



ALUMNI MISSIONARIES

We hear many stories of Aquinas Alumni who leave these halls and go on to live out their faith through their vocations and parishes. Recently, we learned that four of our graduates have made the commitment to travel on mission trips to various parts of the world to serve the needy.

Veronica Hotovy '12 traveled to Chili this past summer as part of a FO-

CUS missionary trip. The first week they were there they spent with local high school students where they went with them into the homes of the poor in the area to talk with them, sing with them and share the Gospel. The second week they built a grotto in a park, repaired a community center and helped lay the floor of a chapel. "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life," said Hotovy, "The kindness and appreciation of all of the people in Santiago was incredible to see." Veronica made such good friends, that she traveled back to Chili this past Christmas break to visit again.

Conner Novacek '13, a nursing student at Benedictine College in Atchison, KS traveled to the Philippines, March 4th-13th with Benedictine College. Her trip

was a medical mission trip where they worked with Family Missions Company in their clinic to minister to people's physical needs by taking vital signs and administering medication. They also served their spiritual needs by praying with them and spreading the Gospel. They also ran a small clinic at Malaybalay City Jail.

Allison Hilfiker '13 traveled to Guyana, South America, March 5-

12 with FOCUS. The missionaries traveled around the country working with young children and spreading the Gospel. Allison is a junior at Wayne State College and involved with the FOCUS group there.

Ben Kranda '09, a FOCUS missionary at Wayne State College, led a group of WSC FOCUS students to Mexico City in March as part of a mission trip.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Superintendent and Development. Office	2
Alumni Giving Back	3
Births & Marriages	4
2016 Reunion Information	5
Monarch News	6-7
In memory of...	8-10
News & Notes	11
Reminders	12



Veronica Hotovy '12, third from the left, works with fellow missionaries to lay gravel outside a community center in Chili.

**Just before press time, we learned that Tony Birkel '11 and Nate Roh '11 are going to Hong Kong on a mission trip in May! Are you going on a mission trip? Let us know about it!

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Alumni,
Greetings from Aquinas Catholic Schools! I hope that this Alumni Newsletter finds you and your family well and basking in the Easter joy of the Risen Christ!

As many of you are aware, many in our school community are heavily involved in the implementation phase of our five-year strategic planning. We have administrators, teachers, alumni, parents and local civic and business leaders assisting us to create a bold and clear vision for Aquinas and St. Mary's. Last fall, our strategic planning team, also with input from current high school students, decided upon five main pillars or areas of our school system that we wanted to focus on and im-

prove. The pillars are explained below:

Supportive Student Life:

To create a positive student-centered experience with a spirit of achievement, unity and mutual support.

Sacred Catholic Founda-

tion: To sustain a fully integrated Catholic culture that encompasses Gospel values, the sacraments, and service to others as we live and celebrate the vitality of our faith.

Exceptional Learning Envi-

ronment: To make continuous learning a hallmark of Catholic education, maintaining high standards of academic excellence, while encouraging students to discover and fulfill their individual potential.

Dynamic Community Re-

lationships: To develop and

maintain strong relationships with the extended community and supporting parishes.

Financial Sustainability and Advancement:

To foster a spirit of unity and mutual support among the schools, parishes, and community for the long-term success of the schools and parishes and to secure the financial future of Catholic education.

It is our firm intention that this 2015-2020 Strategic Plan not be a dusty, never-opened binder. Rather, we want it to be a *living document*, which guides our Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools for many years to come.

I am extremely proud and grateful to all of our volunteers throughout this Strategic planning process, especially

our alumni. It says a lot about your devotion to Aquinas Catholic Schools, and your generosity to keep supporting us with your time, talent, and treasure; the three hallmarks of a good steward in Christ. Please pray for us and also be assured of our prayers and good wishes for you and your loved ones.

Have a Blessed Easter season!

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Jr. Sean M. Timmerman

Chief Administrative Officer

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT / ALUMNI OFFICE

Dear Alumni,
This past fall, the Strategic Planning Team for Aquinas and St. Mary's began work on a five-year plan to help insure the future of our schools. This team is made up of parents, alumni, and faculty. Most recently, implementation teams have been formed for the five pillars that make up the plan, and ideas and programs are being formulated to help sustain and improve the schools in the areas of Finance, Academics, Faith, Community and Student Life.

Alumni relations are included in the area of Community, and we have already begun finding ways that we can reach out to all of you and

keep you a part of your alma mater. We have both an Aquinas Alumni Facebook page and one for the school. The new website: www.aquinas-catholic.com has information specifically for alumni as well as news about what is currently happening at the school. When families let us know about deaths or illnesses that affect our alumni, we reach out via the facebook page and emails that we have on file. Having your current email address has become even more important for this reason and also for reunion planning. We recently asked for alumni to share with us any prayer intentions that they might have so that our students can

offer up those intentions during their monthly adoration time in the chapel. Not only do we hope to help you with the prayers but your intentions help our students to reflect and focus on specific intentions which builds their prayer life. Write us at: info-aquinas@cdolinc.net If you have any ideas of things you would like us to provide for our alumni, please let us know. We love to hear from you!

In Christ,
Deb Suec

Alumni Director



Please note the following alumni who were left off the Phone-a-thon list published last fall in the annual report:

Class of 1968

Carmie Bartunek Kimminau

Class of 1983

Geannie Hladky Darby

ALUMNI GIVING BACK

Aquinas alumni are always willing to come back to their alma mater and help out. Whether it be announcing at games, running the chains for football, judging lines, helping with cross country meets, serving on boards and committees, grilling burgers, moving snow, coaching, or any other activities around our schools, you will find alumni willing to help. Below are just a few alumni who have lent a helping hand with this year's students.



Elise Klosterman Brown '04 and Mary Klosterman '10 talked to the Class of 2016 about their college experiences, degrees and careers.

Matthew Kovar '13 and Scott Nemeč '15, both seminarians at St. Gregory the Great Seminary took time away from their studies to visit with the Class of 2016 when the class took a tour of the seminary.



Scott Hlavac '92 gave two different presentations to PE classes at Aquinas. He talked about the dangers of electricity and water and what to do if they found themselves in a car accident with a powerline pole. The other presentation was over CPR and using a defibrillator.

Matt (and wife Nissa) Hilger '92 and Tim Wollmer (Husband of Lori Yindrick Wollmer '92) along with Pat '94 and Jodi '97 (Stara) Prochaska, chaired the burger bash at all home football games this year!



B A B Y M O N A R C H S

Jake '10 and Cortny '10 Novacek Shonka, a daughter, Philomena Rae, born April 13, 2015

Jeff '97 and Kim Codr, twin girls, Hannah Joyce and Hailey Ann, born June 19th, 2015

Michelle Pohl Ploeger '01 and Dustin, a son, Hayden Layne, born August 5, 2015

Ryan '03 and Jenna '03 Peterson Didier, a son, Derek Ryan, born August 11, 2015

Jennifer Meysenburg Baisille '03 and Aaron, a daughter, Jocelyn Margaret, born August 14, 2015

Marty Moravec '00 and Erin, a daughter, Collins Mary, born August 31, 2015

Leslie Schmit Holloway '02 and Keelan, a son, Harvey Milton, born August 31, 2015

Lyle '89 and Angie Stara, a son, Gabriel Andrew, born September 14, 2015

Tony '98 and Sydney Kobza, a daughter, Amelia Jo, born on October 15, 2015

Ben '09 and Molly Kranda, a son, Colton Isaac, born October 17, 2015

Elisha Birkel Davis '08 and Andrew, twin sons, Koby James and Cole Timothy, born November 6, 2015

Aaron '00 and Danielle Kobza, a son, James Michael, born November 5, 2015

Erin Hotovy '93 and Melissa, a daughter, Addison Dylan, born November 10, 2015

Jodi Smith Dorcey '01 and Mike, a daughter, Sadie Marie, November 12, 2015

Andy Hough '95 and Sara, a daughter, Lillian Addison, born November 15, 2015

Michelle Sypal Chmelka '09 and Kyle, a son, Blake Lee, born December 15, 2015

Tommy '05 and Kristi Hough '05, a son, Ace Everett, born December 18, 2015

Kevin '94 and Hieu Palik, a son, Ryan Michael, born December 26, 2015

Mick '97 & Susi '99 Vaca Coufal, a son, Kole Jakub, born January 7, 2016

Nolan '04 & Ashley DeWispelare, a son, Landon Lee, born January 9, 2016

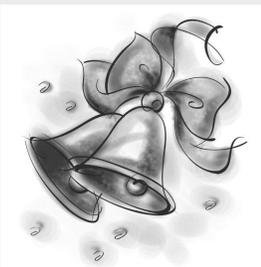
Alison Prigge Fozzard '07 and Tyler, a son, Dylan Scott, born January 18, 2016

Laura Plasek Warriner '05 and Shaun, a son Johnathan Waldo, January 20, 2016

Shaunice Hilger Alikian '04 and Ara, a daughter, Finley Anayis, born March 12, 2016



M A R R I A G E S



Megan Kucera '06 to Dustin Valenti, September 12, 2015

Justin Bomar '03 to Emily Schroer, December 31, 2015

Please let us know if you have births, marriage or news to share! We love to hear from you and want to share your good news with other alumni!

2016 Class Reunions

When and Where.....

Class of 1966—50 years—June 11th, at Len Sloup's in Lincoln

Class of 1971—45 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 1976—40 years—August 6th, 4:00pm Mass & Tour at Aquinas, followed by evening supper and gathering at Sonora Carriage Company. Contact Jerry Roh, 402-367-7892 for more information

Class of 1981—35 years—August 13th at Marietta, Presentation Parish. Mass with Fr. Jim Meysenburg is at 4pm followed by the meal served by Scott Buresh in the hall. \$15.00 at the door. Please RSVP the number attending by July 20th to: lamjfozz@stewireless.com. Consider this your invitation! There will also be golfing for anyone who would like to the morning of August 13 at Par IV. Let Mary Jo know if you are interested when you RSVP for the meal! Hope to see you there!!

Class of 1986—30 years—There will be a 30 year reunion. It is in the planning stages right now. Your classmates will be letting you know via email.

Class of 1991—25 years—August 13th, 6:00pm, Jim Plasek's place

Class of 1996—20 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 2001—15 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 2006—10 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 2011—5 years—Not available at press time.



DWIGHT ASSUMPTION REUNION



The Dwight Assumption Class of 1951 met for a brief reunion in Lincoln, NE on July 23, 2015.

Pictured at left: Vangie Kouma, Lincoln; Sister Pauline Albin, S.L of Kentucky and Marcie Gruntorad Coufal, Seward. The other living member of the class is Jeanne Lavicky Coufal who was not able to attend.

CONFERENCE CHAMPS... THEN AND NOW!

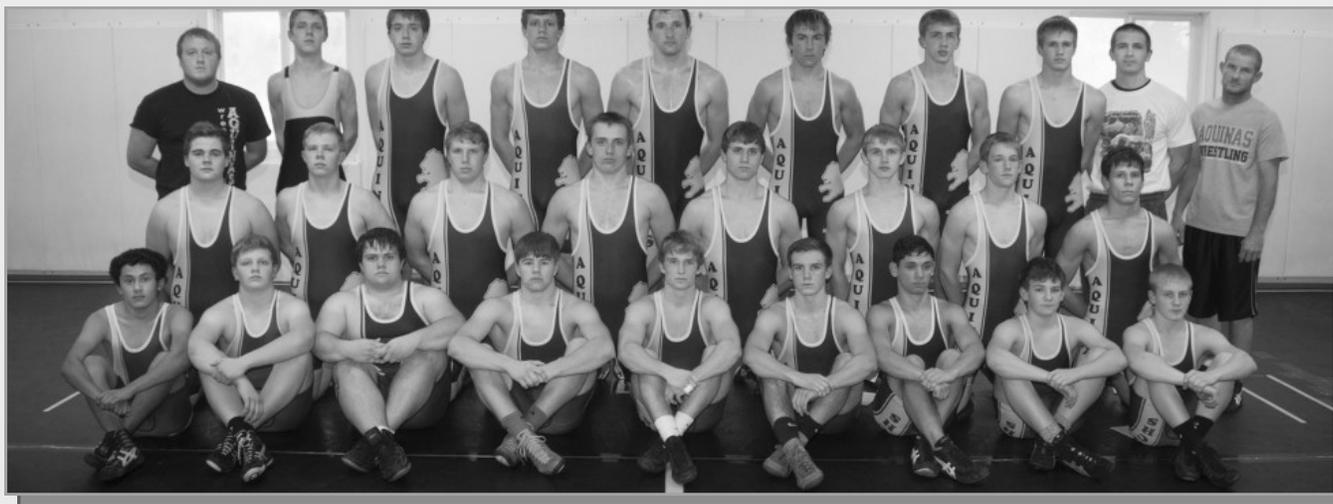


It took almost 40 years but the Aquinas Speech team has once again captured the Centennial Conference Championship title. The last time Aquinas won the title was in 1977. The names of those alumni in the picture above as listed in the yearbook are: (Sr.) Jeanette Rerucha, Cathy Hain, Jeanne Hook, Jan Petrzilka, Rosanne Fox, Curt Zavodny, Jim Proskovec, Ken Kloke, Deb Spitz, Betty Homan, Karen Polak, Vicki Warholoski, Jane Tomek, Deb Cemper, Susan Vrbka and Pat Ptacek. Aquinas won this year's Conference Championship by over 100 points and had 18 entries in finals. Aquinas won the state speech championship in 1996.

NEWS FROM MONARCH TERRITORY



The Aquinas Monarch Football team captured another State Title in November. If you were to see a roster, you would see many names you recognize as many of the players are sons of Aquinas Alumni and many of the coaches are alumni also. Thank you to all of the alumni who came to Memorial Stadium in Lincoln to cheer on your alma mater.



The Aquinas Wrestling team enjoyed a successful season as the Conference Runner-up, District Runner-up and qualifying seven wrestlers for the state tournament in Omaha. Six of those seven are sons of Aquinas Alumni. You might recognize the three gentlemen on either end of the back row. They are Coaches Andy Croghan '04 (left), Andrew Daro '06 and Eric Pflum '97. (right)

IN MEMORY OF...

Ed Greguras

passed away on October 14, 2015 in Seward, NE at the age of 65 years. Ed, better known as Eddie, was born on March 2, 1950 to Edward, Sr. and Marie (Hain) Greguras in Seward, NE. Ed attended school in Bee, Nebraska, and then Dwight Assumption School before graduating in **1968 from Aquinas High School** in David City. He enlisted in the United States Navy on February 18, 1971, and served during the Vietnam War before being discharged on December 6, 1972. On September 4, 1971, Ed was united in marriage to his high school sweetheart Cathy (Berglund) Greguras in David City, NE. Ed was a member of Dwight Legion Post #110 and honored to be a veteran. Ed is survived by his wife, Cathy (Berglund) Greguras, Seward, NE; children, and siblings.

**Denis J. Vrbka, 85, of**

Brainard, died Sunday, October 18, 2015, at St. Joseph's Villa in David City.

Denis J. Vrbka was born April 15, 1930, on the family farm west of Brainard to John and Helena (Rolenc) Vrbka. He went to School District 35 and Holy Trinity in Brainard through eighth grade. He graduated from **Dwight Assumption High School in 1947**. Denis was a veteran of the Korean War, serving from 1952 to 1953 in Korea. On Aug. 18, 1954, he married JoEllen Hakenkamp, and they moved to the family farm near Brainard. Denis was devoted



to farming and spent his life in that career. A lifetime member of Rejda Post 273, Denis also belonged to the Brainard Fire Department and Brainard Rural Fire Board. He served on the board of directors for the Butler County Public Power District, Holy Trinity Church, Farmers Cooperative, and Farmers Union Cooperative of Brainard. Survivors include his children, grandchildren and siblings. He was preceded in death by his wife, JoEllen, who died earlier this year on Feb. 27.

Ludmilla "Ludy" Hanus Birkel, 90, of David City,

passed away on October 25, 2015, at St. Joseph's Court in David City.

Ludy was born March 27, 1925 to Leo and Mary (Mach) Hanus, on a farm near Brainard. At a young age, the family moved to a farm near Bellwood where she attended St. Mary's Grade School at Presentation Parish, then graduated from **Marietta High School in 1942**. After high school, she took a job at First National Bank, in David City, to help pay for her younger sister's Catholic tuition. On January 6, 1947, Ludy was united in marriage to Clarence "Farmer" Birkel and from this union, 8 children were born. She devoted her life to raising her family, in large part by gardening, canning, cooking, baking, sewing, and later took up crocheting. Her commitment to her Catholic faith was demonstrated in her involvement in the Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW), Catholic Daughters, St. Mary's Guild, the Seminarians Club and the Altar Society at

both Presentation Parish and St. Mary's Parish. She served as an officer in each of these organizations. Ludy is survived by her children, her sister, 29 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband: Clarence, in April of 1991; four brothers, three sisters; and an infant great-granddaughter.

Ann M. Yindrick, 68, of

Lawton, Oklahoma, passed away Friday, October 30, 2015 at Grady County Memorial Hospital, Chickasha, Oklahoma. She was born April 28, 1947 at David City, Nebraska to Louis and Amelia (Bartunek) Yindrick the youngest of six children. Ann was baptized and confirmed at Appleton Assumption Catholic Church, David City, NE. She graduated from **Aquinas High School in 1965**. She was employed by the Comptroller of the Currency, U. S. Treasury Department in Dallas, Texas for the past 6 years. Prior to that she was with the FDIC for 20 years. Following her April 2015 retirement she moved to Oklahoma. Those left to cherish her memory include her sisters, a sister-in-law and many nieces, nephews, cousins and best friend Susan Sasser. She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister and brother, brothers-in-law and a nephew.



Robert J. Masek, 67, of David City, died Monday, November 23, 2015, at the Butler County Healthcare Center in David City. Robert was born September 4, 1948, in David

City, Nebraska to Charles and Dorothy (Timms) Masek. He attended school in David City and graduated from David City **Aquinas High School in 1966**. He entered the United States Army and served during the Viet Nam Conflict. In 1970 he married Nancy Supancheck. They had two sons, Jason and Brian, and later divorced. Robert worked for many years at Henningsen Foods in David City. Robert is survived by his two sons, one brother, three sisters and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents.

William "Bill" Puetz died

November 28, 2015. He was 74 years old.

Bill was a **1959 graduate of St. Mary's High School**. He was



preceded in death by parents Lawrence and Lillian Puetz. Bill is survived by wife Patricia Puetz, children, a grandson, brothers Jim (Judy) Puetz, Gary (Judy) Puetz; sister Nancy (Ron) Zahourek; mother-in-law Geraldine Higgins; nieces and nephews.

Lorraine Hoffbauer passed away December 4, 2015, at the age of 90 years. She was born July 3, 1925, to the late Henry and Elizabeth (Theewen) Phillips in David City, Nebraska and moved to Essexville, Michigan, in 2010 to be near her daughter, Kathy. Lorraine is a **1943 Dwight Assumption graduate**. She is survived by five children: Ronald Hoffbauer of Phoenix, AZ, Katherine (James) LaLonde of Essexville, MI, Russ (Lisa) Hoffbauer of Bloomington, IL, Robert (Peg) Hoffbauer of Des Moines, IA, Richard (Cheryl) Hoffbauer of Columbus, NE; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her sister: Betty (Larry) Stuchlik of Lincoln, NE. Besides her



parents and her husband, Leo who passed away on March 18, 2005, she was

predeceased by her daughter: Barbara Palik; sisters: Annarose McCoy; Bernice Spahr; brothers: Sylvester, Harold, Eugene and Lester Phillips.

Jerry Miratsky, 70, died on November 19, 2015, in Houston, Texas, of cancer. His parents were Anton Miratsky, Jr. and Lillian Miratsky. Jerry graduated from **Aquinas High School in 1963**. He grew up with his sister, Ceclia, and brother, Richard.



Bernadette Tomes Lucas, 89, Springfield, Missouri, passed away on January 6th, 2015, in Mercy Villa. She was born in Dwight, Nebraska, to Ernest Tomes and Mildred Dosek Tomes. She graduated from **Assumption High School in 1943**. Bernie married John Lucas, Jr., July 1st, 1950. She retired from Sweetheart Cup/Lily-Tulip Cup after a 20+ year career. Bernie enjoyed an active association in the Catholic Church community her entire life. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, and a grandchild. Bernadette is survived by her husband, John; a sister, eight children, 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.



Julius James Hotovy was born April 17, 1932, on the family farm northwest of Dwight, Nebraska, the son of Ludvik



Frank and Rose Frances (Helman) Hotovy. Julius passed away on December 19, 2015, in David City, Nebraska, at the age of 83 years. He was a **1950 graduate of Dwight Assumption High School** and served in the U.S. Navy from January 1, 1955 through September 5, 1957. On February 18, 1956, Julius was united in marriage to Connie Alice Novacek at Assumption Catholic Church and their marriage was blessed with three children, Bob, Jerry and Sandy. Julius was a lifelong farmer and livestock producer. His interests included 4-H fairs and livestock shows, high school and Husker sports, three decades of competitive running starting at age 50, decorating the yard, woodworking, hunting and fishing, extensive traveling and spending time with the grandchildren. Julius was a member of Dwight Assumption Catholic Church and Dwight American Legion Post #110. Julius is preceded in death by his parents; an infant brother, a brother and inlaws. Survivors include his wife, Connie; children and spouses, six grandchildren, a brother, sisters and brothers-in-law.



Dorothy Janky, age 90, of rural Bellwood, died Sunday, December 27, 2015 at her home. Dorothy Janky was born November 10, 1925 in Bellwood, Nebraska to Louis and Mary T. (Kobza) Nozicka. She graduated from **Marietta High School in 1943**. On June 18, 1946 she was united in marriage to Albin R. Janky at Marietta Catholic Church. They lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, for several years before returning to the Butler County area. From 1956 until the present, she has resided on the family farm near Bellwood. She worked at Dale Electronic, along with raising her family

and helping on the farm. She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church where she served as the sacristan for many years and sang in the choir. She is survived by a daughter, daughter-in-law, grandson, sister-in-law and nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her husband, her parents and a son.

Monsignor Daniel J.



Pohl, 89, of Lincoln died Sunday, December 27, 2015. Monsignor was a WWII Army Air Corp veteran and retired priest. He **taught at Aquinas High School**. He was a member of Cathedral of the Risen Christ, and Knights of Columbus 4th Degree. Survivors include: sister-in-law, Norma Pohl of Omaha, 7 nieces & 9 nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister and a brother.

Monsignor Myron J.

Pleskac, 81, of Lincoln died Sunday, January 3, 2016. Msgr.



Pleskac was a **1952 graduate of Assumption High School**. He was a retired Catholic Priest for the Diocese of Lincoln. Survivors include nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, and one sister.

Rachelle "Shelly"

Kucera, 50, of David City, died Friday, February 5, 2016, at her home in David City. Shelly was born August 4, 1965, in David City to Lee and Wilma (Cockson) Kobza. She attended school in David



City and graduated from **Aquinas High School in 1983**. On August 11, 1984, she married Mike Kucera at St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City. Shelly operated her own business, cleaning homes and businesses in David City for many years. Family was everything to Shelly and she enjoyed spending time with everyone. Shelly is survived by the love of her life, Mike Kucera of David City, her daughter, Megan (Dustin) Valenti, Lincoln, two sisters; Suzi (Randy) Tamerius, Lincoln, Stephanie (John) Crowley, Westerly, Rhode Island, parents, Wilma Kobza of David City and Lee (Karen Overturf) Kobza of Duncan, father and mother-in-law Chuck and Nadine Kinnison of Columbus and brother-in-laws, Steve (Laura) Kucera, David City and Jeff Kinnison of Bellwood, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her, son Justin Kucera (2007), father-in-law, Ernie Kucera and her grandparents.

Lumir J. Oborny, 69, of Bellwood, died Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at the Faith Regional Center in



Norfolk. Lumir was born in the corridor of St. Mary's Hospital in Columbus shortly after his twin brother was born in the car, on January 19, 1947, to Rudolf and Agnes (Divis) Oborny. He farmed with his father all through high school, graduating from **Aquinas in 1966**. He served in the Army National Guard from 1966-1972. On November 14, 1970, he married Marvina Baxa at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Belleville, Kansas. They lived in Bellwood and Lumir worked at the Schuyler Pack, the Coop grain elevator in Bellwood, Drew's Tire Service in David City, Northside and for over 23 years at Timpte. He was a member of St. Peter's Catholic Church, a

4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Bellwood American Legion and former member of the Bellwood Volunteer Fire Department. Lumir is survived by his wife, Marvine of Bellwood, three daughters; Janet(Tom) Harrington of Norfolk, Kathy(Shawn) Strizek, Valparaiso, Lynn (Shane) Kavan, Elkhorn, four grandchildren one sister, Fran(John) Pachta, Bellwood, four brothers; Charlie(Dorothy) Oborny of Bellwood, Father Rudy Oborny of Hebron, twin brother Louie(Rose Ann) Oborny, Bellwood and Jerry(Becky) Oborny of David City and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Joe Oborny.

Gregory Frank Bartek was born July 24, 1939, on the family farm north of Agnew, Nebraska, the son of Stanley William and Rose Marie (Jirovsky) Bartek and passed away on February 25, 2016, in Grand, Nebraska, at the Nebraska Veterans' Home, at the age of 76 years. Greg attended school at Agnew through the 8th grade and was a **1957 graduate of Assumption High School** in Dwight. Greg worked on the farm from 1957 through 1960 when he entered the U.S. Army and served from 1960 through 1966. Greg was employed with the State of Nebraska Department of Roads for 38 years. On October 11, 1981, Greg was united in marriage to Leona Perrin at Overton, Nebraska. Leona passed away, and Greg was united in marriage to LuWanna Schauer on September 29, 1996 in

Lincoln, Nebraska. LuWanna passed away in 2012.

Greg was a life member of Dwight American Legion Post #110 and a longtime member of Catholic Workmen, Agnew Branch #183. Greg is preceded in death by his parents, Stanley and Rose Bartek; his wives, Leona Bartek and LuWanna Bartek; his sisters, Virginia Skipper, Diane Wortz and Doris Bouc; an infant brother, Joseph.

Rita Margaret Kobza was born March 20, 1925, on the farm northwest of Dwight, Nebraska, the daughter of John Charles and Emma (Novak) Kobza and passed away on March 5, 2016, in Seward, Nebraska, at the age of 90 years, 11 months, 14 days. Rita was a **1942 graduate of Assumption High School** in Dwight. After high school she studied telegraphy and worked in Marysville, Kansas, and Glenvil, Nebraska. Later, Rita worked on the farm and helped care for her mother. After moving to Seward, she was a day care provider for several children in the area. Rita attended Assumption Catholic Church in Dwight and after moving to Seward attended St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church.

Rita is preceded in death by her parents, John and Emma Kobza; her sister and brother-in-law, Henrietta and Bohumil Hain; sister-in-law, Delores Kobza and half-brothers and spouses, Jerry and Agnes Kobza, Raymond "Cy" and Charlotte Kobza, Julius and Elaine Kobza, George and Adeline Krska, and half-sister and husband, Anna and Ed Zitek; nephew, Greg Hain and great nephew, Eric Bader.

Survivors include her siblings and spouses, Lillian Kobza, Seward, Dorothy and Joe



Miriovsky, David City, John Kobza, Columbus, Gilbert and Florence Kobza, Seward; numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

Richard S. Polak, 88, of David City, passed away March 7, 2016, peacefully, at his home. Richard Polak was born February 1, 1928, to Ivan and Frances (Sedlak)Polak, on the family farm near Shelby. The family moved to Brainard where he **graduated from Dwight Assumption High School in 1945**. He attended Creighton University before serving in the army in Korea for two years. Upon discharge from the service, he started working at Butler County Public Power District. On September 25, 1954, he married Rita Mae Cernohlavek. Five children were born of this union. After 42 years, he retired as office manager of the REA. Richard spent his life in service to his family, his church and his community. Some of the activities included a life membership of VFW Post #5814, member of Nebraska Partners of the Americas, and past Grand Knight of the local Knights of Columbus Council #1717. The family also welcomed students from Chile into their home, several becoming like their children. Richard is survived by his wife Rita Polak of David City, children Diana (Bill) Kucera of Thornton, CO; Dr. Mark (Deb) Polak of Virginia Beach, VA; Joan (Dale) Stewart of McCook, NE; Karen (Randy) Johnson of Windsor, CO; Ann (Nick) Reisinger of Winfield, MO, sisters Georgia Siragusa and Sr. Joan Polak, N.D. of Omaha and



Rose Marie (Denny) Rosenberger of Denver, CO. He was preceded in death by his parents Ivan and Frances (Sedlak) Polak, stepfather Fred Kriz, brother Dr. Leo Polak and sister Dolores Cimino.

Marcella Ann Hottovy Hraban was born March 10, 1926 in Dwight to Adolph Ernest and Helen Mary (Soukup) Hottovy and passed away on March 24, 2016 in Wahoo, Nebraska at the age of 90 years and 14 days. Marcella, known by everyone as Marcie, was a **1944 graduate of Assumption High School**, Dwight, Nebraska. Marcie was united in marriage to George Albert Hraban on October 14, 1947 at Assumption Catholic Church in Dwight. To this union three children were born, Gregory, Randall and Vickie. Marcie worked in Lincoln for the Elgin Watch Company before moving back to Dwight in 1953, where she owned and operated Hraban Thriftway Store for over 38 years. Marcie was a longtime member of Assumption Catholic Church, Altar Society and the Dwight American Legion Auxiliary. Marcie was preceded in death by her husband, George in 2004. Marcie is survived by her children and their spouses, Greg and Susan Hraban, Wahoo, Randy and Arliss Hraban, Dwight, and Vickie and Roger Otto, Lexington; her eight grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren, brother and sister-in-law, Eugene and Paula Hottovy, Lincoln; sister, Elaine Panfil, Orland Park, IL; brother-in-law, Louis Belsan, Chula Vista, CA; sisters-in-law, Mildred Buckingham, Gretna, Mary Ann Morton, Lincoln; nieces and nephews; other relatives and a host of friends.





NEWS AND NOTES



Jason Proskovec '93, received the Marty Ward Award recognizing him as a distinguished construction leader. This award was given by Peter Kiewit

Sons' Inc. and recognizes him for his honesty, integrity, dedication, loyalty, perseverance, fairness and pride in workmanship.

Marissa DeWispelare '13

continues to excel in Cross Country and Track at Doane College in Crete. She qualified for nationals once again for Cross Country .



She was named the 2015 GPAC runner of the year for Cross Country. She also qualified for nationals in indoor track where she competed in three events and achieved three time All American.

Marty Meysenburg '67 shared that he will be retiring from Ferguson Enterprises in the fall of 2016. He said it has been a great career.

Kayla Schmit Zebrowski '04 is the Manager of Fundraising and Special Events for Tour de

Cure at the American Diabetes Association.

Peggy Romshek '90 has been hired to become the Director of Special Services for North Platte Public Schools starting July 1. She has 21 years experience in special education. Romshek was recognized by the Nebraska Council of School Administrators with their Distinguished Service Award in 2015. She is working on her doctorate through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Col. Dan Danaher '71 retired



from the Active Nebraska Army National Guard and was awarded the National Defense Meritorious Service Medal. His last deployment was to Afghanistan in 2009.

Demi Bartunek '07 is the new Chamber Director for the Butler County Chamber of Commerce. She will also be working with the Butler County Area Foundation.



Todd DeWispelare '01 was recently promoted to Lead Lender of the First National Bank in David City.



Matt Hilger '92 was honored as the Community Service Award winner of the year at the annual Butler County Chamber of Commerce Banquet for his service with the Volunteer Fire Department. Matt and his wife Nissa have also helped to head up the Aquinas Booster Club Burger Bash for the past couple of years.



Jason Jirovsky '96, is the Manager of Agricultural Applications at John Deere in Waterloo, IA.



Roy Emory '02, has accepted the Aquinas High School Science position for next year. He will also be an assistant coach for football and wrestling. He is currently teaching and coaching at Grand Island Central Catholic. We are excited to have him, his wife Jenesis, and their three children join our Aquinas & St. Mary's Family.



If you have any interesting news or notes concerning Aquinas alumni, please consider contacting me for inclusion in future newsletters. Please include as much information as you can as well as contact information. If you would like to send me information or if you need to contact me, I can be reached at:

E-mail: deb-svec@cdolinc.net Phone: (402) 367-3175

Address: P.O. Box 149, David City, NE 68632 c/o Deb Svec

Please also check us out on the web:

www.aquinas-catholic.com or find us on Facebook by search Aquinas High School Alumni



AQUINAS ALUMNI NEWS
P.O. Box 149
DAVID CITY, NE
68632-0149

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
David City, NE.
Permit 30

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Keep up with what is going on with Aquinas and Aquinas Alumni through our Facebook page. Look for us at:
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Aquinas-High-School-Alumni/134378903298894>



*The Aquinas Class of 2016—
the 55th graduating class,
will graduate on Sunday,
May 15th at 2:00 p.m.*

Phone-a-thon 2015 pledges have come in quickly and as of the printing of this newsletter, we have received over \$50,000.00

Remember: You have until August 31, 2016, to send in your pledge.

Thank you for your support!

Phone-a-thon 2015

