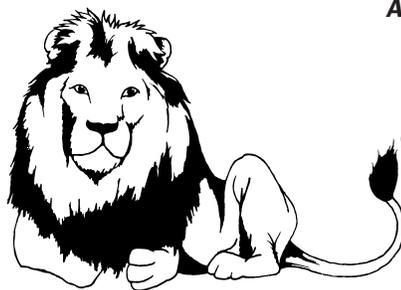


The Crown Prints



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The “key” to 2018-2019

“Unlocking the Gifts” is this year’s theme

By Braden Smith

Strolling the halls of Aquinas, it is hard to miss the theme of the school year. “Unlocking the Gifts” will be the driving idea for students and faculty for the 2018-19 school year.

According to Aquinas chief administrative officer Fr. Sean Timmerman, “Unlocking the Gifts” represents the gifts from God that all of us were given. Timmerman wants students to specifically focus on empathy. “Place yourself in another person’s shoes... others before self,” Timmerman said.

Marketing and enrollment coordinator Mrs. Laura Adair designed the logo for this school year. This year’s logo features a dove and an old brass key. “From a Catholic perspective, I thought ‘gifts of the Holy Spirit’, so I thought of a dove to represent that, and I thought of a key to represent unlocking,” Adair said. This logo can be seen on calendars, lockers, and various places around the school.

Although students may look past something like the theme, Adair really wants the students to take something away from the theme this year. “I would like them to pick one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and work on it. As Catholics, we need to look into [our gifts] and work on them.” Timmerman also added, students have a responsibility to use the gifts God gave them.

Student council members handed out small brass keys to the entire student body and staff during the school’s first Mass. Student council moderator Ms. Jean Brown said, “When Mrs. Adair designed the logo, she chose an image of a key, which was cool, so I went online and purchased the brass keys.” The goal of the keys is to remind students over the course of the year to use their unique gifts and talents.



Senior student council member Zach Zavodny hands out a miniature brass key to the middle students at the opening Mass of the school year. Students were asked to carry the key with them to always be reminded of the gifts they have. Fr. Corey Harrison and Fr. Ben Holdren, respectively, were the main celebrants for the middle school and high school opening Masses. *Photo by J. Brown*



Trades students build new daycare

Aquinas constructs daycare for St. Mary's

By Ivy Schmid

The building trades students are constructing a project like no other! Building trades instructor Mr. Mark Masur, his students and subcontractors will construct the new St. Mary's Holy Family Child Care Center during the 2018-19 school year.

When completed, the daycare will be 4672 square feet and will be able to care for more than eighty children. The daycare will include four main classrooms and a large lobby. The center will also have a finished basement with two meeting rooms for St. Mary's faculty. According to Masur, the lot for the daycare was donated by a generous benefactor.

Masur said 14 students are actively working on site with the subcontractors. "Working with the subcontractors provides a more realistic experience but also has drawbacks because we are dependent on

other people's schedules." Chief administrative officer Father Sean Timmerman said the facility will be open and functioning by August, 2019.

According to senior building trades student Creighton Redler, "We don't get to lay the foundation, and quite a bit of the work will be contracted out. We don't get to do a lot on site right now because the basement hasn't been poured." According to Masur, daily schedules consists of meeting at the site, instructions and "moving forward from there." On rainy days or delayed basement days, Masur instructs on safety procedures and tape reading skills in class.

Cabinetry students "build [at Aquinas] and install there" according to Masur. The focus for cabinetry students is building the cubbies for the daycare where daycare attendees will hang bags and place their

shoes. Masur said, "Managing the new schedule has been difficult because we have had to work in student traveling time to and from the site which costs us construction time."

David City has a need for the daycare. "Even with the high number of daycares in David City, there is still a shortage. I know parishioners who send kids to two different daycares. We hope new families will utilize the daycare being so close to the preschool, and once they get a taste of Catholic education they will continue on to St. Mary's and Aquinas," Timmerman said.

Currently the former St. Mary's convent serves as a daycare and is full with twelve children enrolled. If one would like to apply for future daycare services, contact director Mrs. Mary Coufal at St. Mary's.

Broadcasting class introduces themselves

By Keegan Lavicky

3...2...1... We are live in the broadcasting room at Aquinas Catholic Schools. The 2018-2019 school year will be the first year Aquinas students can take a broadcasting class.

The Aquinas High School curriculum allows students to choose elective classes they would like to take. The curriculum also evolves to fit the changing needs of the students. Broadcasting teacher Mr. Tony Smith said, "The class was needed just the way social media is changing the world and how people get their news through videos."

Senior broadcasting student Jack Jakub has already been announcing junior varsity football games. "My backup plan is to be a PA announcer. It is like art coming out of my mouth." Jakub's initial plans involve a career in agriculture.

Junior Morgan Littlefield also takes the class. "I recommend the class because you get to learn a lot of cool editing." Jakub also added "You do lots of cool stuff, like editing videos."

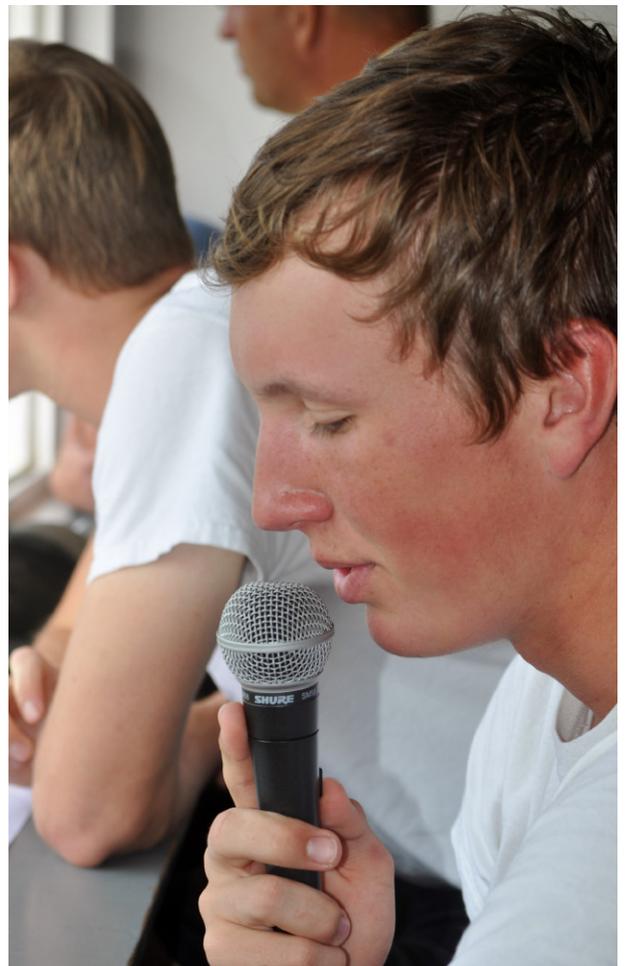
"Students do have a textbook. They will

also be learning the software, and going out and finding video stories," Smith said. Smith learned how to make his own videos at a boot camp for first year video broadcasting teachers. Littlefield said, "Critiquing Mr. Smith's video for broadcasting class for teachers has been a lot of fun."

Eight students are in this year's broadcasting class. Smith said, "Students will be getting to know their school better by putting together video stories around school."

Senior broadcasting student Jack Jakub announces at a junior varsity football game. Broadcasting teacher Mr. Tony Smith hope to have several audio and video broadcasting projects throughout the year.

Photo by J Brown





New teachers find themselves at Aquinas

By Emily Dalton

A new year, new classes and plenty of new teachers! This school year began with four first-year teachers, who will be learning along with their students.

Ms. Lyssa Mayo, a 2011 graduate from East Butler, is the school's new art teacher. Her mother Mrs. Shelly Mayo is currently the middle school science teacher. Ms. Mayo said, "My mom has been a teacher since I was born; it inspired me to be a teacher."

Filling the government teaching position this year is 2013 Pius graduate Mr. Seth Peirce. Peirce will also help with girls' basketball, girl's track and is the new prom moderator. Already Peirce sees a long future for himself at Aquinas. "Like the previous history/government teacher, Mr. Svec, I would love to be here for thirty years."

The new freshmen religion teacher Deacon Allan Phan had an easy time deciding he was going to teach. Phan said, "The bishop decided for me." He expects to stay for a few years at Aquinas before the bishop moves him again. Phan added that the most important thing he has learned about teaching is "sometimes, you just got to give a demerit."

Although Phan was assigned, he knew he wanted to end up at Aquinas. "I taught Totus Tuus in 2014 and loved this town," Phan said. Mr. John Wehrs, the school's new science teacher also taught Totus Tuus, and several TEC retreats at Aquinas.

Wehrs, was the last of the four new teachers to be hired. Wehrs said, "When I looked to apply the first time, the position had already been filled." However, when Wehrs saw the position had reopened, he jumped at the opportunity and got the job, only a month before school started.

**Homecoming Week
October 8 - 13**

Let's Go Monarchs!

New head cook "serves it up" in Aquinas cafeteria

By Morgan Littlefield

Aquinas Catholic Schools welcomed a new head cook this fall. Mrs. Jenny White plans some changes to the meal program to improve students' lunch experience.

White is a 1992 Aquinas graduate, and she and her husband Mike have two children that are also graduates of Aquinas: Becky in 2014, and Mitch in 2016. Their youngest Garrett is currently a sixth grader at Aquinas.

White came upon the position of head cook when she applied for an assistant cook position at Saint Mary's. Aquinas superintendent Fr. Sean Timmerman called to see if she would be interested in cooking at Aquinas. White said, "He didn't say it was for the head cook until I was committed."

The position of head cook includes "an awful lot of paperwork," and challenges such as making changes that still follows state and federal guidelines. The cooks also

work to ensure that students are receiving well prepared meals. White said, "There is no way I could do it without Mrs. Kathy Meysenburg, Mrs. Kathy Boss, and Mrs. Erin Marushak."

White wants the students to have more home cooked meals. "With regulations, it's hard to see what the kids would like on the menu." She wants the students to voice their opinions and tell her what changes they would like.

White wants the meal to be the highlight of the students' day; she stressed how important it is for them to get enough nutrition to make it through their day and practices. Most Aquinas students do not have time to eat after school until their practices are finished in the evening.

The cooks like to hear comments and reactions toward the new changes. "I enjoy interacting with the kids and seeing them happy," White said.

Three new students learn the "Aquinas way"

By Jayci Roh

Starting a new school year in high school can be hard and scary. Three new students are in the Sophomore Class at Aquinas Catholic High School.

Sophomore Jade Feuerborn came from Osceola High School. Feuerborn's mother is Kirsten Feuerborn. Jade is the oldest in her family along with her brother Roman and sister Miranda. Feuerborn also has a desert box turtle named Quasi.

Feuerborn said she is loving the change to Aquinas. "Everyone is nice and it's a very positive learning environment." Being a new student is always hard but Feuerborn said, "At first I was nervous, but now everyone has made me feel at ease." Feuerborn's favorite part about Aquinas is "how supportive everyone is." Feuerborn plans to do speech during the winter season.

Sophomore Deyanira Villa came from Schuyler High School. Villa's parents are Baltazar and Shawna Villa, Deyanira is the oldest and has two other sisters: Yaretzi and Nayeli.

Villa noted a difference about Aquinas from her previous school. "I have to wear a uniform, and I'm not particularly fond of it, but I'm also grateful for it." Villa's favorite part about Aquinas is band. "I'm a musician, and I am an artist."

For Villa religion appears to be one of the harder classes here at Aquinas. Villa plans to do band, speech, drama, and possibly FFA.

Sophomore Cameron Schrad came from Seward High School. According to Schrad, Spanish appears to be one of the harder classes here at Aquinas. For Schrad the only difference here at Aquinas is, "you have to wear a uniform."

Being one of the new students in the Sophomore Class has been good for Schrad. Schrad said, "Nobody has treated me like I'm new." Schrad plans to compete in wrestling and track. Schrad's favorite part about Aquinas is sports.



“Ho Hey,” Let’s go pray!

By Ivy Schmid

Two rival schools come together... *to worship?* On the first Sunday of each month this year, Aquinas Catholic High School and Bishop Neumann students have the opportunity to attend Fire events.

Recently, one hundred ten students from Aquinas and Neumann gathered in the Aquinas chapel for a Fire event consisting of adoration, confessions, and live praise and worship music. According to senior religion teacher Fr. Ben Holdren, he and new Campus Minister Mrs. Beth Nemeć drew inspiration for the Fire events from the SEEK and Stuebenville conferences.

The name “Fire” comes from the passage read on Pentecost in the Acts of the Apostles. “The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, and they experienced tongues of fire,” Holdren said. The recent Fire event started off with a group rendition of the Lumineers’s song “Ho Hey.” Mr. Tony Birkel

and Aquinas students provided live music for the event.

Lincoln Diocese Office of Evangelization Director Mr. Matthew Simmons also spoke about his conversion and God’s mercy and love. Following Simmons’s talk was a holy hour and confessions.

The evening capped off with fifteen minutes of social time between the students. Senior Hannah Moravec said, “A lot of times students from other schools are looked at as rivals, and this brought us all together.” Freshman attendee Shae Junck said she would like to see more social time in future Fire events.

According to Holdren students from Pius X High School, the St. Thomas Aquinas Neumann Center, Nebraska City Sacred Heart High School, and Hasting’s St. Cecilia High School have been invited to future Fire events.

“Getting involved in your faith in high school is really important because when you get to college, everyone will have different viewpoints than your own, so it can be easy to lose your faith. Events like Fire help you to build a strong foundation before you go into the world,” Moravec said. Holdren added the hope for the Fire events is to build “awesome relationships” with other students and with God.

Holdren and Nemeć have multiple faith building events planned for the upcoming year including speakers, such as Mr. Jeff Kanger, who works with persecuted Christians in the Gaza Strip, and Emily Martinez who is the Microphone Controller (MC) for SEEK Conferences. Mr. Jason Evert will also be speaking on relationships. Additionally, spiritual direction will be required for all students.

The next Fire event will be held on Oct. 7 at Lake Wanahoo in Wahoo.

Nemeć takes on new minister role

Aquinas has a new campus minister Mrs. Beth Nemeć.

By Hayden Schawang

A new campus minister recently joined the Aquinas community. Mrs. Beth Nemeć has a desire to bring students to see their own values through the eyes of God.

Nemeć plans to lead the spiritual development of Aquinas Catholic schools with more opportunities to encounter Jesus. “My hope and prayer is that as many students as possible will know their true values and are loved by Jesus. I want to develop as many opportunities as I can for students to do this.” Nemeć plans to advocate for the opportunities promoted by the Diocese of Lincoln, such as the state and national March for Life.

Two programs have already been instituted under the direction of Nemeć. “Aquinas Fire” and ‘Spiritual Direction’ are programs that were instituted this year to promote Diocesan events,” Nemeć said.

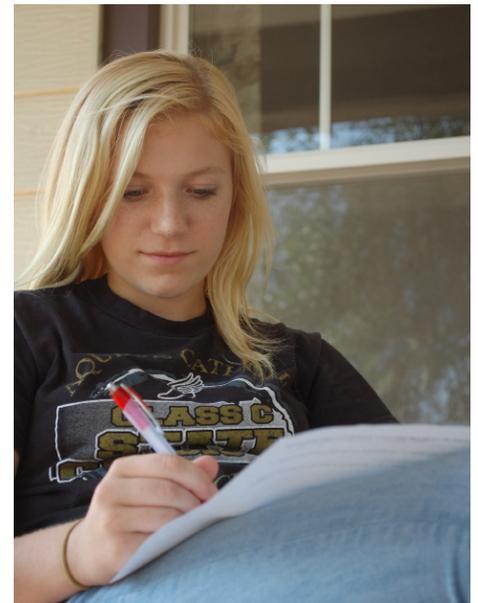
Nemeć is excited to get to know the students through these programs. “Aquinas Fire” is the replacement of the former Campus Missionaries group, and takes

place on Sundays with students from Wahoo Bishop Neumann High School.

“Spiritual Direction” is a thirty minute time period once a semester where two or three students together have the opportunity to ask any questions they wish to their selected spiritual director.

Nemeć feels she has adjusted well to the new position with support from other staff members. “I love so many aspects about this position. Fr. (Ben) Holdren and the administration have been extremely supportive and kind to me.” Nemeć added her kids are at an age where she has better availability for the job.

When the position at Aquinas came open, Nemeć knew she would enjoy it. “The position came open last spring, and I knew right away I would apply for it. Youth ministry has been my passion for many years and to get to do it for a job is amazing.” Mrs. Miriam Daro was the previous Campus Minister.



Sophomore Bethany Emswiler ponders the lives of saints at the Sophomore Class retreat held at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ullysses. Campus minister Mrs. Beth Nemeć and religion teacher Fr. Ben Holdren organized all class retreats for grades 6 - 12. Photo by J.Brown



Uniforms create teams and families

By Hayden Schawang

Whether the performance is on the court or the field, Monarchs express their school pride through their uniforms. Athletic uniforms are physical representations of student's pride in their school, family and self.

As uniforms age, more memories pass into the jerseys. Senior volleyball player Micaiah Vrbka said, "The age of a uniform brings back different memories, like those of recent graduates. Looking at a jersey and think of the person you looked up to and realize that their jersey is now yours is a neat experience." Freshman football player Simon Kelly added wearing a uniform allows oneself to show school pride, as the number of the uniform becomes a personal identifier.

Being in uniform creates a sense of unity among whichever team that wears them. Sophomore dance team member Ruth Plasek said, "Uniforms allow [the dance team] to represent ourselves in unison with one another, which is a key factor when creating an illusion. They also show pride by representing our school colors."

Wearing a game jersey has a different effect than a practice jersey. Vrbka said, "[When wearing a jersey], there is a game day feeling where you're excited to go out and do what you love, but you also have

a nervous anticipation to represent the school and your family." Kelly added practice jerseys do not have much meaning, but game jerseys "represent who you are, and what you feel is important."

Every uniform is valuable in Kelly's opinion. "Both new and old jerseys have the same value because when you get on the field, they all become the same," Kelly said.

Kelly and Vrbka agree the Senior Class represents school pride at Aquinas. Kelly said, "The seniors have a lot of Monarch pride. They have got a good Catholic spirit and show what Aquinas really is." Vrbka added [the Senior Class] tries hard to mentor and be role models for the underclassmen.



The Black Illusion dance team performs on the sidelines at a home football game. The captains for the 2018-19 school year are senior Suzanne Oborny, junior Jayci Roh, and sophomore Bethany Emswiler. Photo by I. Schmid

Over the summer, the dance team purchased new uniforms. Junior captain Jayci Roh said, "We got our new uniforms from the company Varsity. After we found a design we liked, everybody had to buy their own uniform. We wear the new uniforms, shoes, and other accessories for our dances."

The uniformity of a team does more than distinguish sides. Vrbka said, "Team uniforms, in a sense, make you feel like a family. You're the only one playing, but your teammates have your back no matter what."

Having energy and giving an effort are two ways Monarchs show pride. Plasek said, "[Dancers] who really get into the dances with energy, rather than just fumble through them, are great exhibits of pride on the dance team." Vrbka added a strong inter-team rivalry where everyone is fighting to be the best is another sign of team pride.

Letting jerseys be used year after year, rather than the student keeping the uniform gives the uniform more purpose. Vrbka said, "As much as I would love to keep my jersey, I think leaving it behind would be best. It would leave a memory that could inspire the future volleyball girls to do their best and to leave everything on the court."

Rivalries push students to do their best

By Emily Dalton

BEAT THE GREEN! Competitions between Aquinas and rival schools push the Monarchs to their very best by giving players a common goal: to show that Monarchs are tremendous competitors.

In rivalries two schools try extra hard to beat each other in various activities. According to senior softball third baseman Bridget Sisco, "[A rivalry is] a competitive debate between two teams over territory and honor." Rivalry games are more intense and competitive for both the players and the student sections.

According to senior football safety Michael Rerucha, Aquinas' biggest rivals in athletics are Columbus Scotus and Wahoo Bishop Neumann. Both schools are located only half an hour from Aquinas. Rerucha

said the main reason for the rivalries is this close distance. "You always want to be better than your neighbor."

Sisco and Rerucha agreed the teams need to be competitive to have a true rivalry. While there are schools closer to Aquinas, Sisco said, "[With our rivalries] you don't know if you'll win, it's a big game on both sides. It pushes everyone to play at their best."

The intensity of rivalries make the losses harder, but the wins even sweeter. This was especially true for the volleyball team when they beat Scotus this season. Senior volleyball player Kloe Ruth said, "It was a really good feeling to beat [Scotus], since [Aquinas] hasn't beat them since 1988."

Rivalries also exist in Aquinas's fine arts

department, with the most notable rivalries, according to junior performing arts participant Travis Roh, being with Bishop Neumann and David City Public. However, the art programs express the rivalry differently. Roh said, "In sports you can let your determination show physically, in fine arts you are working against yourself."

Teachers and coaches also feed into rivalries. According to Ruth, football coach Mr. Tony Smith has "green week" the week Aquinas faces Scotus, whose school color is green. "[For the week] you aren't allowed to wear green." Sisco added that some of the coaches went to these schools, so the rivalry is more personal for them.



Batting to championships

By Jayci Roh

Strike 3! BATTER'S OUT! Both softball and baseball summer teams shut the lights out at the state softball and baseball tournaments.

Numerous Aquinas softball players play for the Blue Blaze softball team, who played at the state tournament in Hastings, NE. They competed against the Sandhill Sharks (6-2), Albion (8-3), Fairbury (4-1) and Adam Stingers (13-2).

Additionally numerous Aquinas students play for the David City Senior Legion Baseball team. The team also played in the state tournament in Albion, NE. They played Alma (10-0), Creighton (10-2), Pender (2-0), Wilber (4-7) and Pender (10-6) in the championship game.

Being a part of any state tournament can be very exciting. Senior catcher Valarie Bohuslavsky said the most intense part of the State softball tournament was "Fairbury because it was an evenly matched game." Bohuslavsky added, "We were close with them, and we gradually got stronger throughout the game. We weren't expected to win because Fairbury dominated in districts and was predicted to win the tournament."

Senior catcher Daniel Stara said the most intense game of the state baseball tournament was "Creighton in the second round because their center-fielder was a scary man, and they were runner ups last year." In the game against Creighton senior Andy Lyons snagged a ball hit to center field getting the out. Additionally, seniors Nolan Hartman and Jack Jakob had crucial saves. Senior Joseph Reimers also had two home runs.

The adrenaline rush every player has always full of excitement after winning a state championship. Stara said, "It feels pretty great; definitely an experience I'll remember for the rest of my life. It feels good."

Bohuslavsky has been playing softball ever since she can remember and has always loved the game. The best part about playing softball is "winning as a team because we put in a lot of work and it all pays off in the games."

The David City Blue Blaze softball team was coached by Mr. Tom Baer, Mr. Greg Roh, and Mr. Jason Campbell. The senior legion baseball team was coached by Mr. Matt Crogan, Mr. Ryan Jordan, Mr. Randy Vavrina and Mr. Steve Rerucha.



Boys' and Girls' State enchants future politicians

By John Dalton

Girls' and Boys' State is a summer activity available for students before their senior year. The participants develop skills and knowledge in leadership and government at the event.

Girls' State takes place early in June according to participant senior Micaiah Vrbka. Boys' state takes place in July according to participant senior Zachary Chromy. Both events are a week long and are at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Girls' and Boys' State teaches about the government and leadership for the next generation. "It's important to get involved in government and have knowledge to back up what you believe in," Girls' state participant Senior Kathryn Brezina said. Boys' State mirrors the same goal, "We learned a lot about how the government works," Chromy added.

"Every floor was like your city," Brezina said. Participants run for office and form their own government. The participants also take part in debates and elections with each other. "I held a two hour discussion," Chromy said.

Girls' and Boys' State may spark interest in government the student might not have had before. "I actually realized I kind of like politics," Vrbka said. The activity can also give a student more than experience according to Brezina, "Definitely apply. It's a good experience, looks good on a resume, and forms good connections," Brezina said.

Many participants were involved in the government and leadership event. According to Brezina 700 to 800 people attended. Chromy said he met 400 kids while he was there.

"The first couple days are filled with a lot of activities, so you get kind of tired," Vrbka said. However, Vrbka feels it still is a great activity that helps students realize there are lots of possibilities.



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Football starts to build momentum

Team gaining strength after shaky start to season.

By Braden Smith

“One Heartbeat.” This season’s motto for the football team has been one of the main driving forces that has sparked the Monarchs to a 2-2 record to start the 2018 season.

The Monarchs recently defeated the Ponca Indians 28-14 in the fourth game of the season. Senior safety and split end Michael Rerucha said, “The team started off really strong. The second half, they started to take it at us, but we held our own.” All fourteen points given up were in the second half.

The team’s first win came in the home opener against Hartington Cedar Catholic. Junior lineman Owen Schramm thought the defense played well, “We only allowed seven points.” The final score was a nail biter with the Monarchs coming out on top 13-7.

In the Monarchs’ second game, the foot-

ballers traveled to face Lincoln Journal Star’s number one ranked team in C-2, Norfolk Catholic. How might a team prepare for the number one team? Defensive Coordinator Mr. Tony Smith said, “We have to look at week one film and find out what our players’ strengths are, and make sure we utilize those strengths on the field.”

The Monarchs ended up losing the game to the Knights 7-31. The team’s only touchdown came from a run by senior captain and linebacker Miles Eggleston, who was injured and taken out of play later in the game

The season opener was against, arguably the Monarchs’ biggest rival, the Scotus Shamrocks. The rivalry showed on the field with a very physical game. The Monarchs lost a close one, 21-23. The team’s inexperience may have been the difference in the

game according to Smith.

Smith was not on the sideline for the start of the Scotus game, instead finding himself in the emergency room. “I was coming down a ladder. My foot slipped, and my ring got caught on a square rung and cut my finger pretty good. The people in the emergency room did a good job getting me back on the field by the end of the first quarter.”

Smith added, “Some sophomore linebackers have stepped up to fill the holes for the injured starters, [junior] Travis Roh and Miles Eggleston.” Smith noted sophomores Keegan Lavicky, Brett Kobza, and Nolan Eller have taken bigger roles on the field. Smith feels the Monarchs will need to continue to build experience if they are going to be successful toward the end of the season.

Thin clads find their stride

By John Dalton

The Aquinas cross-country team has been cheering each other on through the Scotus, Fremont Bergan, Seward, and East Butler meets. Aquinas runners have placed at three of the four meets so far.

During the Columbus Scotus cross country meet the Aquinas girls’ team placed third and the boy’s team placed fourth according, to Aquinas cross country coach Mr. John Svec. Sophomore cross country runner Peter Sisco feels the Scotus meet was the toughest so far. The medalists at the meet were senior Allie Frasher coming in fifth for girls, and sophomores Luke Frasher in tenth and Peter Sisco in fourteenth place for boys.

At the Fremont Bergan meet Aquinas placed first according to Svec. “Even though we didn’t get to run the usual course at Bergan I still enjoyed it. It had rained a bunch the day before and most of the course had dirt paths,” added Sisco.

The season’s second meet was the Seward meet, which had a large number of contestants. “There were four class C and D schools, and we got third,” Svec said. Allie Frasher was the only medalist, placing fifteenth for the girls.

The first meet of the year was the East Butler meet. At the opening meet the girls’ and boys’ teams placed second according to Svec. “The East Butler meet is a very tough course to start the year, so hopefully it made us a bit tougher,” Svec said.

The sport of cross country attracts the attention of students for many reasons. “I joined because of the atmosphere of the team,” Sisco said. “The team is very supportive and understanding with each other. We are really a family,” added Allie Frasher.

Every year the team loses the previous year’s seniors but also gains a new group of freshmen. “Our girls are a lot more experienced than we have had in the past; the boys have a group of sophomores that are our top three runners,” Svec said.

“Our goal for the year is to do as good or better than last year,” Sisco said. “[The girls] are hoping for at least a third at districts,” added Allie Frasher.

The harriers do have some challenges for the year. “The Aquinas meet and the conference meet will be very tough this year, but hopefully will prepared us for districts,” Svec said.

Softball Breaks Class C State Record



Sophomore Allie Hartman swings at the pitch. The Aquinas softball team broke an NSAA class C state record at the Central City tournament during a game against Pierce by scoring twenty points in one inning. Photo by E. Dalton



A clerical response to Church scandals

By Hayden Schawang

In recent months, the Catholic faithful have been rocked by scandals of abuse and cover-ups. The scandals have touched many diocese in the nation, including Pennsylvania, where alleged incidents of sexual abuse of adults and children prior to 2002 had gone unreported to authorities.

The media has shaken the Church with these claims, and the cries of scandal have traveled all over the globe. The Lincoln Diocese has not been immune to the accusations of their religious leaders, and incidents of alleged wrong doing are currently being investigated.

Fr. Ben Holdren, a priest in the Lincoln Diocese, participated in the following interview, responding to questions regarding these scandals.

Schawang: How have the claims affected the youth, the lay faithful, and priests?

Holdren: The scandals have had a big effect. There is some very serious harm that has been done to innocent people, and it's disgusting when it comes at the hands of priests.

Schawang: Where does the Church plan to go with these accusations? What is the next course of action to take?

Holdren: Hiring private investigators to make sure the evil is rooted out and to make sure the innocent people are safe - especially children.

Schawang: Why do you think so much is

coming to light right now?

Holdren: Most of the information coming to light is prior to 2002. I think, in 2002, there were some major changes to policies keeping children safe in the diocese and seminaries. I think the reason why it's coming to light right now has to do with the findings in Pennsylvania over many decades previous to 2002.

Schawang: Why would the church hide these issues of scandal? What is the benefit of lying and hiding information from the public? That seems hypocritical.

Holdren: [The accused] are a minority of bishops who have been covering these things up. The charges violate their spiritual fatherhood, which is a very evil thing to do. I think it's important to realize the majority of bishops and priests are fighting this and to make sure this never happens again.

Schawang: Is there anything that the youth can do about these issues of scandal?

Holdren: To live with purity, because they will be our future moms, dads, priests, and religious, and to reject impurity in music, movies, internet, and the media.

Schawang: How will the church ultimately benefit from responding to the scandal claims?

Holdren: The church will be purified in greater ways of selfish priests and bishops.

Schawang: What is the church ultimately going to lose?

Holdren: What do we have to lose? The very sad, tragic reality is that good people's faith will be shaken.

Schawang: How have you adjusted to priests you've met and worked alongside being accused of scandalous acts?

Holdren: It is important to remember that these are accusations and not convictions or guilt. And, the vast majority have involved other adults, not children. Jesus tells us we need to love always, as we make sure innocent people are protected.

Schawang: What can be incorporated into school systems to ease stress from students and staff? Also, what has been done all ready?

Holdren: Since 2002, we have had solid policies in place. We just need to make sure we are following them perfectly.

Schawang: Is there anything else that I haven't asked you that you would like to be known?

Holdren: In our diocese, 2% of priests have been accused [of scandalous acts] with adults. 0.5% have been accused of something regarding minors, which means 99.5% of priests are fighting alongside everyone to ensure safety and friendship with Christ.

CrownPrints

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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A growl... or a roar. Monarchs sound off.

Do you think wearing lanyards is a good idea? Why or why not?



Junior Nate Junck

"I think that lanyards are a good idea, but I wish it could be represented differently. Sometimes they catch on desks, lockers, or get in the sauces on trays at lunch."



Junior Maria Pytlik

"I don't like them because they are annoying and dangerous, like little siblings."