

OFFICAL AQUINAS, ST. MARY'S, ASSUMPTION & MARIETTA ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## **CONTENTS**

Chief Administrative Office & Development	
Office	2
News & Notes	3
Births, Weddings, Vocations	4
2019 Reunion Info	5
In memory of	6
News from the halls of Aquinas	9
Upcoming Events	12



12

# Sisters Remembered...

ifty years ago this past November 21. three School Sisters of St. Francis from the area were killed in a tragic car accident by Brainard, NE. Two of the sisters. Sister **Clementa Curley and** Sister Barbara Schmit, were teachers at Marietta, and Sister **Rosaline Tharnish was** a teacher at Aguinas.

ister Rosaline had **Otaught at Aquinas** 

since it opened. She taught English, Algebra, Economics and Latin. Sister was also a moderator for the Latin Club, the Yearbook and was the Drama director.

his past November, parishioners of **Presentation Parish** held a Mass of Remembrance for the three women who perished in the

accident. Family members of the three women and former students were encouraged to attend and share memories.

**Tollowing the** Mass, those in attendance processed outside where the school bell was rung in their honor, and then everyone went to the parish hall for refreshments and

**Members of Sister Rosaline's** family were in attendance for the Mass.



Pictured above are Sister Clementa. Sister Rosaline and Sister Barbara.



Page 2 Aquinas Alumni News



# A Message from Aquinas & St. Mary's Chief Administrative Officer

## Dear Aquinas Alumni,

Greetings from Aquinas Catholic Schools! As some of you are aware, we are beginning a new five-year strategic planning process. We had great success in our 2015-2020 Plan, and we are looking forward to the many graces and blessings that the 2020-2025 Plan will bring us.

We have administrators, teachers, parents and many alumni assisting us to create a clear vision for Aquinas and St. Mary's. While the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan will be new and different, we are keeping the five main pillars from last time, since their importance has not changed. The pillars are Supportive Student Life, Sacred Catholic Foundation, Exceptional Learning Environment, Dynamic

Community Relationships, and Financial Sustainability and Advancement.

Supportive Student Life: To create a positive student-centered experience with a spirit of achievement, unity and mutual support. Sacred Catholic Foundation: 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 Environ**ment: 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 Relationships:** 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.

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-St. Mary's Catholic Schools, and your generosity to keep supporting us with your time, talent, and treasure; the three hallmarks of a good steward in Christ. The more that our alumni and community volunteers learn about

the inner-workings of the school in the strategic planning process, the more they are illuminated to the outstanding faculty, staff and students that we have.

Please pray for us and our strategic planning, that all we do will be blessed abundantly by God and for His greater honor and glory.

Also be assured of our prayers and good wishes for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

In Sean M. Timmerman

Fr. Sean Timmerman Chief Administrative Officer



# A Message from Aquinas Catholic Development & Alumni Office

### Dear Aquinas Alumni,

I recently visited with a young parent who graduated from another school in the area but who plans to send their children to Aquinas & St. Mary's. They gave me a view from the "outside looking in" that sometimes I think we take for granted. They said that they can "see a definite difference between the students who graduate from Aquinas and those

who graduate elsewhere and that difference boils down to one word--respect." This parent told me that he wants his children to learn "respect" in school along with all of the basic curriculum and that is why they will be sending their children here.

As an alumnus of this school, you will be glad to know that Aquinas & St. Mary's haven't changed over the years

in what we expect of our students. What we offer here is different, and we are proud of that and strive to improve on it wherever we can.

Another comment came from a local businessman who asked one of our school officials, "What are you doing out there with your students, because they are so confident, respectful and mature."

Getting the chance to

see what it looks like from the "outside looking in" helps us to realize that we are accomplishing our mission here "to provide a Christ-centered learning environment to prepare students for their future involvement in church, family and civic relationships."

In Christ, *Seb Svec*Alumni Director

## **News and Notes**



Joni Rerucha Ebel '95 received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching for 2019.

## **Terrance (Terry) Waiss**



**'71** celebrated his 10th anniversary of his ordination as a

Deacon for the Diocese of Salt Lake City in January. He retired from the Air Force in 1996 and from the IRS in 2018. He and his wife Nancy have three children.

## Rick Grubaugh '76



became the 25th Nebraska Realtor to be inducted in

to the Realtor Party Hall of Fame. Grubaugh has served as a Nebraska RPAC Trustee and Chairman and in 2020 will be the RPAC Fundraising Chairman for the Realtors of Nebraska. Grubaugh is the Broker/Owner of RE/MAX Total Realty, Columbus, NE and Grubaugh Auction Service.

Mary Jo Meister Fozzard '81 was chosen as a 2019 Caring Kind Recipient for Nebraska. Mary Jo is employed by the Butler County Health Care Center.

Miles Eggleston '19 was selected for the 2019-20 Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council.

Ivy Schmid '19 was admitted as an Early Admission Scholar to the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State.

Jasmine Beringer '16 and John Paul Svec '16 have been accepted into the University of Nebraska School of Law in the fall of 2020.

Emily Heermann '15 was part of an art show at Wayne State College for senior college students. Her artwork explored the human impact on environmental creation and destruction.

Nolan DeWispelare '04 is the boys tennis coach at Pius X High School where they were the champions in Class A last fall. He also was honored by the National Speech and Debate association with the Distinguished Service Gold Key.

Claire Oborny '13 and Emma Oborny '16 were both selected for Midland University's Who's Who.

Bruce Meysenburg '73 was appointed as a new member of the City Council for David City.

**Bridget Sisco '19** was a member of the National Champion Women's Rugby Team at Wayne State College.

Bob Hilger '63 was hon-

ored with the Founding Father award at the 2020 But-



ler County Chamber of Commerce Banquet. He has been involved with many community organizations including the Fire Department, Lower Platte Resource District, Nebraska Alfalfa Marketing Association and the Aquinas and St. Mary's Board of Advisors.

## Todd DeWispelare '01 is

the new Butler County Chamber of Commerce President.



#### **Breanna Stouffer '19**

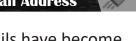


in her first year playing basketball at Northeast Community College, earned Honorable Mention All-Region status. She averaged 8 points per game while grabbing 4.1 rebounds.

Matt Jakub '14 has been promoted to an Account Executive for Midwest Club Basketball/Hockey for Hudl in Lincoln, NE

**Trent Smith '15** is a College Savings Representative with Union Bank & Trust.

## **Email Address**



Emails have become more important than ever when staying in touch with a class regarding class news. Whether it is a request for prayers for a classmate or planning a reunion, having your email address is the best way to go. PLEASE send us your email address to: deb-svec@cdolinc.net or go to the website at

www.aquinas-catholic.com to update your information. Page 4 Aquinas Alumni News



## **Mini Monarchs**

Mary Coufal White '01 and Tim White, a son, Jonah James, born August 1, 2019 Jessica Birkel Virgil '03 and Kurt Virgil, a son, Keagan Henry, born September 21, 2019 Matt '07 and Chelsie Croghan, a son, Kade Timothy, born October 5, 2019 Jake '10 and Cortny Novacek '10 Shonka, a daughter, Bethany Bernadette, born October 17, 2019 Hank '06 and Molly Klosterman, a daughter, Ida Marcel, born October 22, 2019 Ben '10 and Alyssa Eller '12 Wessling, a daughter, Lydia Lynne, born October 23, 2019 Travis '07 and Kristine Fiala '11 Polacek, a son, Huxton Michael, born October 26, 2019 Jason '05 and Kristen DeWispelare, a daughter, Hattie Lynn, born October 28, 2019 Kelsa Mills DeGarmo '13 and Matthew DeGarmo, a son, Abel John, Born October 24, 2019 Brandon '07 and Katie Cech'07 Smith, a daughter, Leah Mae, born December 2, 2019 Jake '07 and Sara Miriovsky, a son, Colson Keith, born Decmber 13, 2019 Jake '07 and Jessica Romshek, a son, Cameron Edward, born December 27, 2019 Trev '06 and Michaela Moravec, a daughter, Mary Mae, born January 22, 2020 Ariana Meysenburg McCain '12 and Jake McCain, a son, Henry Nicholas, born February 5, 2020 Cassie Amsler Johnson '10 and Alex Johnson, a son, Oxford Michael, born February 7, 2020 Neil '08 and Katrina Kovar '07 Sabata, a son, Miles Gregory, born February 7, 2020 Jeremy '04 and Ashley Cihal, a son, Colson James, born February 18, 2020 Mark '00 and Jenny Marushak '04 Polacek, a son, Owen James, born March 12, 2020



Trent Eller '12 to Brooke Fozzard, September 21, 2019

Andrew Oborny '14 to Sarah Grubb, September 28, 2019

Allison Struebing '08 to Jeremy Dallegge, November 9, 2019

Trevin Steager '15 to Jordan Rathje, November 23, 2019

Clete DeWispelare '09 to Sarah Bohrer, February 29, 2020

We're praying for all of the alumni out there who have had weddings for themselves, their children or their grandchildren post-poned because of the pandemic.



## **Monarch Vocations**

#### **Priests**

Rev. Rudy Oborny '63 Rev. Jim Meysenburg '81 Rev. John Birkel '82 Rev. Doug Daro '09

## Religious

Sr. Marilyn Geiger, OSF '62

Sr. Frances Pytlik, ASC '65

Sr. Patricia Ann Hanus, MS '70

Sr. Barbara Smith, ASC '71

Sr. Jeanette Rerucha, MS '77

Sr. Mary Markita, TOR '99

Sr. Fiat Marie, CK '10

## Seminarians

Matthew Kovar '13 Scott Nemec '15 Augustine Reimers '16 Daniel Reiter '18 \*Please pray for our alumni who are priests, religious and seminarians.



# **Summer 2020 Reunion Plans**



**60 years-St. Mary's Class of 1960**--Not available at press time.

**55 years-Class of 1965**--June 27, 2020, 5:30 Ramada Inn River's Edge Convention Center in Columbus. Contact connli@hotmail.com for more information

**50 years--Class of 1970**--July 18, 2020

**45 years--Class of 1975**--July 18, 2020, home of Patty Ebel Dolezal. Social at 4pm, BBQ at 6:30pm Any staff members who were with our class at Aquinas are welcome but please contact Denny Kallenbach if you are interested in attending at dkallenbach@cox.net or 402-670-4053.

**40 years-Class of 1980**--June 27, 2020 in Lincoln. Contact Mary Janicek Ward at mary.ward@ hotmail.com for more information

**35 years-Class of 1985-**July 18th, 4pm at Par IV in David City. Order off menu and cash bar. Contact Randy Vavrina at: rvavrina@windstream.net for reservations.

30 years-Class of 1990-Not available at press time.

**25 years-Class of 1995**--June 27, 2020 at Oak Creek Sporting Club. Contact Chris Shipley at 402-560-1890 or Sara Semin at 402-560-3185 for more information

**20 years-Class of 2000-**Not available at press time.

**15 years-Class of 2005-**Not available at press time.

**10 years-Class of 2010-**July 11, 2020, Randy and Theresa Ruth's house. Contact Morgan for more information at: morganmariechadwick@gmail.com

5 years-Class of 2015-Not available at press time.





# Alumni News

## Help us share the good news!

We are excited to share all the great things our alumni are up to. If you or another alumni have some news to share for the newsletter, please email the alumni office at: deb-svec@cdolinc.net

Page 6 **Aquinas Alumni News** 



# In Memory Of...



Celestine "Sally" Svoboda, 100, of David City, widow of

Joseph, died Wednesday, September 18 at Bryan Medical Center East in Lincoln. She was a 1937 Dwight Assumption graduate. Sally was born in Garrison Nebraska on June 29, 1919. She is survived by their five children, 13 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.

Irene Eller Medinger



was born July 18, 1926, near Bellwood. to Frank and Mary (Delaha-

met) Eller. She attended area schools and graduated from Marietta High School in 1945. Irene is survived by her husband, Don of rural Bellwood, four children, 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, three children, grandson, three brothers and two sisters.

John J. Kobza was born August 1, 1928 in



Butler County, Nebraska to John C. and Emma (Novak) Kobza. He died October 25, 2019. He graduated from **Dwight Assumption School** in 1946. John married Dolores "Brownie" Jisa on September 27, 1947 at Dwight Assumption Catholic Church. He is survived by a daughter, two sons, sisters, a brother and grand and great grandchildren.

Marvin "Marv" J. Capoun, 85, of David City (formerly of Schuyler)



passed away Sunday, November 10, 2019 at St. Joseph's Villa in David City. Marvin J. Capoun was born on December 12, 1933 on the family farm near Loma to Joseph and Emma (Hostek) Capoun. He graduated from **Dwight** Assumption in 1952 and then enlisted in the Navy and served for 5 years. After his discharge, he married his wife Clarice on November 28, 1959 in Weston. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Clarice of David City, four children, sister-in-law

Elsie Ponec of David City, 15 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

## Joan Marie Alt Gerard

passed away November 19. 2019. She was born October 11,



1955 to Mark and Edith Alt. She was a 1973 graduate of Aquinas. She is survived by husband, Ronald C.; son, Jeffrey C. (Maryellen); sister, Cindy McCawley (Steve); brother, Chris Alt (Mary); nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

## **Rosemary Meysenburg**

Reiter, 87 years of age, of Holdrege, passed away on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at Holdrege Memorial Homes. She was born on a farm near David City, Nebraska on July 5, 1932, the fifth of nine children born to Leo and Anita (Koeller) Meysenburg. She graduated from Marietta in 1950. On August 23, 1954, Rosemary was united in marriage to John Oliver Reiter at Presentation Catholic Church. To this

union eight children were born. She also raised a foster daughter. She is survived by seven of her nine children, 23 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, five brothers and one sister plus extended family.

## **Donald J. Meysenburg**

was born February 5, 1944, in David City, to Joseph B. and Leonarda



(Vandenbroek) Meysenburg, the oldest of 10 children. He attended school at Marietta and graduated from Aquinas in 1962. Following graduation served in the United States Army Reserves. On April 11, 1970, he married Carol Zoucha at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Columbus. He is survived by his wife, Carol of Bellwood, a son, six daughters, 21 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two sisters, seven brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

## Mary Anne Policky Dart

was born on August 29, 1929, in Agnew, Nebraska



# In Memory Of...



to Albin and Mary (Hennessey) Policky and passed away on February 1, 2020, at the age of 90 years. Mary Anne grew up in Bee where she attended grade school and later graduated from **Assumption Catholic High School in 1947**. She was united in marriage to Louis Dart, Jr. at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Bee. Survivors cherishing her memory include her husband, children, 17 grandchildren; 15 greatgrandchildren; 5 step great-grandchildren; brother, sister and a host of friends.

Steven L. Milosich was



Helen (Theewen) Milosich. He died December 29, 2019 in Columbus, NE. He graduated from Aquinas High School in 1966. Steven was a musician and loved to reminisce about his time playing guitar in his band from David City, The Pharaohs. Steven is survived by his daughter, grandchildren, sisters

and brothers.

John Selzer, age 63, of Bellwood, passed away Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at his home in Bellwood. John was injured playing football as a sophomore at Aguinas in 1971 which rendered him a quadriplegic. He went on to graduate from Aguinas in 1974. John maintained his sense of humor to he end and when asked what he wanted in the paper after he died, he replied, "One Used Wheelchair for sale". John is survived by his parents Jack and Claryce Selzer of Bellwood, sister Nancy Selzer, brother Scott Selzer (Karen), a nephew and a niece all of Lincoln. The family would like to extend a thank you to all who have helped with support and care over John's lifetime.

## Daniel "Dan" P. Kobza,



73, of Grand Island, passed away on Thursday, February

20, 2020. Dan was born on January 31, 1947 in Omaha, son of Sylvester and Minnie (Hlavac) Kobza. Dan received his education at Aquinas, graduating in 1965. He continued his education and attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he played for the Huskers. He is survived by his daughters, five grandchildren, brothers, Sylvester Jr. Kobza and David Kobza. Dan was preceded in death by his parents.

Stastny, 90, passed away, peacefully, after a short illness,

on March 16, 2020 at his Legacy Terrace apartment in Lincoln, Nebraska with his Hospice nurse, Sally, and his niece, Therese, at his side. He was born September 16, 1929, on the farm near Dwight, Nebraska to John and Agnes (Hottovy) Stastny. Francis was a 1948 graduate of Dwight Assumption High School, where he played center on the football team.



# Planned Giving with Aguinas in Mind

Planned Giving helps perpetuate your faith commitment. When doing your planned giving, please remember the ongoing and long range needs which exist here at Aquinas. Making this type of commitment is easier than you might think. Here are some ideas:

Life Insurance--Don't cancel life insurance you no longer need! Name Aquinas as the beneficiary or to receive a percentage of the policy.

Will--Have you included Aquinas in your will? Making a will is not expensive. Including Aquinas as an extra child beneficiary is an easy way to leave a bequest. Residual of your will--Name Aquinas to receive what is left after all of your family and expenses have been taken care of

YOUR LEGACY
THEIR FUTURE

Page 8 Aquinas Alumni News

# **Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund**

Won't you consider being a guardian angel for one of our students? The Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund exists to help students in need with their tuition. By helping a student with tuition, you are helping them to receive the same faith-filled education that you received as a student at Aquinas.

Yes, I want to help a student in need!	2020-2021 Tuition Rates
Name:	High School: \$3,240
Address:	Middle School: 
City, State Zip:	Elementary School: \$1,880

Tuition rates are listed to the right. Whether you can donate a full tuition scholarship, half or make a contribution, all donations to the Scholarship Fund are greatly appreciated.



Aquinas & St. Mary's Guardian Angel Fund, PO Box 149, David City, NE 68632

\*\*\*The need for scholarships is more important then ever in-light of the Pandemic. Please help if you are able!\*\*\*



To find our store, simply go to the school webpage at: aquinas-catholic.com and scroll down until you find the "spirit store" button. Proceeds from all apparel sold in our store go towards Scholarships from the Alumni Association to Aquinas Seniors and to help pay for the twice yearly Alumni Newsletter.

Go Monarchs!!!

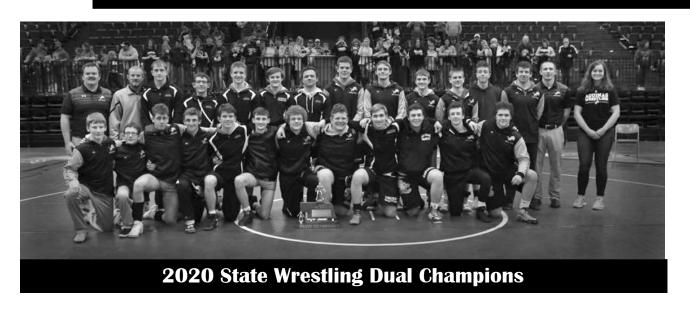
# Success in Activities at Aquinas...



2019 Boys State Cross Country State Champion Runner-Up



**2019 One-Act State Champions** 



Page 10 Aquinas Alumni News

# Strategic Plan

Aquinas and St.
Mary's Schools are
once again creating
another 5-year Strategic Plan with the help
of parents, alumni and

friends. This plan will take us through the 2025 school year and will once again rest on the foundation of five pillars including: Supportive Student Life, Sacred Catholic Foundation, Exceptional Learning Environment, Dynamic Community Relationships and Financial Sustainability and Advancement.

Those interested in being a part of the pillar committees applied through the website. These groups met this spring to come up with implementation goals for their pillar. These goals were then

presented at Open Forums where anyone who wanted to attend could come and give their input on what had been discussed in the pillar meetings.

Once final changes are made, the school will begin to carry out the implementation goals for each of the Pillars in order to make sure our programs continue to grow and improve at our schools.



# Students Attend March For Life

The National March for Life was held on January 24, 2020, in Washington D.C. and 44 students from Aquinas traveled by bus for 22 hours to stand up for life. This is one of the largest groups of students from Aquinas that has attended.

With hundreds of thousands of marchers, Aquinas junior Ben Shonka remarked the impact of "... seeing so many people there, all for the same reason."
Fr. Michael Stec, Aquinas Religion teacher and Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Ulysses, has been a sponsor on this march for the last five years.

"This is the largest group we have ever taken. It has steadily grown in attendance about ten students each year," Fr. Stec remarked.



# Golf is Back at Aquinas



First Aguinas Golf Team in 1967



Last Aquinas Golf Team in 1978

Golf is being offered once again at Aquinas after a 42-year hiatus. Aquinas had a boys golf team from 1967 until 1978. Girls were allowed to play as well and Aquinas had a couple of female golf-

ers. The last golf coach at Aquinas was Mr. Dale Kerkman.

This spring, Aquinas will once again have a golf team coached by Teresa Pokorny. Girls would also be able to play if there were girls

who had golfed before and showed interest. If you would like to follow our golfers as they hit the links, the schedule can be found on our webpage or on the facebook page. The first meet was held March 30 at Norfolk Lutheran. The sites for Conference and Districts are yet to be decided, but will be May 2 and May 18. Updates can be found on the webpage.

# Phone-a-thon Helps to Exceed Goal

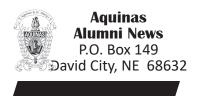
This year's Annual Appeal through the Phone-athon has met with tremendous success. The goal was to fill the gap between tuition and parish assessments. The 2019-2020 school year funding gap was \$140,000.00.

Thanks to the kind generosity of our alumni, parishioners and friends, we have currently raised \$142,000.00. Donors have until June 30, 2020 to donate to the 2019 Phone-a-thon and even though the goal has been met, we are still accept-

ing and very grateful for the gifts that continue to come in.

The Annual Appeal each year is solicited through both the Alumni Phone-a-thon and an appeal to the parishioners of the David City Deanery who attend the 13 parishes that help to support the schools. The Annual Report, which we mail out in the fall, will list all of our donors to the Annual Appeal as well as announce the final total for this very successful appeal.





Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
David City, NE
Permit No. 30



Phone-a-thon 2019 pledges have come in quickly and as of the printing of this newsletter, we have received over \$66,000.00. Remember: You have until June 30, 2020 to send in your pledge or you can easily give online at <a href="https://www.aquinas-catholic.com">www.aquinas-catholic.com</a> and click <a href="https://www.aquinas-catholic.com">Support Us</a>



# **Class of 2020**

Please keep the Aquinas Class of 2020 in your prayers as we navigate these uncertain times with them.



## **Spirit Apparel Store**

Wish you had some Monarch apparel or even Aquinas Alumni apparel? Check out our spirit store on line: https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/monarchs-270897

