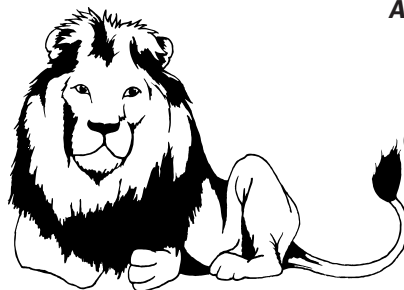


The Crown Prints

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'Unity' guides Aquinas



Seniors Nolan Eller and Jake Witter fire their "footballs" toward the the hula-hoop goal at the first pep rally of the school year. After a 5 month hiatus from classes and activities due to the COVID 19 pandemic, students were excited to return to in-person classes and activities in mid-August. Though some safety precautions will remain in place, most activities will go on in a modified fashion throught the year. *Photo by Kobly Baer*

By Maggie Svec

Students are back at Aquinas after a 5-month absence. The students returned under the theme of "Unity" after a long period of being away from one another.

The staff and administration at Aquinas created this year's theme knowing it would be extremely fitting, considering recent events concerning the pandemic. "[The theme] came from knowing we were going to be in difficult times," chief administrative officer Fr. Sean Timmerman said.

Faculty members hope having a theme of "Unity" will remind everyone that they are all in this together. "Having 'Unity' as our theme is just a reminder that we can get through anything," Spanish and journalism teacher Ms. Jean Brown said.

As is tradition, the theme is applied in the classrooms throughout the school year. Brown made posters for the classrooms, and the yearbook is built around the theme. According to Brown, the theme is also being used outside the classrooms on "basically anything put out to the public."

The staff at Aquinas believes students will discover they are all equal and can find help in one another through this theme. "We are all one in God's eyes," Timmerman said.

The staff and administration hope the theme will not only teach, but give the students encouragement. "We are all one body of Christ. We may seem divided right now, but we are all sons and daughters of God," marketing director Mrs. Laura Adair said.

*Monarchs roar...
What is your goal for
this school year?*



Religion Teacher
Father Ronald
Homes

*"To get my car
painted ma-
roon."*



6th grader Gun-
ner
Marushak

*"For me to get
a 100 in Mrs.
Heermann's
social studies
class."*



Junior Xavier
Fiala

*"To be a state
qualifier in
speech."*



Sophomore Krae
Lavicky

*"Maintain an
A average even
with sports going
on."*



COVID precautions remain in effect

Masks and social distancing change look of school day.

By Kolby Baer

To keep students and faculty safe at Aquinas Catholic High School, masks, social distancing, and frequent sanitization of classrooms are some precautions being taken in the 2020 to 2021 school year. Four Corners Health Department mandated certain requirements for the school year.

Crisis Coordinator Mrs. Teresa Pokorny leads the school in the precautionary directives. "The distanced desks, masks, and disinfecting are some of the requirements." Pokorny works with Four Corners Health Department and the Educational Service Unit #7 (ESU #7) to help create guidelines for the school year.

Junior Simon Kelly and sophomore Brooke Hoelscher both appreciate the safety precautions being taken at school. "They are good precautions if everyone wore a mask," Hoelscher said. "I think the precautions are going ok so far; it would just be nice to see more masks in talking groups," Kelly added. Four Corners Health Department, Butler County Health Care Center, and the Lincoln Diocese utilize the colored risk dial, based upon the amount of positive cases in the school and around the community. "Green means everything is normal with no restrictions. Yellow basically means there is cases in our area. Orange is a larger outbreak which requires masks at all times. Red, for us, means that we are recommended to go to online learning."

Students received a pandemic related gift at the beginning of the year. The Smiley Mask Project donated 300 free face masks to Aquinas for the school year for students and faculty. The donation was possible through Mr. Mark Zeller, a '71 alumnus of Aquinas Catholic Schools. "We also had some masks donated from ESU-7," Pokorny said.

For exactly how long these requirements need to be in place is something that has not yet been decided. "Hopefully it won't be the entire year, but we just take it week by week and try not to speculate into the future," Pokorny said. "Sadly, I think that we're going to have to wear masks for the rest of 2020 and maybe a little into 2021," Kelly added.



ABOVE: Freshmen Jakob Kavan, Jacob Moravec and Clayton Zavodny work on a project during their science class. Following health care directives, students wear mask as a requirement when the risk dial for the corona virus is in the orange. Photo by M.Kobza

New math program challenges students and teachers

By Keegan Lavicky

During the 2020-21 school year, the Aquinas Middle School switched over to the Reveal Math program. This transition stemmed from the previous Accelerated Math program being discontinued.

Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Algebra 2 teacher Mrs. Janet Timoney said, "We chose Reveal because it isn't only math printable, but it's also online in case we go remote [students] can login via computer." The preparation was made because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mrs. Jody Pelan said, "I like [Reveal], but it's taking a lot of time to adjust, the old program was so familiar. Pelan teaches sixth and seventh grade math along with English and reading classes. Seventh grader Dillon Bohuslavsky added, "I like [Reveal] better because it makes more sense to me."

Along with having a textbook and workbook, Timoney noted several other changes, "The kids have to read a lot more, and there are more life applicable word problems." Freshman Tyler Kastl said, "I like this program because we don't have to take notes. I think my classmates are 50/50 on it. Sometimes they like it and sometimes they don't."

CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published six times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

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The *Crown Prints* is a monthly publication produced by the journalism department at Aquinas High School, David City, Nebraska 68632.



Aquinas welcomes Ventre

By Mara Yindrick

Rev. Michael Ventre accepted a new role as assistant chief administrative officer at Aquinas Catholic Schools. Additionally, Ventre is the new pastor at Presentation Parish in rural David City.

Ventre grew up in Cincinnati, OH, along with six siblings. Ventre attended elementary school at St. Dominic Elementary. After moving to North Dakota, he attended St. Maximilian Kolbe's High School. "There were not many boys, so you really got to know one another."

Following high school, Ventre attended St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, NE for four years. During his final four years of theology, Ventre attended St. Charles Borromeo, in "good ole' Phili."

Ventre feels being taught by Franciscan Friars at St. Maximilian Kolbe's greatly affected his decision to become a priest. "We got to go on trips and really have experienc-

es, not just the textbook side of the faith."

Prior to serving at Marietta, Ventre was assistant pastor at St. Mary's in Nebraska City for three years. He was then moved to St. Joseph's Parish right outside of Nebraska City as pastor for three years. He taught sixth graders and seniors for all six of those years at Lourdes in Nebraska City.

Ventre graduated this last July with his Masters of Education and Administration. Along with his role as assistant chief administrative officer, Ventre teaches the eighth grade religion class at Aquinas.

Adjusting to his new role has provided Ventre with some challenges. "It was difficult going from knowing everyone to now trying to remember the names of my eighth graders."

Ventre believes Aquinas has many more opportunities than anywhere he has been. Ventre is very impressed by the shop and the ability to learn a trade at Aquinas. "For

such a rural area, no one has that." Ventre really enjoys the fact that Aquinas is blessed with a full size chapel, and the ability to offer daily Mass and confession.



Fr. Ventre lectures the eighth grade religion class. Ventre looks forward to teaching his classes how to participate within the Church. Photo by M. Svec.

Truksa tackles Aquinas

Junior Rowdy Truksa and his sixth grade brother Cash walk the Aquinas hallways.

By Keegan Lavicky

Junior Rowdy Truksa transferred to his father's alma mater to finish his high school career. Rowdy's father, Jessie, was a graduate of Aquinas in the Class of 1994.

Late in the fall of 2019, Truksa knew that he would be transferring from Shelby-Rising City High School. Truksa wanted to transfer for the opportunity football would bring him at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Truksa and his sixth-grade brother Cash now attend Aquinas while his sister Tylee remains an eighth grader at Shelby-Rising City. Truksa's grandmother Mrs. Diane Truksa is currently a part of the kitchen staff.

Truksa's class schedule this year includes physical education, computer applications, environmental science, introduction to business, Algebra II, building trades, psychology, English, and religion. Truksa said, "My favorite class is P.E., I like it because it is fun, and I get to relax."

Truksa said the juniors have showed him around the school a lot, helping him find

all his classes. Truksa plans to participate in football while at Aquinas, as well as continuing powerlifting on his own. Truksa said, "Football and the guys and been really fun so far."

BELOW: Junior Rowdy Truksa squats during his Physical Education class. Truksa plays tight end and nose guard for the Monarch football team. Photo by K. Baer.





Students grow in knowledge and holiness

By Aletha Breiner

Hey Google, navigate to holiness! As spiritual direction enters its third year of operation, Aquinas students find time to build their spiritual life.

Aquinas students ninth through twelfth grade can participate in the spiritual direction program. Students meet with spiritual directors once a month to discuss faith and prayer life. "Spiritual direction is a much needed time of relaxation and concentration to grow closer in your relationship with Jesus Christ," sophomore Natalie Kovar said.

Apart from being time to reflect on spiritual life, spiritual direction is also meant to be fun. Students often go more than required according to Mrs. Beth Nemeć, the coordinator of the program. Nemeć believes students look forward to the meetings.

Spiritual direction gives an opportunity for students to talk about their lives. Junior

Grace Reiter believes spiritual direction gives her a safe space to talk about personal life. Reiter also says though the directors might not fully understand, they are still there to help.

Part of spiritual direction is privacy. Reiter adds her favorite part is "Being able to be open." Kovar also added she enjoys being able to talk comfortably.

The program's intention is to help students grow in prayer and spiritual life. Kovar noticed spiritual direction has helped her recognize her faults and learn better ways to pray.

With Covid-19, the tone of spiritual direction has changed. Change has come in what the student and spiritual director talk about according to Kovar.

Reiter recommends spiritual direction, "It's important to have a good relationship with our God, you can't do that alone."

Kovar added "It's good for your soul and makes you a better person."

Nemeć says the program has "become a passion." She also says it isn't difficult; the hardest part being organizing meetings to fit both student's and director's schedules. She compares this process to running a doctor's office.

Not only is the program about students, it is also about directors. There are eight directors, seven priests and Mrs. Nemeć. Kovar says a good spiritual director is "down to earth, so they really listen."

This year, an anonymous donor helped redo the spiritual direction room located in an office space in the library. Spiritual direction is also available to teachers and staff. With the spiritual direction program in place, Reiter hopes she will have strong morals when she goes to college and will not doubt her faith.

Gaining new speed and power

By Graycn Wollmer

Speed & Power. Aquinas athletes embraced a new program title, as well as focus, for their 2020 summer strength training program. This program continued during the school year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Aquinas athletes got assigned one of four consistent training times during the summer training, in order to keep everyone socially distanced and healthy. The program was held on Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's spanning for 9 weeks.

The distancing and smaller training groups had a positive impact on the summer training. Senior volleyball, basketball, and track participant Madisen Jelinek said, "This year I didn't feel as rushed, and we were able to put more time and emphasis on our training."

Along with the new group placement style, additional changes came to the "Speed & Power" program. Mr. Eric DeWispelare joined the staff as program director at Aquinas, as well as youth activity director at St. Mary's. DeWispelare designed the new

program for the 2020 summer and school year.

Athletic director Mr. Ron Mimick described the new program as "simpler, but yet more diverse" than previous years. "The main benefits we hope athletes will see are resistance to injury and an increase in strength and power which will translate to jumping higher and moving quicker." Within the new program, the athletes focused on increasing their speed, quickness, strength, and power.

Junior football and track participant Jaxon Ondracek stated that his favorite weightlift to do is squat. "I've gotten a lot better at squatting, which is helping me to become faster and more explosive."

The athletes in a physical education class continued the *Speed & Power* program twice a week in the weight room. The athletes not in a physical education class met twice a week outside of school hours to lift in the weight room and partake in timed sprints with DeWispelare.



Senior Josh Urmacher does pull ups during his Physical Education class. The weight room was renovated this summer, along with the implementation of the new "Speed & Power" program. Photo by K. Baer



Volleyball team wins early in the season

Four seniors lead the varsity volleyball team this season.

By Aletha Breiner

The Aquinas volleyball team has some early wins this season because of a new coaching approach. The new coach, Mrs. Kelly Tvrdy, has the team focusing on working out details on the court.

Even though Aquinas lost 3-0 against Columbus Scotus recently, sophomore outside hitter Mara Yindrick believes the Monarchs started the game out excited. "We like we wanted to win, but if we lost a point, we got scared,"

Aquinas won 3-0 against Shelby/Rising City. Junior varsity middle hitter, Aubrey Novacek, believes they played well, aside from a few communication errors. "We've done a lot of team bonding, and it's shown on the court,"

Aquinas also won the Friend Triangular 3-0. Yindrick said with such a laid-back game, the players had to create their own energy. Younger players were pulled off the bench for varsity time during this game.

During the Kearney Catholic/St. Cecilia

Triangular, Aquinas lost 2-0. While facing Kearney Catholic, Yindrick believes the team started out strong but were tired by the end. This tiredness carried over to the St. Cecilia game, according to Yindrick.

Very early in the season, Guardian Angels Central Catholic, or GACC, was a big win for Aquinas. Both senior outside hitter Madisen Jelinek and Novacek agree junior Grace Reiter's final kill was the best moment of the year so far. Novacek noted she's "Never seen anyone get so excited over something that wasn't championship."

This year, the Aquinas volleyball team's strengths are serve receive and blocking, according to Novacek. Novacek also says they need to improve on communication and being aggressive with serves and hits.

Jelinek says the relationship between the volleyball team is very close. "We respect each other, we trust them to do the job we were told to," Jelinek also believes volleyball has taught her to not doubt herself and to be confident.

Aquinas football re- ceives new jerseys



Junior safety John Prochaska carries the football down the field. The last regular games of the season will be Oct. 16 against BRLD and Oct. 23 against Tekamah-Herman. Photo by M. Kobza

By Keegan Lavicky

Thanks to a donation from an anonymous donor, the Aquinas football team received new jerseys for the 2020 season. The Riddel jerseys were a pleasant surprise for the players to start the season.

The previous jerseys' design was discontinued this year, making a selection of a new jersey very timely. According to head football coach Mr. Ron Mimick "We got on uniform builder and designed some jerseys with Riddel and Nike. With input from the kids and quality of jerseys, Riddel was the better purchase."

The new home jerseys are the traditional black and gold of Aquinas, while the away jerseys are white and black. The word "Catholic" is embroidered across the front. Crosses were added to the sleeves along with the word "Aquinas" on the back to show the school's Catholic heritage.

Mimick said his favorite thing about the new jerseys is the word "Catholic" across the front, along with crosses on the sleeves. Sophomore safety Luke Sellers added, "I like the material of the new [jerseys] a lot better." Sellers favorite uniform combination is black pants and black jersey.

Each of the old jerseys had been used for four to eight years. The new jerseys' expected life span is 5-7. The old jerseys were sold to players for \$25 per jersey. Sellers said, "When I get old it, will be cool to show [the jerseys] to my kids."



The Aquinas volleyball team celebrates winning the GACC game. The game against GACC was the first Aquinas home game of the season. Photo by K. Lavicky



Striding for gold



Freshman runner Gianna Frasher pushes to run hard on the Timberpoint course. Frasher earned second place at this meet. Photo by M. Svec.

By Mackenzie Kobza

“There are no shortcuts to success” according to head cross country coach Mr. John Svec. The 2020 boys’ varsity cross country team earned a perfect ten score twice this season.

The meets the Monarchs scored a perfect ten were the Fremont Bergan and the East Butler Invitational. In cross country the lowest scoring team wins. A “10” is a

unique accomplishment for a high school class D team. “In over twenty years we’ve never done it” said Svec.

Monarchs also raced in the Seward and Scotus meets. The girls’ cross country team got second place at the Fremont Bergan meet. The girls scored a thirty-two. Freshman runner Gianna Frasher placed second at this meet. Sophomore runner Jocelyn Stara not far behind with a fourth-place finish for the girls. Senior runner Payton Davis placed first at the Fremont Bergan meet followed by senior runner Peter Sisco in second place. Senior runner Jake Witter and senior runner Will Eller took the third and fourth place spots.

In the East Butler Invite, the boys scored another perfect ten and the girls scored a twenty-eight. Frasher ended in second place. Sophomore runner Meghan Burwell took an eighth-place spot in this meet. The boys’ team was led by Davis and followed by senior runner Terrance Wachal. Sisco placed third followed by Eller and Witter in fourth and fifth, respectively. Junior runner

Xavier Fiala placed fifth.

Monarchs also raced at Seward, and the boys scored seventh competing against multiple Class A and B schools. The girls had three girls racing. Davis placed third at this meet and Witter took a thirty-one spot out of 101 boy runners. For the girls, Frasher took a thirty-nine spot, and Stara had the sixty-one spot out of ninety-two girl runners.

At the Scotus meet the girls’ team placed fifth with a score of ninety and the boys placed third with a score of forty-one. Davis took first at this meet and Sisco took an eighth-place spot. “We ran okay. A couple guys didn’t run their best,” Sisco said. Frasher placed eighth for the girls and Stara placed fourteenth.

“We are just working hard to get tougher and better, we are happy to be where we are and will give it our best shot, God willing things will work out. It’s all for the team. You know you have to take it one meet at a time,” Svec said.

Swinging for a good season

By Kolby Baer

Head Coach Mr. Paul Gahan led the Lady Monarch into the 2020 fall softball season. Senior Co-Captains Alli Hartman and Caitlyn Yindrick helped guide the team to successes in the early season games.

Aquinas Catholic’s softball team traveled to Freeman for an early season game. The Lady Monarchs battled and lost 7 to 3. According to Senior center fielder and co-captain Alli Hartman, “[Freeman] was a tough and close game.”

The Lady Monarchs ventured over to Lakeview in mid-September for an away game. According to third basemen Claire Wisnieski, “We lost the Lakeview game 16 to 17.” Early in the regular season, the softball team traveled to West Point to play Guardian Angels Central Catholic (GACC) for a tournament. In the first game, the team lost to Ponca 5 to 12. For the second

round, they lost 1 to 9 to the number one rated team in Class C, GACC. The softball team faced off against Ponca once more at the end and pulled out a victory. The final score was 13 to 3. “We had more energy and did not underestimate Ponca in the second game,” said Hartman.

Another early season game sent the team to Twin River for a triangular with Kearney Catholic. The Lady Monarchs lost both games 12 to 0. “Something we could have changed is to keep our heads up after making a bad play and keeping a positive attitude,” said Hartman.

The Schuyler game scheduled for September first was canceled due to the whole team going under quarantine for a player testing positive for COVID-19.



Senior co-captain Alli Hartman fires the ball back into the infield. Hartman has played for four years and her co-captain this year is senior Caitlyn Yindrick. Photo by K. Baer