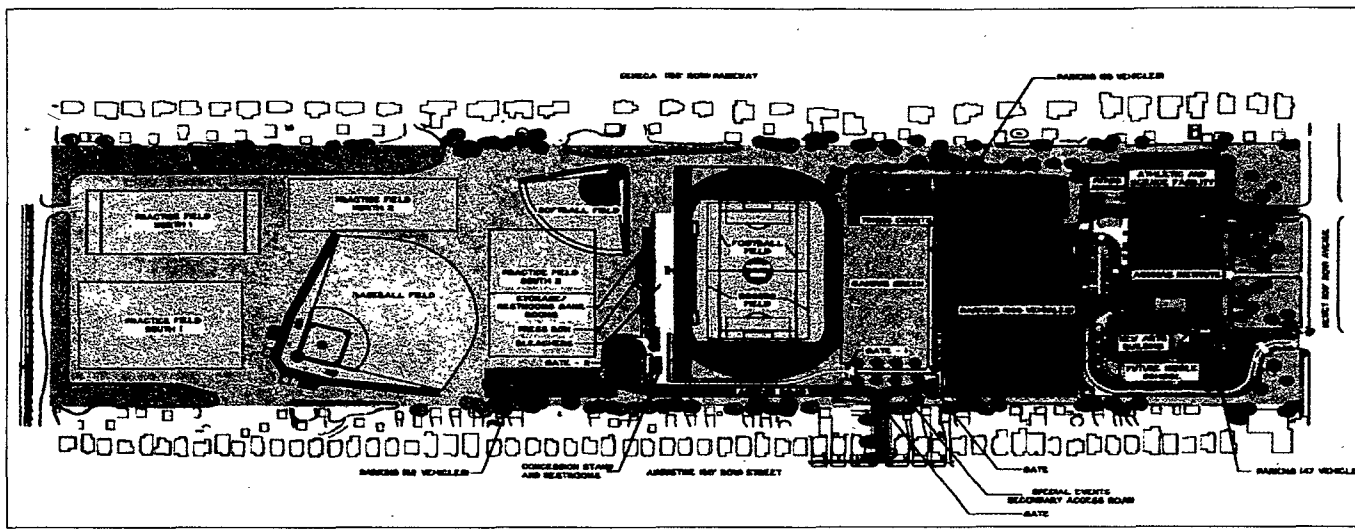
Aquinas to build stadium

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Aquinas Institute in Rochester plans to construct a new stadium and athletic fields by September 2004 as part of an overall plan to upgrade its facilities through a \$10 million gift from Robert B. Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets Inc.

The plan calls for a 2,000-seat lighted stadium with an artificial-surface playing field for football, soccer and lacrosse and an eight-lane track; four tennis courts; sports practice fields; and a parking lot. The new facilities will replace Stolze Field, where football and soccer are played, and relocate Pillitter baseball field.

The high school made the announcement in a Sept. 24 press statement.



Rendering courtesy of Parrone Engineering

This rendering shows the new facilities that will open by September 2004 at Aquinas Institute in Rochester.

In an interview, Aquinas President Michael R. Daley said the new athletic facilities will enable the school to be more attractive to prospective students.

"You're always looking to improve your facilities," he said. "We've never really evolved the campus to meet the needs of the athletic program. In our planning to attract and maintain enrollment in this economy, we needed to provide facilities that students would look to."

In addition to the new athletic fa-

ilities, Aquinas has already begun constructing a 20,000-square-foot addition for a fine arts center, which also is to be funded by the Wegman donation. Wegman, a member of Aquinas' class of 1937, announced the \$10 million gift in May 2002.

Originally, the Wegman gift was to be divided between construction of the arts center and funding of the school's scholarship endowment, according to Joseph B. Knapp, Aquinas spokesman. However, the school is currently able to meet the tuition-as-

sistance needs of its students, Knapp said, and after consulting with Wegman, opted to use part of the gift for the new athletic facilities.

With the ongoing construction of the fine arts center, many of the school's outdoor athletic activities this year have been taking place off-campus at local colleges, schools and parks, Daley said.

The new facilities will enable Aquinas to host night games, track and field events and home tennis matches, he added.

Beloved columnist plans to retire

Final column appears in this week's issue

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

After nearly 40 years, Father Albert Shamon is retiring from writing his weekly *Catholic Courier* column, "A Word for Sunday."

An advanced form of bone cancer has left Father Shamon's right arm paralyzed, forcing him to give up the column. His final contribution to the *Courier* appears on page 13 of this week's issue.

Father Shamon began writing the weekly column on Dec. 8, 1967, at the request of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, then the bishop of Rochester.

"Archbishop Sheen asked me to write an article to help the priests with their homilies. After that, I had so many people reading it that I continued it," Father Shamon said.

Each week, Father Shamon has taken the Scripture readings for the following Sunday and explained their meanings in layman's terms, often using contemporary situations as examples for readers to identify with. Although the focus of his column has remained the same over the



years, its name has changed slightly. When it first appeared, the column was called "Probing the Word."

On March 15, 1968, the title changed to "The Word for Sunday." As time went on, the word "the" was dropped, and later replaced by an "a," to arrive at the current wording.

"Probing the Word" was not Father Shamon's first contribution to the diocesan newspaper, however. In 1967 he authored "The Church: Sign of the Times," a 10-part series that appeared in the *Courier* over the course of five months and explained the documents of the Second Vatican Council. By that time, he was already a well-known author and lecturer on theological topics and a frequent contributor to the then-*Catholic Courier-Journal*.

In 1955, Father Shamon published his second book, *Treasure Untold, Reflections on the Apostles Creed*. Several chapters of this book origi-

nally appeared in the *Courier-Journal*, the name by which the *Courier* was known prior to 1989. Father Shamon has also written four other books, many booklets and articles on catechetics for journals of religious education.

Father Shamon said he plans to continue in his position as administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel in Fleming.

"I will be doing that, at least for a while. I don't have to write for that," he said.

"Father Shamon is one of the most accomplished, articulate, compassionate individuals who has been able to put all his experience and his prayer life together," said Father Lou Vasile, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn, where Father Shamon is in residence. "He's a model of Christian charity."

Karen M. Franz, editor and general manager of the *Courier*, said the newspaper's readers and staff will miss deeply the wisdom Father Shamon imparted each week. "I know many of our readers look forward to Father Shamon's weekly columns and that this will be a great loss for them," she said. "Yet I hope readers will understand his reasons for retiring and hold him in their prayers."

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