



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



AT A GLANCE

- ◆ Our Mission statement: Impelled by the Catholic faith and the Dominican mission, Aquinas Institute of Theology educates men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead
- ◆ Founded in 1925
- ◆ Sponsored by the Dominican Central Province of St. Albert the Great
- ◆ In partnership with the Dominican Southern Province of St. Martin de Porres
- ◆ Designated as a Center for Institutional Studies by the Order of Preachers
- ◆ 12 full-time faculty
- ◆ 12 full-time administrative staff
- ◆ 100 students
- ◆ 19 Dominican student brothers
- ◆ Up to twelve full and partial merit and/or need based scholarships awarded annually
- ◆ 1,900 graduates in a wide range of ministerial positions through the United States including Catholic healthcare mission leaders, parish leadership and pastoral associates, university campus ministers, non-profit executive leadership, social justice advocates, hospital chaplains, youth ministries, academic administration, college professors, high school theology teachers

The development staff have made a sincere effort to ensure information contained in the annual report is accurate and complete. If you were a contributor to Aquinas between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 and your name has been omitted, misspelled, or is listed incorrectly, please advise us by calling 314-256-8856 or email give@ai.edu.

A Message from the President

Dear Friends of Aquinas Institute,

As we compile our Annual Report, we are filled with gratitude as we reflect on the remarkable endeavors of Aquinas Institute's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni over the last year. Together, we have continued to advance our mission of preparing the next generation of Church leaders to carry the Gospel into the world through both word and deed.

In the following pages, you will find highlights from another exceptional year at Aquinas Institute, showcasing the collective efforts that continue to propel our institution forward. We are pleased to acknowledge the unwavering support of our generous friends, listed here, whose contributions have been instrumental in sustaining and furthering our mission. Each of you is a valued partner in our shared commitment to making a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve.

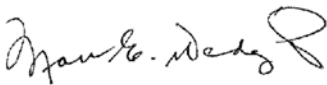
As we approach the conclusion of this calendar year, surrounded by expressions of gratitude and anticipation for the Christmas season, we embark on a new liturgical year with hearts and minds attuned to the profound gift of the Incarnation. With confidence derived from your generosity, we are poised to build upon the rich tradition of almost a century of providing exceptional theological education and ministerial formation.

Your gifts, encompassing dedication, support, hard work, and love for our school, inspire hope for the future of Aquinas Institute. Leading this institution is both a humbling and honorable responsibility, and I extend my deep gratitude to every member of our vibrant community.

Please be assured of the prayers offered by the Dominicans and the entire Aquinas community. I kindly request that you keep the needs of Aquinas Institute in your prayers as well.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in our vital mission.

Sincerely,



Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP, PhD

PRESIDENT



A Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

With immense gratitude, I extend warm greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees at Aquinas Institute of Theology as we share the highlights of our endeavors during the fiscal year 2022-23.

Foremost, we express our heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals and groups who, through their unwavering support, contribute significantly to our mission. Your generosity propels our commitment to educating men and women dedicated to our mission and the principles of preaching, teaching, ministering, and leadership.

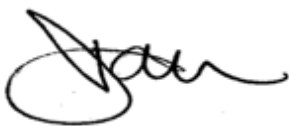
Within our esteemed community of donors, we recognize both longstanding contributors and newfound friends who have generously supported our institution. Your collective commitment has played a pivotal role in advancing the education and formation of the upcoming generation of preachers, teachers and leaders.

This report encapsulates a myriad of noteworthy accomplishments from the past fiscal year. Our Aquinas family welcomed 27 new students, including six recipients of awards from the Aquinas Institute Scholars Program. Bolstered by two substantial \$1 million grants from the Lilly Endowment, we inaugurated the Center for Continuing Education and Evangelization, and initiated development of the New Frontiers in Preaching to Underserved Catholics Program. The past fiscal year witnessed unprecedented success in fundraising especially with the Great Preacher Award, the Word and Deed Annual Fund, and GiveSTL Day, surpassing expectations.

Gratitude is extended to our dedicated Trustees, whose active involvement in Board Committees and steadfast commitment to fundraising ensures the realization of our mission. We take pride in supporting the exceptional leadership of Aquinas, including our President, Father Mark Wedig, OP, Academic Dean Fr. Michael Mascari, OP, Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Donna Thro, Executive Director of Business Affairs and our dedicated staff, faculty, and students. Your generosity, dear friends and benefactors, fills our community with hope and encouragement.

It remains a privilege to serve in this outstanding community, and I am

Grateful always in St. Dominic,



Dan O'Brien, PhD

CHAIR, AQUINAS INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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A New Class of Aquinas Scholars

In Fall 2022, our third class of Aquinas Scholars began their journey at Aquinas Institute.

Master of Divinity Program



Grant Hartley

Education: Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO
Master of Divinity Program
Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
Bachelor of Arts - Religious Studies Major

Related

Experience:

- ◆ Part-Time Field Staff, Intern, Crusader for Christ (Cru), Springfield, MO
- ◆ Covenant Theological Seminary Library, St. Louis, MO
- ◆ Published Author with articles in *America Magazine* and *Macrina Magazine*

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies



Madison Williams

Education: University of Dallas, Irving, TX
Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry
Concentrations in Theology and Spanish

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Experience:

- ◆ Co-Founder and Co-Chair, Co-Workers in the Vineyard Club, University of Dallas, Irving, TX
- ◆ Co-Director of Crusader Awakening and Genesis Retreats, University of Dallas, Irving, TX
- ◆ Videographer/Livestream Technician, Mary Immaculate Church, Dallas, TX
- ◆ Arise Worship Ministry Intern, Mary Immaculate Church, Dallas, TX
- ◆ Camp Counselor, The Pines Catholic Camp, Big Sandy, TX

Master of Arts in Theology



Monica Cronin

Education: Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK
Master of Arts – International Politics
The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Bachelor of Arts - History Major with a concentration in Military History, Minors in Business Management and Organizational Leadership

Related

Experience: ♦ Director of Catholic Campus Ministry, Diocese of Richmond, Richmond, VA
♦ Special Assistant, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, Triangle, VA
♦ Intern/Contractor, Marine Corps History Division, Marine Corps University Foundation, Quantico, VA



Alicia (Ali) Meehan

Education: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Master of Arts - Teaching,
Regis University, Denver, CO
Bachelor of Arts - English & Religious Studies Major

Related

Experience: ♦ English & Religion Teacher at St. Mary's High School, Billiken Teaching Corps, St. Louis, MO
♦ Alum Service Corps Volunteer, Regis Jesuit High School, Denver CO
♦ Regis University, Volunteer Retreat Facilitator, Denver, CO
♦ REAP Team, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
♦ Core Team, Life Teen-Incarnate Word Parish, Chesterfield, MO



Luis Ramirez

Education: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Bachelor of Arts - Philosophy for Ministry Major, Catholic Studies
Minor Specialization in Romance Languages

Related

Experience: ♦ Missionary Volunteer, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Tijuana, MX
♦ Newman Center Leadership and Men's Group Leader, University of Houston, Houston, TX
♦ Formation Program Co-Host for 'Live Out Loud-The Future of Religious Life Begins Today', Belleville, IL
♦ Co-founder and Designer of Tempier Formation, Belleville, IL

Aquinas Institute Scholars Program

Aquinas Receives \$4,000,000 Gift!

The St. Jude Legacy Fund, administered by the Province of St. Albert the Great, has gifted Aquinas with a \$4 mil gift to build an endowment to fund the Aquinas Institute Scholars Program. The students pictured previously on pages 6 and 7 are recipients of awards under the Aquinas Institute Scholars Program. This generous gift will allow us to offer even more awards to students each year.



“Being a recipient of this scholarship award has made it possible for me to pursue an excellent theological education that has rooted me in the beauty of the Catholic tradition. My classes have been encouraging and challenging, and relationships with fellow students (both lay students and Dominican student brothers) have shaped me. I love being at an institution that is *in medio ecclesiae* (in the middle of the Church)!” — Grant Hartley

Fundraising Events

Exceeding Goals: A Remarkable Year of Giving at Aquinas Institute

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, Aquinas Institute has surpassed its fundraising goals for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

The Word and Deed Annual Fund, a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, set an ambitious target of \$185,000. We are delighted to announce that, through the steadfast commitment of our community, this fund soared beyond expectations, culminating in an impressive \$207,000.

A significant contributor to this success was the enthusiastic response to Give STL Day, a local day of giving fueled by the power of social media. This dynamic initiative, designed to harness the collective goodwill of our community, resulted in an outstanding \$40,000 in donations. The overwhelming support on Give STL Day demonstrates the profound impact we can achieve when we unite for a common cause.

Equally noteworthy is the success of the Great Preacher Award campaign, which aimed to raise \$120,000. We are

overjoyed to report that, once again, our community rallied together, surpassing this goal and securing a grand total of \$151,147. The award's success not only highlights the financial commitment of our supporters but also underscores the importance of recognizing and celebrating exceptional contributions to theological education and ministerial formation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every individual who contributed to these remarkable achievements. Your support has not only exceeded our financial targets but has also reinforced the sense of community and shared purpose that defines Aquinas Institute. We are immensely thankful for the dedication and hard work of our volunteers who played a crucial role in helping us reach these milestones.



The above graphic, from the 2023 GiveSTL Day, was part of another record breaking online campaign.

Fundraising Events

28th Annual Great Preacher Award

Aquinas Institute of Theology's 28th Annual Great Preacher Award was held Thursday, November 10, at the Marriott St. Louis West at Maryville Center. More than 300 people enjoyed the sold out event, which traditionally honors one local and one national preacher who proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming and presence of the reign of God.

This year's honorees were Msgr. James Ramacciotti of St. Louis, Pastor of St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church and the Cardinal Burke Chair of Canon Law at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary; and Fr. Edward Foley, OFM Cap, Duns Scotus Professor Emeritus of Spirituality at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois. Msgr. Ramacciotti received his award in person; unfortunately, Fr. Foley was unable to travel and was given his award in absentia.

The awards were presented by Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, President of Aquinas Institute, and Dr. Dan O'Brien, Chair of the Board of Aquinas Institute. Fr. Michael Mascari, OP, Vice-President and Academic Dean of Aquinas, paid tribute to both recipients. Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP, Vice-President of Institutional Advancement, gave the blessing before dinner was served. Mary L. Hill, a 2014 Aquinas graduate (MAHCM) and George Avila, also a 2014 Aquinas graduate (MAHCM), were this year's co-chairs.



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Angie Doerr	Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP



Along with our core degree programs and graduate certificates, Aquinas seeks to offer formation and theological inspiration that is genuinely accessible to diverse publics. To meet this need for continuing education and life-long learning for ministry, Aquinas has formed the Center for Community Engagement and Evangelization and the New Frontiers in Preaching Academy. These efforts are being funded by two generous \$1M grants from the Lilly Endowment.

The Center, offers educational opportunities for all who are interested in evangelical and ministerial work at any level. As such, in the past year the Center has offered its first set of learning opportunities in the Summer of 2023 having five unique courses formed in response to needs identified by the local Church. These sessions saw approximately eighty students throughout their duration and audiences varied from alum to those newly acquainted with Aquinas, and from ecclesial professionals to interested lay Catholics. Additionally, the Center has hosted a number of events targeted toward building community and helping Christians better understand

how their faith impacts daily life. Moving forward the Center looks to expand our impact even further through new programing, formation opportunities and community events.

The New Frontiers in Preaching Academy is a Mastery in Preaching Certificate Program offered to permanent deacons and lay pastoral leaders serving with the Black and Hispanic Catholic communities. Having successfully developed course curriculum reflecting the lived experience of those who we serve, and led by a faculty of competent leaders in the field, this hybrid program is ready to welcome students in Spring 2024. Allied with Thought Leaders/Acompañantes, professional liaisons into their respective communities, participants will find enduring support through mentorship. Being culturally attentive and consistent in outreach has been affective in connecting Aquinas with the broader Church and world.

Together the Center for Community Engagement and Evangelization and the New Frontiers in Preaching contribute to making the Aquinas way available to all.



Good Things Happening at Aquinas

Board of Trustees Appreciation Dinner

On Friday, September 9, 2022, Aquinas Institute hosted current and former members of the Board of Trustees to show our gratitude for their dedication, leadership, and service over the years. After Evening Prayer, Aquinas President Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, shared the many successes of recent years and the vision for the future of the school.

In addition to the board members and Aquinas administrators gathered, several student brothers and lay students were in attendance. Aquinas Scholar and MAPS student, Beth Rheame, briefly addressed the gathering on behalf of the group of students and expressed thanks to the current and former trustees for all of their support and for making it possible for their education.

Special thanks to the event committee for all of the planning and organization that went into this event: Dr. Dan O'Brien, Dave Wenzel, Marie Bone, Dee Joyner, Sue Clancy, John Gillis, and Angie Doerr.



Aquinas Opens the D.A.S. Shop



The shop carries Aquinas branded merchandise such as hats, hoodies, umbrellas, tumblers, and blankets. In addition, the shop carries items featuring traditional Dominican images such as crosses, rosaries, icons, and original art. Some of the items are not widely available in the United States. The shop is currently open to in person shopping, during Aquinas Institute's normal business hours.

Aquinas Institute has opened the new DAS Shop. The names stands for Dominican and Aquinas Stuff, a bit tongue-in-cheek but true none-the-less. On December 3, 2022, at the annual Advent Vespers and President's Holiday Reception, Fr. Michael Mascari, OP, blessed the shop, the ceremonial ribbon was cut, and the store was open for business.



The Master of the Dominican Order Visits Aquinas

Aquinas Institute of Theology was delighted to welcome fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III, OP, the Master of the Order of Preachers and 87th successor to St. Dominic. Fr. Timoner was accompanied by two members of his Curia: Fr. Mark Padrez, OP, the Socius for Fraternal Life and Formation, and Fr. Pablo Sicouly, OP, the Socius for the Intellectual Life.

Fr. Timoner was in the United States to conduct a visitation of the Province of St. Albert the Great (the Dominican Central Province). During his tour of the Province, he spent the day at Aquinas Institute because of the school's importance for the Province, the Order, and the Church. As one of the three Centers of Institutional Studies in North America, Aquinas prepares Dominican student brothers and those who study with them for a life of preaching and ministry by forming them in the rich intellectual tradition of the Order.

Fr. Timoner was elected Master of the Order on July 13, 2019 at the General Chapter of Bien Hoa, Vietnam. He has previously served both as Socius for the Asia-Pacific region of the Order and as Prior Provincial for the

Dominican Province of the Philippines. He is the first Asian Dominican to be elected Master of the Order.

Fr. Timoner entered the Order of Preachers in 1985 and was ordained a priest in 1995. He holds a bachelor in theology from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and a license in theology from the University of Nijmegen in the Netherlands, with a specialization in intercultural theology. Pope Francis appointed him a member of the International Theological Commission in 2014. Fr. Timoner believes that “a Dominican academic institution is one in which the communion of brothers leads the academic community in study, instruction and research. A center that seeks to implement the social teachings of the Church, that seeks to promote the peace of Christ through just relations, is a communion of brothers who seek to help people live according to their dignity as God’s children.”



The Aquinas Lecture

Aquinas Institute hosted the 39th Annual Aquinas Lecture given by James Keenan, SJ. Fr. Keenan's lecture, titled “Revisiting Reasons Why Thomas Aquinas Is Important for Theological Ethics Today,” was presented to a large crowd in the Chapel at Aquinas. Dr. Jennie Weiss Block, OP, a member of the Aquinas Board of Trustees, traveled to St. Louis to introduce Fr. Keenan.



With gratitude to the following individuals
and companies for their generous support of
Aquinas Institute of Theology.

Aquinas Institute Scholars Program Benefactors

We are grateful to the following friends of Aquinas Institute, each of whom have made a commitment of \$25,000 or more which makes it possible for Aquinas Institute to offer full-tuition merit scholarships with housing and book stipends to academically gifted lay men and women who desire to serve the Church.

Anonymous

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Word and Deed Annual Fund

With gratitude to our Annual Fund Committee and to our donors who helped us to exceed our Annual Fund goal of \$185,000.

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Thank you to all those who supported the 2022 Great Preacher Award.

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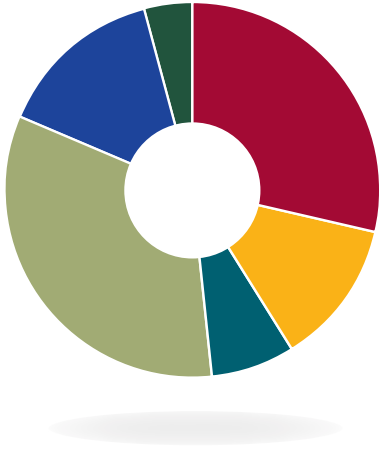
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Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Financial Overview

(As of June 30, 2023)

Sources of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Tuition and Fees	\$926,021	28%
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$401,764	12%
Gifts (restricted)	\$232,504	7%
Grants	\$1,110,000	32%
Contributed Services/ Subsidy	\$492,213	14%
Shared Facilities Revenue	\$147,600	4%
Total	\$3,427,456	100%
Gift from St. Jude Legacy Society	\$4,000,000	
Total All Funds	\$7,427,456	

Uses of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Education Programs	\$1,871,597	62%
General Administrative	\$874,496	29%
Physical Plant and Depreciation	\$262,743	9%
Total	\$3,008,836	100%

The Dominican Blessing

From an anonymous thirteenth century source

May God the Father bless us,

May God the Son heal us,

May the Holy Spirit enlighten us and

give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and

hands to do the work of God with,

feet to walk with, and

a mouth to preach the word of salvation with,

and the angel of peace to watch over us and lead

us at last, by our Lord's gift, to the kingdom.

Amen





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