



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



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
- ◆ 14 full-time administrative staff
- ◆ 113 students
- ◆ 33 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, 2023 and June 30, 2024 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 present this year's Annual Report, I am once again filled with gratitude for the extraordinary accomplishments of the 2023-2024 academic year. It has been a year defined by the steadfast dedication of our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Together, we continue to advance the vital Dominican mission of Aquinas Institute: preparing the next generation of Church leaders to carry the Gospel into the world through both word and deed.

Within these pages, you will discover highlights from another remarkable year at Aquinas Institute. These stories illustrate the profound impact of our collective efforts. We remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donors and friends, whose generosity sustains and propels our mission forward. Each name listed here represents a valued partner in the transformative work we are privileged to do.

As we approach the end of this calendar year and ready our hearts for the Christmas season, we also enter a new liturgical year with hope and anticipation. This sacred rhythm invites us to reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation — the Word made flesh — and to respond with faith and purpose. Your ongoing support emboldens us to continue the work of nearly a century, providing exceptional theological education and ministerial formation.

This year is especially momentous as we prepare to celebrate the centennial of Aquinas Institute in the 2025-2026 academic year. For 100 years, we have been dedicated to forming preachers, teachers, and leaders for the Church and the world. This milestone invites us to honor our Dominican legacy while eagerly embracing the future with renewed vision and purpose.

Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure make this work possible. Your dedication, support, and love for Aquinas Institute inspire hope. Leading this institution is both a humbling and honorable responsibility, and I am profoundly grateful to be surrounded by a community as faithful and generous as ours.

Please be assured of the prayers offered daily by the Dominican friars and the entire Aquinas community. We ask that you, in turn, hold the needs of Aquinas Institute in your prayers as well.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this vital mission.

With deepest gratitude and prayerful best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark E. Wedig".

Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP, PhD
PRESIDENT

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

With deep gratitude, I again extend warm greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Aquinas Institute of Theology as we share the highlights of our endeavors during the fiscal year 2023-2024.

We are especially mindful of the extraordinary generosity of individuals and groups whose unwavering support strengthens our mission and propels it forward. Your commitment sustains our dedication to form men and women in the principles of preaching, teaching, ministry, and leadership. Each of you plays an essential role in this work and we are profoundly grateful for your partnership.

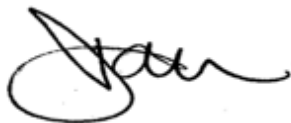
Within our cherished community of donors, we celebrate the steadfast commitment of our long-standing supporters as well as the generosity of new friends who have chosen to invest in Aquinas Institute's future. Your collective contributions have empowered us to continue forming the next generation of preachers, teachers, and leaders for the Church and the world.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated Trustees, whose active and strategic participation in our Board Committees and their steadfast support of our ministry and fundraising initiatives have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. Their leadership, combined with the efforts of our President Father Mark Wedig OP and our Academic Dean Fr. Michael Mascari OP – as well as the efforts of all our committed staff, faculty and students – strengthens the very foundation of our institution.

As we look to the future, we do so with great anticipation for a significant milestone: Aquinas Institute's centennial celebration in 2025-2026. This momentous occasion invites us to honor our legacy of 100 years while also preparing for a bold and promising future. We are committed to advancing our mission with renewed energy and purpose.

Your generosity continues to inspire hope and strengthen our resolve. It remains a privilege to serve within this exceptional community, and I am grateful for each of you who walk this journey with us. Together, we are shaping a future rooted in the Dominican charism, which holds that in every human person there is a hunger for truth and goodness that is essentially our fundamental desire for God.

With sincere gratitude and prayerful best wishes,



Dan O'Brien, PhD

CHAIR, AQUINAS INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Aquinas Institute Scholars Program

In Fall 2023, our fourth class of Aquinas Scholars began their journey at Aquinas Institute. Thank you to our generous benefactors who have supported our Aquinas Institute Scholars Program, which allows Aquinas to recruit talented students to our programs.

Master of Divinity Program



Emily Alvarado

Education: University of Dallas, Irving, TX
Bachelor of Arts – Theology and Spanish Majors
Concentration in Latin American Studies

Related

Experience:

- ♦ Study Abroad: University of Dallas - Rome Campus; Universidad de Salamanca; Universidad Católica de Ávila
- ♦ Member, The Thomistic Institute, University of Dallas, Irving, TX
- ♦ Member, Aspiring Theologian Society, Dead Theologians Society
- ♦ Intern, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Dallas, TX
- ♦ Intern, Parish and Community Relations, Catholic Charities of Dallas, Dallas, TX
- ♦ Event Coordinator, Texas Chapter - Patrons of the Vatican Museums, Dallas, TX
- ♦ Confirmation Sunday School Teacher & Altar Servers Coordinator Assistant, St. Luke Catholic Church, Irving, TX

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies



Sarah Kate Heyman

Education: University of Mary, Bismarck, ND
Bachelor of Arts – Catholic Studies Major
Minor in Philosophy

Related

Experience:

- ♦ Catechist, Diocese of Bismarck, Bismarck, ND
- ♦ Youth Minister, St. Peter Catholic Church, Kirkwood, MO

Master of Arts in Theology



William (Will) Dapron

Education: Benedictine College, Atchison, KS
Bachelor of Arts – Theology and Evangelization & Catechesis Majors

Related

Experience: ♦ Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level III Atrium Assistant, St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Atchison, KS
♦ Knights of St. Benedict, St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Atchison, KS



Katya Konopacki Vail

Education: Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Bachelor of Arts – Theological Studies Major
Minors in Spanish, Catholic Education, Catholic Studies

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Experience: ♦ Youth Ministry Summer Intern, Diocese of Green Bay, Green Bay, WI
♦ Volunteer, Saint Louis University Catholic Studies Center, St. Louis, MO
♦ Writer & Contributor, Clarifying Catholicism
♦ President, Thomistic Institute @ Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO
♦ Coordinator of Religious Education, St. Louis Catholic Academy, St. Louis, MO



Kelvin Villegas

Education: University of California, Santa Cruz
PhD, Philosophy
University of California, Irvine
Bachelor of Arts – Philosophy Major
Minor in Linguistics

Related

Experience: ♦ Instructor, Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Introduction to Philosophy Courses, UCSC
♦ "Whether being is an Accident? St Thomas on Avicenna and the Doctrine of Being & Essence." Classical Philosophy in the Lands of Islam and its Influences II. 57th International Congress of Medieval Studies. Hosted by Western Michigan University.
♦ "Unity of Essence in Aquinas: St Thomas's Reception of Avicenna and Aristotle." Aquinas and 'the Arabs' International Working Group Graduate Workshop. Hosted by Marquette University, presented online.

The Lasting Impact of Legacy Giving: Three Stories of Generosity

In the past year, the Aquinas Institute of Theology has been blessed with three bequests, each one a testament to the profound impact that planned giving can have on our mission and the future of the Church. Rooted in the mission of the Dominican family to preach truth and serve the Church, these gifts come from people in different walks of life, yet they all share a common thread—a belief in the enduring value of Catholic education, faith, and service.

A New Friend Who Wished to Leave a Lasting Legacy



Dr. Virginia Herrmann

The largest bequest we received this year came from an individual whose generosity to Aquinas Institute took us by surprise. Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP first met Dr. Virginia Herrmann when he filled in for Masses at St. Ambrose Parish on the Hill. He recalled that they first bonded over their shared Italian heritage. Dr. Herrmann had never heard of Aquinas Institute and only knew of the Dominicans through her work at St. Louis University Hospital. In fact, her first visit to Aquinas was only a few months before she passed away. Dr. Herrmann was known for her distinguished career as a breast cancer specialist. She was known as a pioneer in her field, becoming a breast surgeon when there were very few women surgeons. She believed strongly in empowering other women in her field and was beloved for the support and mentorship she offered.

Dr. Herrmann's family highlighted her life as one of service to others but also one of everyday kindness. In addition to her work serving on the board of professional and civic organizations, she was also a dedicated volunteer serving the community through her parish.

Dr. Herrmann's foresight and planning will have a transformative impact on the programs and students at Aquinas Institute for years to come. Planned gifts like these are often as simple as including a sentence in a will or trust. They require no immediate sacrifice during one's lifetime but leave an enduring impact enabling Aquinas Institute to continue its Dominican mission of preparing preachers, teachers, and leaders for the Church and the world.



Carol Williams (right) visits with classmate Sr. Joyce Williams, OP at the Great Preacher Award

A Beloved Fellow Student Who Gave Back to the Community That Formed Them



Carol Williams, MD, Commencement 2002

If you took a course or attended an event at Aquinas between 1998 and 2017, you would know the woman at the center of our second story. Carol Williams, MD was a longtime student and dear friend of the Aquinas Institute community. She was known for her warm smile, thoughtful questions in class (which were so softly spoken), and her quick wit. As someone who benefited deeply from her education here, it came as no surprise to learn that Carol had included Aquinas Institute in her estate plan.

Carol's gift is more than a financial gift; it's a reflection of the deep relationships formed here and the lasting impact that endures well beyond graduation. Her gift will help support the very students who walk the same halls, ask the same thoughtful questions, and strive for the same growth in faith and knowledge. Her generosity ensures that future generations of lay and vowed students will continue to study side-by-side, strengthening the Dominican mission of shared learning and preaching the Gospel.

This story highlights an important truth about legacy giving: it's not about wealth—it's about intention. People from all walks of life can support the people, places, and causes they cherish most. Gifts like this allow Aquinas Institute to continue offering unique programs that form leaders in preaching, mission, and service to the Church. ➤

Leave Your Legacy *(continued)*



The Mees Family gathered at Aquinas Institute

A Family's Gift of Generational Love

The final story is one of family. Arthur (Art) and Dianne Mees, parents to eight children and grandparents to 17, believed that faith, catholic education, and service to others were essential to a life well lived. Their daughter, Aquinas faculty member and alumna, Dr. Ann Garrido, shared with us the values that guided their parents' giving: a love for family, a passion for learning, and a belief that faith should be lived out in action.

"My parents were always very committed to tithing. Even though there were eight of us children and money was tight when we were young, they believed that if they tithed 10%, God would make sure we'd be okay. My dad was a man of few words who did not like public speaking, but for many years he was our parish's coordinator for the Archdiocesan Development Appeal and would speak about the importance of tithing at the pulpit."

Art and Diane were deeply devoted to lifelong Catholic education. They sent all eight of their children to Catholic schools, and were themselves lifelong learners regularly attending retreats and workshops and parish faith formation opportunities. They were always eager to grow in their faith and they valued what Aquinas had to offer.



Art, Diane, and two of their grandchildren

Ann shares, "One of the greatest gifts that our parents offered us was that they were not afraid of talking about death or planning for it in advance. I think this testifies to their deep Christian faith (both in their sense that this world is not all there is and also that in departing it they still wanted to be watching out for others). They had a file folder that included details about their financial assets, their end-of-life wishes, and even their funeral plans. Because everything was in order so far in advance, it allowed all eight of us siblings and their eight designated charities to all work together in great harmony in the settling of the estate. It has made me want to make sure I get my own affairs in order as a kindness to those I leave behind."

The Mees wanted to find a way to support their family's future while also ensuring their legacy of caring for others would extend to the broader community. Their

gift is a powerful reminder that legacy gifts don't have to come at the expense of your loved ones—they can be a way to care for both your family and the causes closest to your heart.

Art and Dianne were also great supporters of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Dianne first introduced Ann to the CGS movement and paid for Ann's first training. Ann recalls that when she became passionate about CGS through that first course, her parents and her uncle helped make materials for an atrium in St. Louis (many of which are still in use at College Church).

In light of this, it makes sense that their gift was made to benefit the Sofia Cavalletti Scholarship Fund at Aquinas. This fund provides merit-based scholarships to newly admitted students in the MAPS-CGS program who bring noteworthy service within the CGS community and who demonstrate a strong commitment to continued leadership in local, regional, or national CGS settings. Their support of the MAPS-CGS program at Aquinas in a way indirectly supports the training and formation of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren by ensuring that there will be qualified, well-formed catechists into the future. Since Ann's first encounter with CGS, her sister and then her niece have also become catechists. Of the 17 grandchildren, eight of them have been able to participate in an atrium. "I suspect they look down on all this from heaven with much joy."

“My parents didn't talk with all of us about their desire to leave a sizable percentage of their estate to charity, but I can also say that it wasn't at all a surprise to us that they did. It was consistent with the way they'd lived their whole lives.”

— DR. ANN GARRIDO

How You Can Make Your Own Lasting Impact

These stories of generosity illustrate an essential point: planned giving is for everyone. There are many ways to plan a legacy gift, from a simple bequest in a will to naming a charitable beneficiary for your IRA, life insurance policy, or retirement account. Required minimum distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts also offer a unique opportunity to give without affecting your family's inheritance.

Making a legacy gift is not just about finances or status—it's about reflecting on what you value most in life and ensuring those values endure. Each of these three donors took different paths, but each path led to the same destination: a future strengthened by their generosity and a stronger Aquinas Institute of Theology. Their gifts enable the continuation of the Dominican mission to prepare preachers, teachers, and leaders who serve the Church and the world.

JOIN THE 1925 SOCIETY

The **1925 Society** exists to honor our most dedicated donors, those who have included Aquinas Institute in their estate plans. Membership begins when you contact Aquinas to indicate your intention to leave a legacy gift to the school.

If you're inspired by these stories and want to learn more about how you can make a lasting impact, or if you have already included Aquinas in your will, contact Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, OP at baikauskas@ai.edu. No matter the size of your gift, you have the power to make a difference that lasts for generations.

29th Annual Great Preacher Award



A full ballroom at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac bore witness to a masterful display of preaching at the Great Preacher Awards celebration on Thursday, November 9, 2023.

The evening commenced with honoree Fr. Paul Whittington, OP, of St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Chicago. With unrestrained enthusiasm and the resounding support of parishioners from his home parish and many other guests, Fr. Paul quickly engaged the entire assembly. His message on the necessity of gratitude and the importance of recognizing God's manifold gifts inspired the crowd to echo his words of "thank you" in a stirring call-and-response.

The Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, followed as the second honoree of the evening. His presence provided a reflective complement to Fr. Paul's energetic exhortation. With humility, simplicity,





and profound gentleness, Archbishop Rozanski exemplified the essence of a Great Preacher, offering a powerful yet understated witness to the Gospel message.

The two honorees epitomized the title of Great Preacher with their distinct yet harmonious approaches. Guests were further enriched by the extraordinary musical offerings of the St. Katharine Drexel Parish Gospel Choir, directed by Mrs. Patricia Pike. The choir traveled to St. Louis, along with over 60 parishioners, for the occasion. Their dynamic performance, accompanied by live instrumentation, provided a resplendent conclusion to an already unforgettable evening.



GREAT PREACHER AWARD COMMITTEE

HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

Very Reverend Louis Morrone, OP
PRIOR PROVINCIAL, PROVINCE OF ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

Very Reverend Roberto Merced, OP
PRIOR PROVINCIAL, PROVINCE OF ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

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New Frontiers in Preaching Academy

Aquinas Institute Welcomes Inaugural Cohort

Aquinas Institute of Theology proudly celebrates the successful launch of its New Frontiers in Preaching Academy, a continuing education initiative aimed at fostering the growth and excellence of lifelong learners in ministry.

This inaugural cohort, consisting of 19 dedicated students, began their work in five courses over 10 weeks of intensive online coursework in March 2024.

This innovative program is made possible through the generous support of the Lilly Endowment. With its backing, Aquinas Institute aims to strengthen the preaching capacity of pastoral leaders in Black and Hispanic Catholic communities, recognizing the vital role they play in fostering faith, hope, and justice within these vibrant

communities of faith. Aquinas was awarded a \$1 million grant for the establishment of the New Frontiers program from the Lilly Endowment, Inc.'s Compelling Preaching Initiative Phase 2.

With the successful launch of the inaugural cohort, Aquinas Institute remains steadfast in its mission to nurture preachers, teachers, and leaders who will inspire the faithful and build up the Body of Christ for generations to come.



New Frontiers Awarded Additional \$250,000 Grant

In October 2023, Aquinas was awarded a \$250,000 supplemental grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc., that will fund mentorship accompaniment for the New Frontiers in Preaching to Underserved Catholics program.

The new supplemental grant complements the New Frontiers Master Preacher Certificate through a Mentorship Accompaniment component enabling post-certificate formation and learning that extends the preacher's skills through spiritual accompaniment, coaching, peer support, and feedback.

Aquinas Institute of Theology

NEW FRONTIERS IN PREACHING ACADEMY



INAUGURAL COHORT



Ana L. Cervantes
Diocese of Colorado
Springs, CO Catholic
School Educator



Deacon
Antonio Guerrero
Archdiocese of Denver
CO, St. Cajetan's
Church



Deacon
Armando Torres
Diocese of Harrisburg
PA, Director of Culture
Identity & Outreach



Charlene Howard
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Donna Grimes
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the Secretariat of
Cultural Diversity in the
church, USCCB (Retired)



Eduardo Ramirez
Diocese of Lafayette
LA, Deacon in
Formation



Eva Gonzalez
Archdiocese of
Louisville, Director of
Hispanic Ministry



Gary Johnson
Archdiocese of Omaha
NE, Youth Ministry
St. Benedict the Moor



Irene Gonzalez
Archdiocese of St.
Louis, MO, Hispanic
Ministry Parish Program
Coordinator



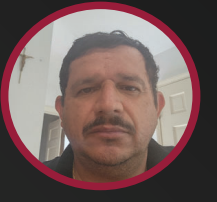
Deacon Jaime
Medina
Diocese of Jefferson
City, MO
Parish Ministry



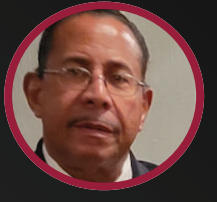
Javier Cervantes
Diocese of Colorado
Springs, CO Director
of Hispanic Ministry



Joan Davenport
Diocese of Brooklyn
NY, Street Ministry



Deacon
Jorge Melendres
Diocese of Evansville, IN
Holy Rosary
Catholic Church



Joseph Simon
Archdiocese
of New Orleans, LA
Lay Ministry & Faith
Formation



Deacon
Lawrence Houston
Archdiocese of New
Orleans, LA, Associate
Director of School
Faith Formation



Deacon
Michael Taylor
Archdiocese of
New Orleans, LA
Blessed Trinity Church



Oscar Castellanos
Marian University
Director of Parish
Renewal, Office of
Mission and Ministry



Paul Cardenas
Diocese of Lafayette
LA, Deacon in
Formation



Deacon
Santos Rubio
Diocese of Jefferson
City, MO, St. Peter
Catholic Church

Center for Community Engagement and Evangelization

The Center for Community Engagement and Evangelization (CCEE) marked the beginning of its fall season with a compelling presentation by Fr. John Baldovin, SJ, on September 29, 2023.



Fr. Baldovin's discussion, titled "For the Many: The Eucharist as Remedy for Our Polarized Society," drew nearly 45 in-person attendees, while several others participated via livestream, reflecting the CCEE's commitment to accessible and timely theological dialogue.

This event was the first in a series of thought-provoking programs hosted by the CCEE over the 2023-2024 academic year. The centerpiece of the season's offerings was the First Friday Series, "Thomas Aquinas: Then and Now," which invited audiences to explore the enduring relevance of Aquinas' thought in contemporary society.

On October 12, 2023, Aquinas faculty member and alumna Dr. Ann Garrido enriched the series with her presentation, "Preaching With Children: Exploring the Word of God with the Church's Youngest Members." Her session offered valuable insights into engaging young minds with Scripture, underscoring the vital role of inclusive preaching within faith communities.

Through these events, the CCEE continues to foster a space where scholars, students, and community members can engage in meaningful reflection on faith, theology, and social issues. The blend of in-person and livestream participation ensures that these rich discussions reach a wide and diverse audience, advancing the mission of evangelization and theological education.



To read more about the CCEE's Inaugural Year, please see *The Aquinas Way: The Community Issue*:
<https://www.ai.edu/all-things-media/the-aquinas-way>

Aquinas Institute of Theology

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND EVANGELIZATION



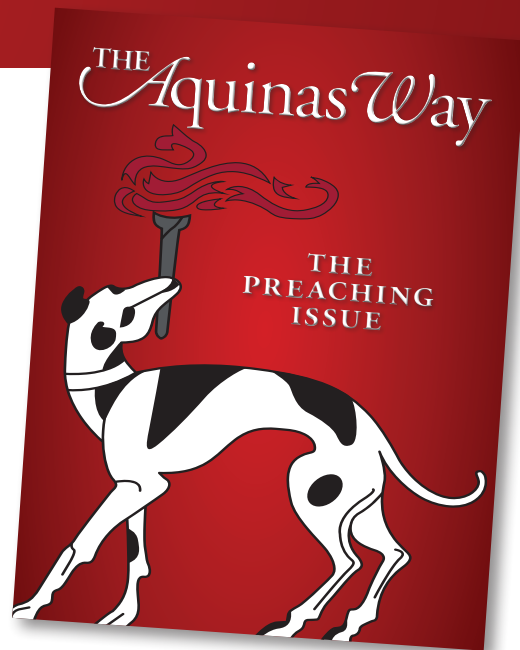
Aquinas Happenings

Aquinas Magazine and Updated Website

Aquinas Institute of Theology announced two significant advancements in our communication and marketing efforts this year—the debut of our new magazine, “The Aquinas Way,” and significant updates to our website.

Launched in January 2023, “The Aquinas Way” magazine serves as a dynamic platform to showcase the stories, scholarship, and mission-driven work of the Aquinas Institute of Theology community. This new publication highlights the unique experiences of students, alumni, and faculty while offering thoughtful reflections on theology, ministry, and service. By bringing these narratives to life, “The Aquinas Way” strengthens our connection with supporters, partners, and prospective students, all while affirming our Dominican values of preaching, teaching, and truth-seeking.

Complementing the launch of the magazine, our website received a modern redesign aimed at enhancing user experience. The updated site features improved navigation, allowing visitors to access essential information with fewer clicks. The new layout is also mobile-friendly, ensuring



seamless engagement for users on smartphones, tablets, and other devices. These upgrades reflect our commitment to accessibility and efficiency, making it easier for prospective students, donors, and community members to explore our programs, events, and resources.

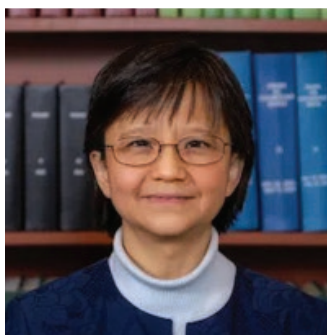
Together, “The Aquinas Way” magazine and the updated website represent a step forward in our efforts to broaden outreach and engagement. By leveraging modern communication tools, we are strengthening our mission to educate and inspire future preachers, teachers, and leaders within the Church and beyond.



Fr. Jay Harrington, OP



Sr. Sara Fairbanks, OP



Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD



Dr. Huang's Foundations of Pastoral Counseling class said good-bye with flowers!

Aquinas Says Faculty Goodbyes

Aquinas said good-bye to three professors during the fiscal year. Fr. Jay Harrington, OP, is now in limited service while he pursues his scholarly writing and research in Minnesota. Sr. Sara Fairbanks, OP, was elected as Mission Prioress for Holy Rosary Chapter. She will be ministering to the infirm Sisters at their Motherhouse in Adrian, Michigan. Hsin-hsin Huang, PhD, has left full-time teaching at Aquinas due to familial obligations, although she will continue her work with lifelong ministry by being involved with the Center for Community Engagement and Evangelization.

A good-bye lunch was held on April 30 to see these amazing professors off to their new futures. Everyone at Aquinas—administration, staff, and students—wishes them all well and thanks them for their significant contributions to life at Aquinas!

The Aquinas Lecture



The 40th Annual Aquinas Lecture was presented by Fr. Nicholas Lombardo, OP, PhD on January 25, 2024.

Aquinas Institute of Theology welcomed Fr. Nicholas Lombardo, OP, back to St. Louis, exactly 25 years after his last visit as a Dominican novice hoping to glimpse Pope John Paul II during the pontiff's historic visit. This time, Fr. Lombardo returned as the featured speaker for the 40th Annual Aquinas Lecture, presenting, "He Spoke to Them in Parables (Mark 3:23): Metaphor, Analogy, and Speaking a Word About God."

Despite challenging weather conditions, approximately 60 attendees gathered to hear Fr. Lombardo's insightful analysis of theological language. As an Ordinary Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at The Catholic

University of America, Fr. Lombardo offered a compelling exploration of how metaphor and analogy shape our understanding of God. His hour-long presentation captivated the audience, weaving together reflections on creches, sacraments, and the art of theological discourse.

Aquinas Institute's guests, administration, faculty, and staff expressed their gratitude to Fr. Lombardo for his thought-provoking presentation. His visit underscored Aquinas Institute's ongoing commitment to fostering thoughtful dialogue on theology, ministry, and the Church's enduring mission to preach and teach.



2024 Commencement

During its 2024 Commencement ceremony, Aquinas celebrated the achievements of the 24 graduates. The event was marked by a commencement address from Rafael Luciani, PhD, STD, of the Clough School of Theology and Ministry at Boston College.



Dr. Luciani's inspiring message challenged graduates to embody the spirit of theological inquiry and service as they step into new roles as leaders within the Church and society.

In recognition of his contributions to the field of theology and his ongoing advocacy for ecclesial renewal, and his exploration of synodality, Aquinas Institute of Theology awarded Dr. Luciani an honorary doctorate.

The 2024 Commencement was a joyful celebration of academic excellence, faith, and service. Surrounded by loved ones, graduates were commissioned to continue the Dominican tradition of preaching truth, fostering justice, and embodying compassion in their ministries and vocations. Their accomplishments stand as a testament to the power of theological education to shape both hearts and minds.



2023-2024 DONORS

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

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.

ANNUAL FUND COMMITTEE

Brian and Lori Reardon ✱
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Walker Carlson
Fr. Vincent Dávila, OP ✱ ✱
Katie Horner ✱
Ali Meehan
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ST. DOMINIC CIRCLE

\$10,000 and up

Thomas and Cheryl Erman ♥
Mrs. Marlyn Micheletto ♥
Darryl and Ellen Ross ♥
Elizabeth M. and John G. Thometz, M.D.
Charitable Fund ♥
Fay Beth Wedig Trust ♥

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CIRCLE

\$5,000 to \$9,999

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Anne Buening
Bo Mehan
Daniel L. O'Brien, PhD ✱ ✱ ♥
Jim and Trudy Pomeroy ✱ ♥
John and Katie Sauer ✱
Joe and Irene Souto ♥
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Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Financial Overview

(As of June 30, 2024)

Sources of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Tuition and Fees	\$ 959,419	30%
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$ 682,010	21%
Gifts (restricted)	\$ 106,192	3%
Grants	\$ 508,106	16%
Contributed Services/ Subsidy	\$ 467,856	14%
Investment Income	\$ 356,203	11%
Shared Facilities Revenue	\$ 152,028	5%
Total	\$3,231,814	100%

Uses of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Education Programs	\$1,833,889	59%
General Administrative	\$1,036,394	33%
Physical Plant and Depreciation	\$ 239,506	8%
Total	\$3,109,789	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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