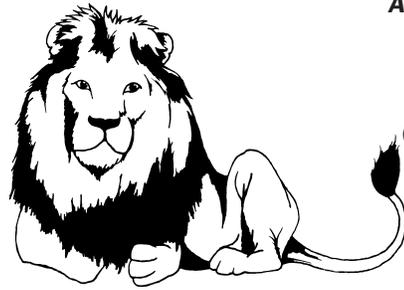


The Crown Prints

Volume 55 Issue 5 February 29, 2016



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Students show their Catholic spirit

By Brooklyn Stara

This year's theme for Catholic School's Week was "Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service." The Aquinas community celebrated the week with the Bishop's Mass, the annual talent show, and an informal dance.

The national organization, National Catholic Education Association picked the theme for this school year. "I think it goes well with what our Catholic education reflects," chief administrative officer Fr. Sean Timmerman said.

Catholic School's Week reminds students and faculty of their faith, and shows the difference between the public schools and Catholic schools. "Our focus is on Christ and not the world," Timmerman said.

Throughout Catholic School's Week, different activities took place each day. On Monday, the Bishop's Mass took place at the newly renovated St. Mary's church. Tuesday and Wednesday activities were canceled due to a snow storm.

Thursday hosted the annual talent show. "[The student council] try to have the activities tie into the theme of Catholic School's week," student council moderator Mr. Tony Smith said. The student council put the activities together, along with ideas from the student body.

The student council added a new activity of a high school dance to the week's agenda this year. The dance took place on Friday evening of the week and has the potential to reoccur. "It will be an informal dance with no decorations or royalty," Smith said.

Sophomore Valeria and junior Victoria Whitmore won the talent show with their violin medley of different Beatles songs. Their family and violin group helped to come up with the idea for the first-place winning act. Sophomore Jacob and Senior Jon Kadlec placed second with their "Judas Priest" presentation, and junior Rebecca Rerucha placed third with her guitar and vocal solo.



Sophomore Jacob Kadlec plays the guitar at the schools' talent show. The MC's of the show were student council members Senior Conner Kranda, Junior Anthony Eickmeier and sophomore Will Yindrick. Photo by B. Timoney.

Conley talks to campus missionaries

By Madison Kozisek

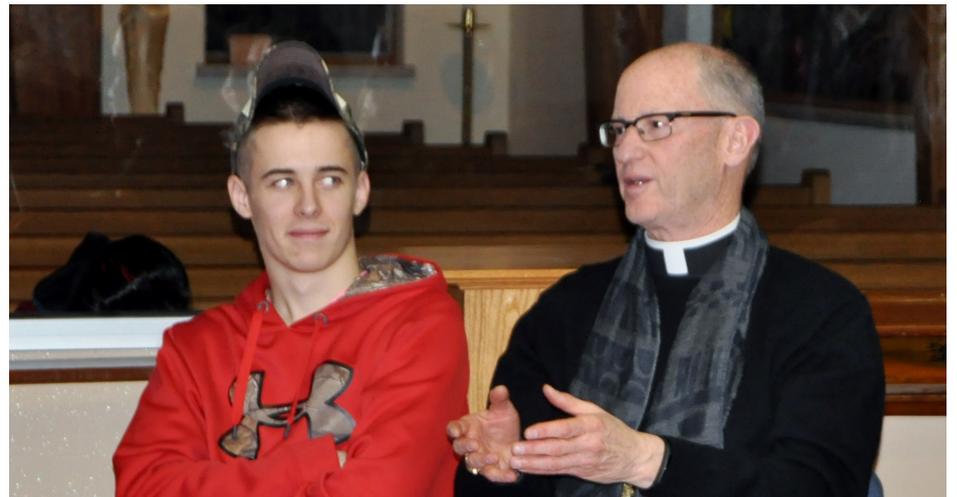
Bishop James D. Conley recently attended a weekly meeting of the Campus Missionaries. Conley was the guest speaker for the event in the Aquinas Chapel.

According to head campus Missionaries moderator Sr. Karen Marie Wilson, Bishop Conley came to Campus Missionaries last year and wanted to be invited again this year. Conley attended this year's event for about 2 hours.

The whole school got an invitation to come to the meeting, and about 50 students attended. The students had the chance to converse with the Bishop in an informal setting. Junior Kaitlyn Eller said, "It was a good event for the school because it was good to see a bunch of kids come together to see our bishop and to hang out or just to have a good time".

Freshman Joseph Reimers said, "While the bishop was here, we prayed and talked about his visit to Ireland. He

also told us about the monks that were there and what their lives were like."



Junior Calvin Hascall listens to Bishop James Conley give a talk about monks he spent time with. This was the second visit the bishop had made to the campus missionaries. The campus missionaries meets every Sunday in the Aquinas Chapel to discuss various topics about the Catholic faith. Moderators of the group are Fr. Joseph Steele, Sister Ann Marie Zierke, Sister Karen Marie Wilson and Fr. Ben Holdren. Photo by L. DeWispelare.



Students "drop their denim" for charity

By Jenna Eller

Aquinas senior Mackenzie Eller recently sponsored the "Teens for Jeans" blue-jean drive through the organization "Do Something". The drive will continue through February at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

"By donating a pair [of jeans] you're helping those who have less," said Eller. According to Eller jeans are the perfect item to donate. They can be worn multiple times between washes, can be dressed up or dressed down, and provide a sense of normalcy to the person wearing them.

"Do Something" is an organization de-

signed to serve others and make the world a better place. According to DoSomething.org/us "[Do Something is] One of the largest global organizations for young people and social change. Five million members in 130 countries tackle volunteer campaigns that impact every cause."

The jean drive is Eller's first charity work. Eller was inspired by thinking of her future and what she could do in her life to make a difference. "I was answering questions for scholarships. I de-

cidied to devote this year to others, and it's a good way to start out 2016," Eller said.

The denim drive is a project that brings awareness to the needy in the community. "You never know how much your involvement impacts someone," said Eller. The jeans will be donated to Blue Valley, Catholic Social Services, and Good Will around the state according to Eller.

Persons who would like to donate to this charitable cause may drop jeans off at the Aquinas main lobby until the end of February.

AHS's Operation Cookie rakes in the dough

By Noah Pelan

Pink frosting with sprinkles. S.O.U.L. Club members made Valentine's Day cookies to fill orders as one of their annual fund raisers on Feb. 5-6.

For seventeen years, S.O.U.L. Club moderator Mrs. Anna Nolan has led Operation Cookie at Aquinas. Nolan said, "I've been in charge of it since 1999 when I was asked to moderate S.O.U.L. Club"

Each cookie costs \$1 and Aquinas students can send them to other students or to faculty. This year, S.O.U.L. Club members made over 1,200 cookies. Nolan said, "Part of the money goes toward scholarships, and the other part goes toward charity."

Operation Cookie is a multi-day process

which requires much labor and volunteering. Four year S.O.U.L. Club member Emily Byers said, "A lot of teamwork and a very strategic set-up is used." The first step of the process, organizing the order sheets, began on Saturday morning and the cookies were placed in lockers on Sunday evening. Other steps include shaping the cookies, frosting the cookies, and packaging.

Three year S.O.U.L. Club member Lizzie DeWispelare said, "The most rewarding part is finishing all the cookies and seeing our progress." The extra cookies were available for students to buy after school during Valentine's week.



Seniors Bethany Focher and Jasmine Beringer frost and sprinkle heart shaped cookies for Operation Cookie. All of the cookie dough was made by Mrs. Anna Nolan and Mr. Alan Covault. Approximately ten members of the SOUL Club helped with Operation Cookie. Photo by J. Brown.

Aquinas seniors earn Eagle Scout

By Madelaine Comte

Aquinas senior Boy Scouts John Paul Svec, Brenden Comte, and junior Boy Scout Jackson Witter recently submitted their Eagle Scout title. The Eagle Scout program is the highest rank of Boy Scouts and focuses on leadership.

Before becoming an Eagle Scout, one must obtain twenty-one merit badges as a Boy Scout and showcase their leadership in their community. According to Svec, it also requires a large act of service to be done for the community which has to be ap-

proved by the Eagle Scout Board of Review.

Svec's service project was installing benches, donated by families of the deceased, outside of Aquinas' new addition. "After I installed them we had a dedication ceremony; the families came out, and Father [Sean] Timmerman blessed the benches," Svec said. Timmerman is the chief administrative officer of Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Witter's project was repainting the David City fire hydrants and color coating their heads to match the proper

water pressures. Comte's project was repairing, power washing, and repainting a picnic shelter in a David City park.

According to Comte many advantages exist in being an Eagle Scout. "Some people will show a certain level of respect for you if you have your Eagle Scout, and it looks good on a resume," Comte said.

Only 5% of Boy Scouts earn their Eagle Scout title. Svec would recommend this program to others because "it is a good program that teaches boys to become men."



HOOP! There it is!

By Anthony Eickmeier

"Whoosh!" The boys basketball team gave the Aquinas fans some thrills with its mid to late season games. The boys finished the season 10-12 this year.

The one common goal the team had was to finish the season playing the best they could. Senior guard Noah Pelan and junior guard Branden Daro both wanted to see the team make a post season run, but they also would have liked to see the team finish with a winning record.

In one of the late season games the Monarchs played against Humphrey St. Francis. Pelan said, "We played very poorly in every phase of the game." The Monarchs lost the game with a score of 34-59.

Younger players who stepped up are sophomores Tyler Vavrina and Kyle Ruth. Both Vavrina and Ruth are varsity players who got a lot of playing time. Both averaged close to twenty five minutes a game according to Maxpreps.com.

The hardest part of this basketball season

for Pelan had been just preparing for the end of his final season. For Daro it would have to be playing in the Centennial Conference tournament. The Monarchs got beat out of the conference tournament going 0-2.

The Monarchs played their final regular season game against Scouts Shamrocks losing 44-63. The Monarchs also finished their season in sub-district against North Bend Central losing the game 43-56.

Scoreboard

Opponent	Score
Bruning-Davenport/ Shickley	45-51
Schuyler	46-31
Guardian Angels Central Catholic	51-53
Twin River	60-49
Grand Island Central Catholic	50-32
Hastings St Cecilia	30-73
Omaha Concordia	55-61
Hastings St Cecilia	25-65
Bergan	48-46
Lutheran High	Cancelled
Lincoln Christian	47-48
Humphrey St. Francis	34-54



Sophomore starting guard Tyler Vavrina prepares for the tip-off against an opponent from Humphrey St. Francis. The 2015-16 boys basketball team only had two seniors: guards Noah Pelan and James Kobza. Photo by M. Kozisek.

Pin it to win it

By Emily Byers

Senior wrestlers led by example for the 2016 wrestling team. Under new head coach Mr. Eric Pflum the team has enjoyed a successful season.

The Monarchs brought home five state metals. Senior Conner Kranda placed fifth. Senior Nolan Helgoth placed fourth. Freshman Joseph Reimers placed third. Sophomore Kyle Petree placed second, and Senior Matthew Kindler placed first.

This is Kindler's second championship title, Kindler said, "I feel like I've done everything I could do this year and lived up to the expectations, so it's a great feeling." At the district tournament the team had seven state qualifiers. Junior Anthony Eickmeier placed third. Kranda, Helgoth and fellow senior Brenden Comte placed second. Kindler, Petree, and Reimers all placed first.

In the late regular season the Monarchs also traveled to Grand Island Central Catholic and placed fourth overall. Reimers said, "Some of us didn't wrestle to our full potential and made some mistakes that cost us." The Boone Central meet had nine placers.

Junior Brandon Svoboda said, "We did well overall even though we weren't at full strength as a team." The team placed second over all.

The team competed at Fremont Bergan for the conference tournament and placed second. Kindler said, "I think everyone wrestled close to their potential, and I was impressed with the way some of the younger guys stepped up."

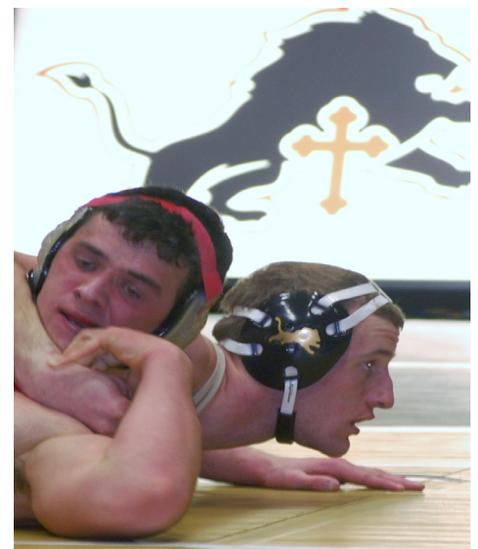
The Monarchs also placed second at the Schuyler tournament. Kindler said, "I think there were some matches that we should've won that we didn't because of a lack of focus." The team had eleven varsity placers.

The team competed in the annual triangular against David City Public and East Butler in the early season. Aquinas beat East Butler but fell short against David City.

Aquinas also hosted an invite and took first. There were a total of eleven placers for the Monarchs.

The seniors have played a part in helping the under classman. "They're the most experienced wrestlers on the team, so they seem to know most of the time. [The

seniors] do what they can do to help us out," Kindler said. Svoboda added, "They encourage us at meets and practices."



Senior wrestler Matthew Kindler works an opponent from Boone Central /Newmann Grove. Kindler wrestled at 195 this year but wrestled a 220 opponent at this home dual. Kindler plans to wrestle next year at Chadron State. Photo by B. Wisnieski.



Girls basketball shows community service at Villa Marie

By Neely Vavrina

On Dec. 4 the girls basketball team traveled to Waverly to help those kids at Villa Marie in need during the holiday season. The team spent two hours interacting with these children.

The past two years the girls' basketball team visited special organizations to help those in need during the holiday season. Head girls basketball coach Ms. Vanessa Munter said, "I went to [Villa Marie] when I was in middle school in my CCD program, and I remember it being very neat." The team decided to go because of the experi-

ence Munter had when she was younger.

Junior post player Chloe Miller said they went to Villa Marie for team bonding. Munter said, "I like to take [the team] somewhere to help others during the holiday season." Miller added, "we got to interact with each other and have fun." Last year the team helped with wheel-chair basketball at Madonna Rehabilitation center.

The Villa Marie experience consisted of playing games with the residents for about an hour. "There was a room where you played board games, computer games,

pool, wii, and hung out in the garage," Miller said. The students from ages six to eighteen made supper for the team.

Some of the team's favorite experiences were getting to know the kids there, according to freshman guard Dulcie Archuleta. "It made me happier and made me appreciate life more" Miller added.

"Overall this was a good experience for the team; it got them out of their comfort zone a little bit to hang out with kids with special needs they may not see on a regular basis," Munter said. Archuleta said she would like to do it again because it is a good experience for under classmen.



Varsity girls basketball coach Ms. Vanessa Munter discusses plays in preparation for a game. The varsity basketball ended their season with a loss to Scotus. Photo by J. Brown.

Middle school basketball prepares future players

By Ben Wisnieski

The middle school boys' basketball team worked daily to better themselves on the court as young Monarchs. Using many team drills and practice, they prepared for the season.

"The most important fundamental is our ability to work as a team. We drill and practice as a team as much as we can," said boys basketball coach Mr. Dan Mettler. He contributed teamwork to the team's victory at the Milford Tournament. Eighth grader Konner Adamy, a member of both the 8A and 8B teams, agrees that communication is key, and the teams have become stronger as a group.

All the middle school teams performed well this season. According to seventh grader Rylan Chromy, 7A's best game was against Scotus. "We came from behind to beat them" Chromy said. To continue getting better, Mettler recommends becoming

better athletes, while Adamy suggests increasing rebounds and free-throws.

Chromy's favorite part about playing basketball is, "playing with teammates and friends." The players look forward to playing ball for the high school team and playing varsity in a few short years. Mettler said he loves, "seeing the athletes become better people on and off the court."

Varsity Girls Basketball Scoreboard

Team	Score
Bruning-Davenport/Shickley	L: 36-47
East Butler	W: 55-36
Guardian angles Central Catholic	L: 29-60
Twin River	L: 48-50
Grand Island Central Catholic	L: 35-39
Hastings St. Cecilia	L: 47-56
Omaha Concordia	W: 54-50
Conference: Omaha Concordia	L: 49-43
Lutheran-Northeast	Cancelled
Scotus	W: 48-44
Lincoln Christian	L: 56-84
Humphrey St. Francis	W: 51-43

Middle School Boys Basketball Scoreboard

Opponent	7A	7B	8A	8B
Twin River	26-21W	20-26L	19-20L	8-40L
Shelby-RC	40-24W		33-27W	
Milford	31-24W		38-10W	
Schuyler	37-5W	20-18W	21-36L	21-26L
Scotus	48-41W	14-28L	34-50L	21-41L
Fullerton	28-43L		45-28W	
Schuyler	40-8W		42-30W	
Seward	20-11W		28-39L	36-19W



Marchers for unborn brave winter weather for their cause

By Anna Kobza

Several students from Aquinas recently attended the national and state Marches for Life. Those who traveled to Washington D.C. braved a historic snow storm to make their stand for life.

Every year thousands of pro-lifers gather to give a voice to unborn babies. This year, freshman Jill Witter made the pilgrimage to Washington D.C. Witter decided to go because of the great things her older siblings had told her. "They talked about how fun it was, so I've always had it on my mind about going, especially since [the march] focused on saving babies," Witter said.

The National Walk for Life began on January 22, 1974 and grew overtime to have hundreds of thousands of people for all fifty states and different countries attend.

~ marchforlife.org

Witter had to be stuck in a snow storm on the bus on the Pennsylvania Turnpike for over twenty hours during her trip. However, in the short time the marchers had, they were able to see the sights of the city, including the world renowned D.C. Cupcakes storefront. Witter, along with tens of thousands of others marched on behalf of the fifty-eight million babies aborted since the Roe v. Wade ruling in 1973.

Thousands of pro-lifers gathered at the Capital in Lincoln on Jan. 30. Sophomore Ryan Nemecek was one of them who attended "It's good to support the unborn because they cannot support themselves."

The Nebraska state Walk for Life takes place at the Lincoln Capital, and goes for about a mile.

A week dedicated to the unborn

By Regan Pelan

Aquinas students celebrated Pro-Life Week the week of Jan. 22. The Teens For Life organization set up several activities to raise awareness about the dangers to the unborn.

Teens For Life treasurer senior Katie Aschoff said, "The Teens For Life officers come up with ideas [for Pro-Life Week activities], present them to Mr. Masur, and everyone votes on them." The members of Teens For Life help carry out the activities for Pro-Life Week. "I think Pro-Life Week is a good thing to raise awareness, especially for the upcoming generations," Aschoff said.

"Pro-Life Week is the week that falls during Roe vs. Wade [anniversary]," Teens For Life moderator Mr. Mark Masur said. "We asked for volunteers to do a day of silence, rest and peace crosses were displayed, cookies were sold, and ribbons were taped to lockers to show the possible number of students aborted," Masur said.

The purpose of Pro-Life Week is to bring awareness to the unborn. "We separate ourselves from [responsibility to the

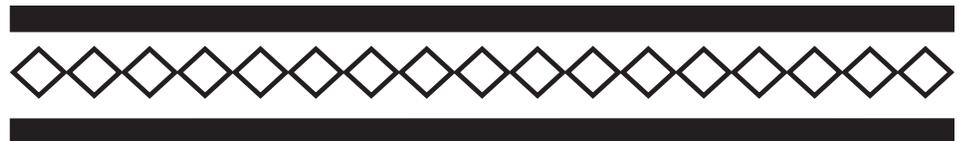
unborn] over time. Doing these things brings awareness to us and it should touch our hearts. We're successful if we raise the awareness of the need to pray and stand up for the unborn. I believe our prayers are being answered," Masur said.

Junior Cami Klement gets involved in Pro-Life Week because "it's a good way to find different ways to save babies in danger of abortion and their mothers." Klement would recommend joining Teens For Life to other students. Klement said, "[The group] is a good way to learn how to save lives, and you get to go to a Pro-Life day at Pius." Pius Pro-Life Day was on Sept. 22, 2015.

Aquinas students benefit from Pro-Life Week. "They learn how they can help in their own ways and what they can do to save a baby's life," Klement said. Both Klement and Aschoff's favorite Pro-Life Week activity was the baby food game played in the gym. The game consisted of students from each class trying different flavors of baby food and guessing what the flavor was.



L to R: Seniors Spencer Maguier, Anna Kobza, Conner Kranda, and juniors Brandon Svobada, Amanda Stuhr, and Anne Cech try baby food at a pep rally during Pro-Life Week. The kinds of baby food they had to try ranged from peaches to ham and gravy. The junior class won this competition. The sophomores came in second place. Photo by B. Wisnieski.





Students perform at Wayne State honor band

By Zachary Hain

A select group of Aquinas students recently performed at Wayne State Honor Band. The honor band practiced and then performed a series of musical pieces.

The Wayne State Honor Band took place on Jan. 30. There were two sections: high school and middle school. According to Aquinas band director Mrs. Helen Ostdiek, senior Katie Aschoff, junior Amanda Stuhr, and freshmen Emily Dalton, Jill Witter, and Kael Jakub and for the middle school, eighth grader Libby Aschoff qualified for the Wayne State Honor Band.

Those chosen for the band felt it was an honor. Stuhr said, “[Being chosen] means a lot to me because I’m going into music education, and with the help of Wayne State Honor

Band, it would be easy to get in to the school.”

Ostdiek said that in order to qualify, the student must perform certain musical actions. Ostdiek said, “You have to play an etude and a scale, and the student must be taped and submitted electronically,” Ostdiek also added that the student must have clear tone, accurate rhythm, notes, and fingering.

The students did make preparation before the concert. Stuhr said, “I practiced one hour each night on the weekends until the performance.”

Those chosen for the Wayne State Honor Band felt there were easy and difficult aspects to the process. Jakub said, “The most difficult part was just knowing where you’re supposed to go next because we were moving around so much. We prac-

ted in different places all of the time, and it was really weird.” Jakub also added that the easiest was getting in because there were not a lot of bassoon players.

Ostdiek said she is proud of those who qualified for the Wayne State Honor Band. “[Our students] were well qualified for the music. I was very pleased because 1000 try out for middle school and 1500 for high school, and I was pleased to get 5 for high school and 1 for middle school,” Ostdiek said.

Stuhr said she would recommend trying out for the Wayne State Honor Band because it is an amazing experience. “I wanted to do it just because I’ve been doing it every single other year. I try to set a goal for myself to get in every year.” Jakub said.

Informative speakers hit many topics

By Brandon Timoney

Informative speaking incorporates research to give an audience a new view of a particular topic. The 2016 speech team has several informative speakers with a wide variety of topics.

There are many factors to be considered in informative speaking. Speech coach Mr. Matthew Grady said, “The most important is the audience. You have to keep in mind ‘why do we have to know this right now?’ You have to keep the audience interested, and if they give you their time to listen to your speech, you have to repay their time with something that they want to hear.” Grady has been coaching speech at Aquinas for eight years.

There are many reasons students choose to do informative speaking. Senior John Paul Svec said, “My freshman year there were not a lot of events to choose from, but there was informative, and I had written an informative speech in speech class, so I chose informative.”

Senior Zach Hain also competes with an informative program “Mr. Grady suggested when I came to speech camp as a freshman I either do extemporaneous speaking, or informative speaking. I first tried extemporaneous, and

it flopped. Then I resorted to informative, and I liked it a lot,” Hain said.

Judges critique informative speeches in five areas. The first area is the thesis. Does the speech have a clear purpose? The second category is organization. This focuses on if the story is easy to follow. The third judging category is content. This section focuses on if the audience knows the content, the speaker is not just claiming information, and that they have research to back up statements. The fourth category is style and language. This focuses on if the speech is easy to understand.

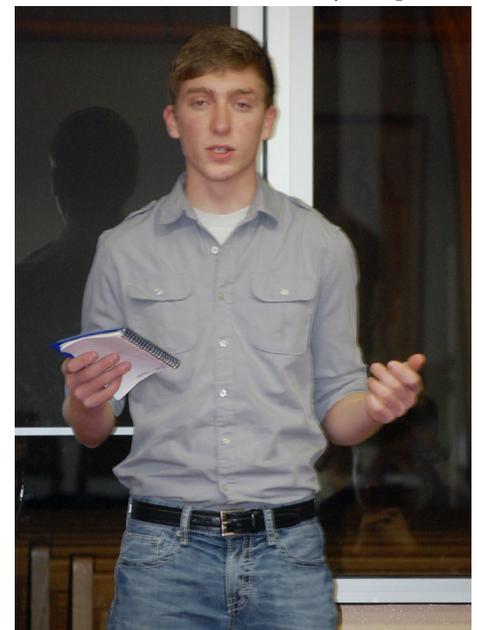
The final area of judging is the speaker’s delivery. This focuses on the speaker’s gestures, to see that they are not robotic.

Svec chose a unique topic for his 2016 program. “My speech is about nostalgia and what our generation will be nostalgic to.” Hain said his speech is about chameleons.

According to Hain, informative speaking can be difficult. “Once you get the info needed for your topic, it is easier to present. It is difficult because you are talking in front of a judge and four to five other people, but it comes easy to me because I have been doing this for four years.” “It can be difficult memo-

rizing eight minutes of information, and also finding a good topic,” Svec said.

Other Aquinas informative speakers include Abby Lyons and Emily Dalton. Dalton received the top novice award at the Columbus Scotus JV meet as a first year speaker.



Senior Luke Burwell performs his speech at the recent parents night exhibition. Five seniors compete on the 2016 speech team. Districts will be held on March 14. Photo by J. Brown.



Seniors give back to community

By Jenna Eller

Aquinas seniors have the opportunity to improve a future resume and gain a better understanding of a future career by shadowing a mentor. Many seniors do this by working for one period each day as a service activity.

When looking for a job, a potential employer looks at the applicants resume to determine what qualifications an applicant might possess. Senior service helps students gain important skills that will help them in the future.

In the past Aquinas seniors have traveled to various business around David City to shadow and help. This year because of

the change from a block to a traditional schedule, it was harder for students to travel and be back to school on time for their next class. Therefore, fewer seniors actually leave the school for their service activity, unless they can fit their senior service into their last period of the day.

Aquinas senior Corinne Misk currently works for one class period in Aquinas's office making copies, making weekly calendars and other various tasks for the Aquinas secretary Mrs. Karen Shonka. Misk also greets the public at the office window. Misk said, "I plan on going into psychol-

ogy, so this will help me work with people."

Many students often shadow a field for which they are interested in majoring. Aquinas senior Neely Vavrina works with the middle school teachers, mostly grading papers. Vavrina said, "I plan on going into elementary education, so grading papers and helping younger kids helps me know what I'll be doing as a teacher."

Misk recommended future seniors to consider taking the challenge of a senior service. "[Senior Service] will help you improve your skills and if you chose something you're interested in going into it'll give you a better insight of it," Misk said.

St. Joseph's building carpenters

By Madelaine Comte

Aquinas teacher Mr. Mark Masur and his building trades and cabinetry students are half way finished with the annual House Project. The classes build a house throughout the year to learn modern construction skills.

Masur and his students work on the house every day during class. Masur said, "We start in August, and I'll be working on it a week or two after school gets out." This year's house is 1,904 square feet with a front porch and costs approximately \$124,000.

According to Masur, seventy five percent of the work on the house is done by the students. Junior building trades student Calvin Hascall said, "We put up walls, insolate, and do whatever Mr. Masur tells us to." The cabinetry students also built the house's kitchen cabinets according to freshman cabinetry student Carlos Chavez.

The Lincoln Diocese purchased this

year's house as a retirement home for priests. "My students are eager to provide their skills for the priests who give their lives for their parishes," Masur said.



ABOVE: Senior Nolan Helgoth works on a wall during Building Trades. Building trades is offered only to sophomores through seniors. The house is bid on privately for sale. Photo courtesy of Mark Masur.

Hlavac passes on knowledge



RIGHT: Class of 1992 Alumni Scott Hlavac demonstrates CPR technique on manikins. Hlavac made two visits two Aquinas to speak the freshmen P.E. classes, one on CPR and the other on the dangers of water and electricity. "I like to bring in speakers with expertise in safety like CPR. You never really know when you're going to need this kind of stuff;" Freshmen PE teacher Ms. Vanessa Munter said. Photo by N. Vavrina.

Crown Prints

The *Crown Prints* is published eight 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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Refugees create controversy among citizens

By Augustine Reimers

One of the most debated topics in recent weeks has been the allowance of immigrants to enter the United States with the possibility of being accepted as citizens.

According to www.cnn.com, since 2011, one thousand five hundred Syrian refugees have been accepted into the United States. In the next year, 10,000 more will be allowed to enter. Governors from thirty-one states oppose the admission of Syrian refugees into the United States. All but one of these governors is Republican.

As far as Presidential candidates are concerned, the only two who support the allowance of Syrian refugees into the United States are Hillary Clinton and

Bernie Sanders, both Democrats. The Republican candidates all strongly oppose bringing the refugees into our country.

The scrutiny of these governors, presidential candidates, and many other American citizens was brought about by the terrorist attacks in Paris last November. These attacks caused the death of 130 people. At least one of the suspects entered France under the false claim that he was a Syrian refugee.

This editor believes we have a duty to help our fellow man, but that does not mean we should blindly let immigrants into our country. We should use our resources to perform background checks on those wishing to enter our country.

The Bible tells us that we are responsible

to care for our fellow man, especially those who are being oppressed. Psalm 82:3-4 says, "Defend the cause of the poor and the fatherless! Vindicate the oppressed and suffering! Rescue the poor and needy! Deliver them from the power of the wicked!"

The Catholic Church has also taken the stance that countries should take in refugees if they have the resources. According to www.patheos.com, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz of Louisville said, "Regardless of their religious affiliation or national origin, these refugees are all human persons- made in the Image of God, bearing inherent dignity, and deserving our respect and care and protection by law from persecution."

Should refugees be allowed into our country?



"I rather see us work on issues we have with our own country rather than allowing them in. Once we get our problems under control then we can worry about them."

Middle school History teacher Mrs. Ann Heermann



"No, because we already have a problem with immigration and don't need to add to it. We need to secure our borders first and then think about letting some refugees in."

Senior Conner Kranda



"I'm kind of in the middle. Yes, because of our humanitarian nature, but no because of our concerns of security."

High school civics teacher Mr. John Svec



"No, because there's been a lot of terrorism in the world, and we don't want that in our country."

Seventh grader Keegan Lavicky



"I think we should but be more strict like doing background checks. You just can't assume that every Islamic person is going to be a terrorist."

Freshman Jill Witter



"Only to a certain extent. Their background and crime record should be checked first."

Junior Branden Daro



"They need to take a series of tests to prove that they want to be a U.S. citizen."

Sophomore Josh Roh



"Absolutely not. We have a lot of people we can't take care of; we don't need more. They're also dangerous."

Junior Brandon Svoboda



"No, because it's too high of a risk, and I think maybe we should send our people over there and not let them in the U.S."

Freshman Miles Eggleston