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O F F I C I A L A Q U I N A S A L U M N I N E W S L E T T E R

NEW STATE AND ALL-STATE CHAMPIONS WALL

Over five years ago, when the newest addition was added on to the south side of Aquinas, it was decided that all Individual Champions and Team Champions would be moved from their original home in the cafeteria to the new addition, and that All-State recipients would also be featured. Since the new addition included a concession stand, the cafeteria was no longer used for events and no one ever saw our talented stu-

dents' pictures. The newly re-done team champion display has been up for some time, but the All-State and Individual Champions display was just recently put up in the hallway between the two gyms. The display includes individual champions from wrestling, cross country, track, and speech along with track relay and speech group champions.

Ron Mimick, Activities Director for Aquinas, has great records of the

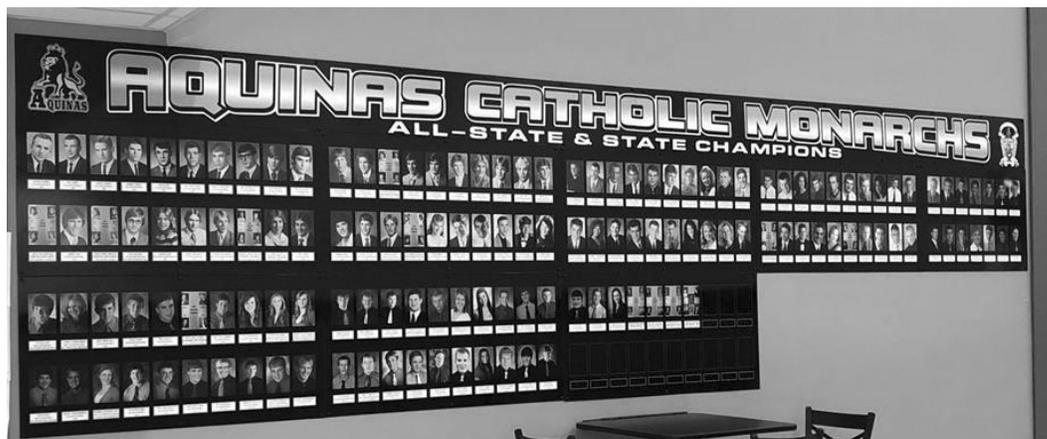
All-State and State Champions since the school opened in 1961. Alumni Director, Deb Svec, used those records to pull senior photos from the digitized yearbooks to help create the display. "It was so interesting to gather all of these names and faces for this display. We have had some very talented students here at Aquinas," said Svec. The display allows for plenty of room to add more pho-

tos and names in the future.

We were very blessed to have the funds to pay for this display donated by Don Semin, a 1956 Marietta graduate. Semin donated memorials given in memory of his wife Joan, who passed away last fall. Don and his late wife Joan, are the parents of six Aquinas alumni with their son Eric being one of the All-Staters featured. We hope our alumni will stop out to see this new tribute to our students.

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The New Wall of Champions—Stop by sometime and see this new tribute to our students past and present.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Alumni and Friends of Aquinas Catholic Schools,

As I write this, we are still in the midst of significant and historic flooding in our area and beyond. Some of our alumni and current school families have been stranded at home, and others have had damage done to their homes and property. We continue to pray for the safety of all and to be supportive of our community members who have experienced loss. We are grateful to all of our good neighbors, including your fellow alums, who have helped out those most in need in this difficult time.

We will be having the AdvancED (formerly North Central) accreditation visitation in March. Our school improvement teams, along with all teachers in their separate committees, have been working extremely hard in preparation for these important visitations. AdvancED is a national and much more rigorous school improvement process than is normally required by the state. This outside process also requires input from parents, students, teachers, and staff members. This improvement process helps make our Catholic schools better now and for the future.

Check out our great website, www.aquinas-catholic.com to find out more about the activities and programs in your Aquinas-St. Mary's Catholic Schools. I encourage you to also sign up on the website for the **Monarch Minute**, our monthly e-newsletter. Follow us too on Facebook and Twitter!

Yours in Christ,



Chief Administrative Officer

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT / ALUMNI OFFICE

Dear Alumni,

While the flood of 2019 has not directly affected the physical structure of Aquinas, we have many in our school who were affected. We have 18 students who live north of the river who had to find a way to get south in order to come to school. Alumni and parents have opened up their homes indefinitely to these students so they can finish out the year. I am sure there are also numerous alumni out there who have damaged homes and businesses. We want you to know that you are all in our prayers during this difficult time. It is times like this when we are reminded what "tough

stuff" we Nebraskans are made of and also that "there is no place like Nebraska!" Those of you alumni who are living outside of Nebraska, please keep everyone here in your prayers as well. We are going to see the effects of this disaster for months and years to come.

On a totally different topic, I was asked by a donor recently if I could give them a clearer picture of the difference between giving to the Endowment Fund versus giving to the Annual Appeal. Both are very important to the school. Both are worthy of a donor's consideration. Sometimes it comes down to personal preference. Think of Aquinas as a

large investment, like buying a house. You have to make payments on your mortgage, but you also need to pay to keep the lights on. In the world of fundraising for our schools, the endowment is like the long-term investment of mortgage payments and the annual appeal is like the immediate need to pay the utility bills. Both choices help students to receive the same awesome Catholic education that you benefited from. Please give me a call if you have more questions. I'd love to visit with you.

In Christ,

Deb Succ

Alumni Director

GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Aquinas High School opened its doors in September of 1961 to serve the families of this area. From 1961 until 1994, families who sent their children to Aquinas, paid a nominal book bill but no tuition. The bulk of the budget fell on the shoulders of the parishes in the David City Deanery. Tuition was added in 1995 to help ease the burden of the parishes. Since that time, small increases have been made to the tuition but nothing that would compare to many Catholic schools in the state. Times have changed, population has shifted, and Aquinas and St. Mary's Catholic Schools is now a Pre-K-12 school system educating students of our area. The 13 parishes in the David City Deanery continue to support the school system by providing 59% of the budget. To round out that budget, 18% comes from tuition, 12% from fundraising and 11% from the Endowment Fund. Each of the parishes sees over 80% of their income go to the schools. Four years ago, our schools participated in a Strategic Plan that included finances. That committee



has been working hard to come up with a plan that will help balance the budget and ease the burden on our parishes. This plan calls for an increase in tuition paid by our families. This increase, we know, will also increase the need for tuition assistance. Because of this, we are calling on benefactors, including alumni, who received the benefits of a Catholic education, to consider making an investment in the Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund to help out families who are currently in our schools. We already have alumni and benefactors who have created Guardian Angel Named Funds within our Endowment that provide scholarships each year. Continued gifts to these named funds will help us to award more

scholarships. Here are some other ideas of ways you could help a student to receive the same quality education that you received:

- Donate the value of full yearly tuition at Aquinas High School (\$2,590), Aquinas Middle School (\$2,070) or St. Mary's (\$1,500) for one student.
- Donate half the value of tuition at Aquinas or St. Mary's

The Phone-a-thon for the Annual Appeal will always be the major fund-raiser for the schools that is supported by the alumni. However, if you have been blessed and have the ability to also provide scholarship assistance for one or more of our students, we would love to invite you to be a part of this effort. Please contact fr.sean-timmerman@cdolinc.net or deb-svec@cdolinc.net or call 402-367-3175 if you would like more information. **Donations can be mailed with the slip below to: Aquinas & St. Mary's Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund, PO Box 149, David City, NE**

YES, I'd like to contribute to the Guardian Angel Scholarship Fund!

Please accept my donation for a full year's tuition at _____ Aquinas High School (\$2,590)
 _____ Aquinas Middle School (\$2,070) _____ St. Mary's (\$1,500) _____ other donation _____

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to be invested in the Guardian Angel Scholarship Named Fund in the Aquinas Endowment Fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Aquinas & St. Mary's

 Guardian Angel
 Scholarship Fund

B A B Y M O N A R C H S

Ariana Meysenburg McCain '12 and Jake McCain, a son, Xavier John, born June 6, 2018
 Abby Raymond Eden '02 and Brian Eden, a daughter, Esther Laurel, born June 26, 2018
 Amanda Polacek Topil '05 and Adam Topil, a son, Hayden Joseph, born August 28, 2018
 Nick '06 and Chelsea Sypal, a daughter, Brylee Rae, born September 19, 2018
 Andrew '11 and Sara Buresh, a daughter, Julia Caroline, Born October 2, 2018
 Tiffany Marushak Sedlacek '11 and Samuel Sedlacek, a daughter, Addison Rose, born October 29, 2018
 Bryan '05 and Jenna Meister, a son, Charles Christopher, born November 1, 2018
 Lee Vavrina '98 and Callie Lovell, a son, Kaiser Lee, born November 2, 2018
 Tony '11 and Tess Birkel, a daughter, MarisStella Joseph, born November 16, 2018
 Jacki Cech Barry '09 and Cole Barry, a daughter, Kendall Marie, born November 19, 2018
 Josh and April Sypal (Aquinas Math Teacher), a daughter, Abigail Grace, born December 4, 2018
 Tom '05 and Kristi Hough, a daughter, Larkyn Kristine, born October 31, 2018
 Demi Bartunek Samek '07 and Mason Samek, a daughter, Maeva Nadine, born December 18, 2018
 Candice Hottovy Martin '02 and Matt Martin, a son, Derek Martin, December 20, 2018
 Chad '01 and Rebecca Juranek, a daughter, Charlotte Mae, born January 7, 2019
 Emilee Svec Sander '06 and Christopher Sander, a son, Andrew Christopher, born January 14, 2019
 Elizabeth Plasek Hain '14 and Jared Hain '14, a daughter, Layna Mae Hain, born January 26th, 2019
 Katie Svec Sieck '09 and Weston Sieck, a daughter, Veronica Grace, born February 14, 2019
 Ryan '01 and Britni Schmid '02 Ruth, a daughter, Aylla Scott, born February 20, 2019
 Rose Menjivar Ebert '04 and Carl Ebert, a son, Aaron Michael, born March 6, 2019



"Mini Monarch" Bibs available for sale in the alumni office for \$6.00

M A R R I A G E S



Paul Schmid '05 to Amanda Homes, May 19, 2018
 Jamie Meister '09 to Bryce Werts, July 21, 2018
 Katie Meister '06 to Bill Janak '00, September 8, 2018
 Amanda Novacek '12 to Kody Liermann, September 29, 2018
 Brooke Eller '15 to Dylan Hinrichs, November 3, 2018
 Jeff Eller '11 to Allison Heisler, November 30, 2018
 Becky White '14 to Trevor Stapleton, December 28, 2018
 Rachel Hoeft '17 to Jacob Kahnk, March 16, 2019

Please let us know if you have births, marriage or news to share! We love to hear from you and want to share your good news with other alumni!

2019 Class Reunions

When and Where.....

Class of 1964—55 years—June 29th, Oak Creek Sporting Club

Class of 1969—50 years—June 15th, tour of Aquinas 3pm, Mass with Msgr.

Herbek at Aquinas 4pm, followed by dinner in Dwight at Legion. June 14th informal gathering at Nancy Miriovsky Schendt's place near Mahoney State Park.

Class of 1974—45 years—July 20th, Par IV Golf Club in David City, 2pm

Class of 1979—40 years—June 29th, 6:00pm at Mark Zeller's in Lincoln.

Contact: mzell00@hotmail.com or pforemanne@gmail.com for more information.

Class of 1984—35 years—July 6th, 6:30pm at home of Mike and Pam Siroky's

Class of 1989—30 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 1994—25 years—June 15, 2019, 6:30pm, Par IV Golf Course, David City, Ne

Class of 1999—20 years—Not available at press time.

Class of 2004—15 years—July 13th—details will be coming from officers.

Class of 2009—10 years—July 27th, 4pm Mass celebrated by Fr. Doug Daro at Aquinas followed by gathering at Prothman's, 1082 M St, David City

Class of 2014— 5 years—July 26th

we didn't
REALIZE
 we were making
MEMORIES
 WE JUST KNEW WE WERE
HAVING FUN

PLAY PRODUCTION STATE CHAMPIONS

For the first time in eight years and the second time in school history, Aquinas has won the State Play Production Championships in Class C. Ann Heermann '85 was the director for the play. Several other Aquinas Alumni helped with various aspects of the production including Bill '87 and Melissa Taylor '89 Yindruck, Beth Fiala Roh '82, Tom Pohl '75 and Dee Pohl Hanson '01.

This year's performance was called "Sending Down the Sparrows" by Laura Lundgren Smith. This work of historical fiction, bears witness to the systematic persecution and extermination of the handicapped by Nazi Germany through the character of Viktor, a young man who is a reluctant member of the Hitler Youth. Viktor (played by Travis Roh) has a secret; a mentally handicapped sister (played by Elizabeth Aschoff) who is the ward of a state institution. Viktor soon finds himself caught between the Nazi ideologies of racial and genetic purity and the love of a sister for whom he feels shame. As the play unfolds, he must choose whether to continue protecting his secret himself or to come to the defense of his sister. It was not an easy



2018 Play Production Champions-Class C

subject matter for our students to present, but Heermann felt it was important for our school to perform the play to teach the audience the importance of learning lessons from history so we don't repeat them.

Before the performance at districts, the cast and crew got the opportunity to Skype with the author of the play, Laura Lundgren Smith. This gave her the opportunity to see how the students interpreted the lines and for the

students to hear what she was thinking when she wrote the play.

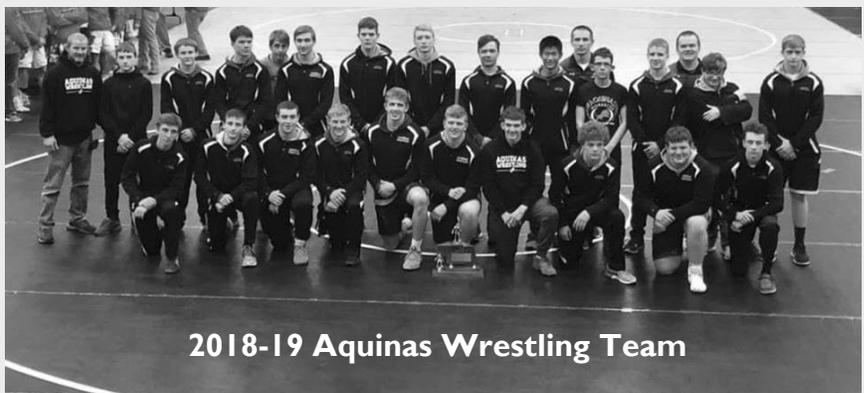
The Drama Department presented the musical "Newsies" this spring. This high energy show was a great performance challenge for the talented students who participated and highly entertaining for those who got to watch it. The strong drama participation continues at Aquinas!

AQUINAS WRESTLERS ENJOY GREAT SEASON

This year's Aquinas wrestlers racked up points with a win at their District meet, a runner-up finish at the State Dual Meet and qualified 11 individuals for the State Meet. The grapplers were coached by Eric Pflum '97, Roy Emory '02 and Andrew Daro '06.

Aquinas Senior Joseph Reimers broke the single season record for take-

downs, became the first wrestler in Nebraska high school history to record over 1000 career take-downs and was crowned state champion for the third time. Reimers said about his win, "I'm just thanking God for



2018-19 Aquinas Wrestling Team

this ability. I know I've been blessed with this gift," he said. "I've got to

give credit to where it's due."

REMEMBER WHEN....

This group of Dwight Assumption school students in the photo below from the 1943-1944 school year are standing with their "school bus". The bus, if you will, was an invention out of necessity. It is actually a 1928 four door Buick that was retrofitted to become a school bus. The interior of the car was removed and planks were used for the seats all around in a U-shape with everyone facing toward the center. This resulted in more capacity with maximum seating at 14! The driver supposedly had a bucket seat, but one has to wonder if a real bucket might have been used. The driver appointed would be the oldest boy of the passengers. The vehicle was purchased by Father Petrus who was principal of the school. The bus carried students from the Brainard area who wished to have a Catholic education in Dwight. The bus made the trip from Brainard to Dwight every day from 1939 to 1945.

While the bus had a capacity of 14, the normal haul was more around 9 students. On the rear of the bus was a large box which was used as a holding area for books, lunches and personal items. It was painted blue and the words Assumption School painted in white letters.

You can imagine that an arrangement of this sort may have many interesting stories. Here are a few. The bus was kept running by a Dwight mechanic, Ed Voboril, who did all the work for free. There was never an accident which was remarkable considering the age of the driver and the age of the car as

well as the number of occupants in such an unusual arrangement. The bus operated rain or shine, ice or snow. Even at times of some of the heaviest snowstorms when others living close to the school could not make it, the bus always started and successfully made the journey. The very first designated driver of the bus was none other than Raymond Hain DA '41 who would become a priest who was also known as "Father Ray". The late Monsignor Hain was well known in the Butler County area as well as other parts of Nebraska where he served.

Father Ray reflected on the two years he was designated driver. He stated that while there were no accidents, there were a number of close calls.

In one instance a horse was running right alongside them inside of a fenced area, but suddenly there was an opening in the fence and

the horse dashed out in front of them onto the road. They nearly missed hitting the horse, and there were many screams from inside the bus. Father Ray mentioned his ears were still ringing. He mentioned yet another dangerous miss. The brakes on the bus failed because they were caked with frozen mud. They were coming down a

hill near the Zavodny's farm west of Brainard. Another vehicle was approaching but they could not slow. Both vehicles met at the bottom of the hill getting caught up in mud tracks. The two vehicles rested side by side, inches apart, and were so close Raymond could not open his door to exit.

The photo was taken on the "Leo Hanus farm" during the 1943-1944 school year. Pictured are left to right: Genevieve Vrbka, Virginia and Arlene Hotovy, Dolores Polak, Rita Albin, Richard Polak, John Albin, Denis Vrbka, and the small child in front is Leona Hanus (who many know as Sister Josita of the Notre Dame Sisters in Omaha).



***Thank you to Dan Sanley '65 for posting this great picture and story on the Nebraska Bohemians Facebook Page. If you haven't joined this page, you need to "Czech" it out!

IN MEMORY OF...



Francis (Frank) Novacek passed away on October 5th, 2018. Frank

was born September 20, 1931 in Dwight, Nebraska to John and Mary Novacek. He graduated from **Dwight High School in 1950**, and the University of Nebraska with a degree in Business Administration. He married Cecilia Zimmerer at Lindsay, Texas on August 26, 1967. They had two children Janice and Robert Novacek, both deceased. Frank served in the US Army during the Korean War. He worked as an accountant and investigator for the USDA, in the Packers and Stockers Division where he retired from in 1998. Frank was a member of Council 14679 Knights of Columbus, and an active 5K runner. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary Novacek; two children, Janice and Robert Novacek; sister, Edith Kudlacek; and brother, John Novacek. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Cecilia; brother, Alfred Novacek; and brother-in-law, Al Kudlacek (Irma).

Dennis Bartunek, Aquinas Class of 1963, passed away October 2, 2018.

Connie Jean Danaher Kurtz

of Brighton, Colorado was born on Sunday, November 23, 1941. Connie passed away on Sunday, April 15, 2018. She was a **1959 graduate of St. Mary's High School**. She attended the University of Colorado and graduated from the Universi-



ty of Nebraska with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences. Connie is survived by her loving family.

Daniel J. Zegers passed away on Monday, November 20, 2018. Dan Zegers was born on



October 20, 1969 in David City, to Joseph and Virginia (Kozisek) Zegers. He graduated from **Aquinas High School in 1988** and worked at Benes Service in machine assembly for 30 years. Dan lived on the farm and enjoyed fishing, helping people and caring for all his dogs. They were his pride and joy. Dan is survived by his mother, Virginia Zegers of David City, brother, Greg (Gae), and sister Nancy Thege. Dan was preceded in death by his father, Joseph in 2009.



Gerald DeWispelare was born May 16, 1930, in David City to Emil and Geneva (Morbach)

DeWispelare. He graduated from **Marietta High School in 1948**. In 1951 he entered the United States Army, serving in Korea where he earned the Bronze Star. On August 21, 1952, he married Wilma Vanis at Presentation Catholic Church. Following his service to his country, he and Wilma lived and farmed near Octavia. Gerald was a proud farmer, member of Presentation Catholic Church, a Fourth Degree Knight, past Grand Knight and a lifetime member of the Fr. McGivney Service Award of Council 1717. He also belonged to the American Legion. He is survived by his wife, Wilma, a daughter,

Deb (Ed) Birkel, son Mike (Betty) DeWispelare, one sister, Eva Kadavy, brother Ed (Kim) DeWispelare, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Dan DeWispelare.

Carol Pohl, former music teacher at Aquinas, was

born September 16, 1945 in David City, Nebraska to Louis and Irma (Shorney) Polacek. She graduated from David City High School and later attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where she received her teaching degree. On July 27, 1968 Carol was united in marriage to Dennis Pohl in Bruno. **Carol taught music at Aquinas**, Shelby-Rising City and Humphrey St. Francis. She had also worked at Kirby's Pharmacy in David City and managed the American Legion Club, and most recently worked as a clerk at Stop Inn in David City. Carol was also known for playing the organ at St. Mary's and playing for many weddings and funerals over the years. She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and the PCCW. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Louis Polacek and sister Mary Lou Rerucha. Carol is survived by her daughters Kristine (Clifford) Roper, Cindy (Lance) Napier, son Matthew (Kristy) Pohl and five grandsons.

Donald J. Schmit of Fremont passed away Tuesday, Janu-

ary 15, 2019 at Pathfinder Place in Fremont. He was born July 28, 1926 at Bellwood, NE to Peter and Gertrude (Sims) Schmit. Don grew up at Bellwood and was a **1944 graduate of Marietta High School** at Bellwood. Don served in the US Army during World War II from September 19, 1945 to January 28, 1947. Don married Norma Sabata on May 31, 1948 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City, NE. They moved to Fremont in 1953. He worked at Hormel for 36 years retiring in 1989. Don was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus in Fremont. He is survived by sons, Stephen (Linda) Schmit, Terry Schmit and Nolan (Barb) Schmit; daughters, Julie (Dondi) Eckert and Amy Logemann; Brother, Orville Schmit; sister, Lorene Kallenbach; step brothers, Laverne (Norma) Kozisek and Bill Kozisek and Gene Kozisek; step sister, Maxine Bredhal; sister-in-law, Rachel Sabata; 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Norma; brother, Eugene Schmit; sister Dorothy Moyer and Brother-in-law Burdette Sabata.



Cyril F. Schmid, age 92 of Cary formerly Arlington Heights. Beloved husband of Marie Schmid nee Johncola for 67 years.



Father of Leonice (Bill) Nowack. Cyril was a **1943 graduate of Dwight Assumption**.

Mark Ingwersen passed away January 18, 2019 at his home in David City surrounded by many of those who loved him the most. Mark fought his cancer for 18 months. Mark was born on October 25th 1949 in Omaha, Nebraska to William and Joan (Mulick) Ingwersen. Mark attended school in Omaha before moving to Butler County where he attended school at Marietta and graduated from **Aquinas in 1968**. After graduation, Mark joined the U.S. Navy for a 4 year term during the Vietnam War. Mark worked several places over the years but the three that most defined him are Ernst Auto Center, Western Drive Inn and for the American Red Cross. Left to keep his memory alive are his wife Jeanne Ingwersen; sons Jesse Ingwersen (Wendy), Dustin Seachord, Drew Ingwersen, and Joseph Ingwersen; daughter Desiree Johnson (Ben); eleven grandchildren, one great grandchild, brothers: Don (Jenny) Ingwersen, Dan Ingwersen and sisters Mary (Jim) Sanley and Jeanne' (Doug) Osborn

Kenneth John Hain of Lincoln, passed away January 20, 2019. He was born on January 9, 1947. He graduated from **Aquinas High School in 1965**. Kenneth retired from the Game & Parks in 2011 after 35 years of service. Ken proudly served in the United States Marine Corps, stationed in Okinawa. Ken is survived by his wife Alette, their children and their grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his



parents Hubert & Ann Hain.

Jarmilla Sabata Hanis was born January 25, 1939 in David City, Nebraska to Anton L. and Helen (Pokorny) Sabata. She attended a rural country school near her home, later attended David City High School for 2 years and graduated from **Marietta High School in 1957**. On April 18, 1959 she was united in marriage to Joe A. Hanis at St. Mary's Catholic Church in David City. She lived her entire married life with Joe on the farm east of Bruno, where they farmed and raised livestock side by side. Jarmilla was a member of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, Plasi and a member of the Plasi Altar Society. Jarmilla is survived by her husband Joe of Bruno, Daughters and son-in-law Deb (Kirk) Marushak of Bruno, Connie Scholz of Bellwood. Sister Bernie (Jerry) Tuma of Schuyler, Sister-in-law Marce Sabata of David City, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Marvin Edward Zitek was born on August 19, 1935, in Seward, NE to Edward and Anna (Krska) Zitek and passed away on February 4, 2019 in Seward at the age of 83. He graduated from **Assumption Catholic School in 1953**. After high school, Marvin enlisted into the Nebraska National Guard. He also worked construction at the same time. On September 17, 1960, Marvin was united in marriage to Mary Lee Benes at Saint Vitus Catholic Church in Touhy, NE, and to this union seven children were born. Marvin was a longtime member of Immaculate Conception



Catholic Church. He served on the Co-Op board, Ulysses Fire Department and Dwight American Legion Post #110. In his younger years he loved coaching little league baseball and he also enjoyed woodworking. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Fritz and a grandson. Marvin is survived by his wife, seven children, 15 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and brother, Gene Zitek.

Coleen Bader McCormick was born on August 20, 1949, in Seward, Nebraska to Urban and Laverne T.



(Honvlez) Bader and passed away on February 8, 2019. Coleen graduated from **Aquinas High School** with the **Class of 1967**. She attended College of Saint Mary and later graduated from the University of Kansas where she held degrees in Spanish and History. She taught Spanish, French and History in O'Neill, Norfolk, Stella and Shelby high schools. Coleen met Craig McCormick while living in Las Vegas and attending University of Nevada and they were married in 1979 in Ulysses, Nebraska. She had three children who she loved deeply and was very proud of their accomplishments. Coleen was devoted to her Catholic faith and often sent prayer cards to family and friends. She was a longtime member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ulysses. Coleen is preceded in death by her parents and is survived by her children, Dakota Justice, Matthew Justice, Claudia Bialaszewski

(Justice), eight grandchildren, four siblings, Mark Bader, Philip Bader, Gary Bader and Martha Nepper.

Rev. Paul Joseph Rutten, 86, faithful priest of the Lincoln Diocese for the past 60 years, died March 20 at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln.



Father was born on September 9, 1932 in David City, NE. He was one of three children born to Theodore and Elizabeth (Lettelier) Rutten of rural David City, NE. Father Rutten graduated from **Assumption High School in Dwight, Nebraska in 1950**. Father was ordained on June 5, 1958 at Saint Francis Church in David City by Bishop James Casey, D.D. Father was **Director of Guidance and Counseling at Aquinas High School** in David City from 1965 - 1984. He lived in residence for 6 years at Presentation Parish, Bellwood, and then became pastor there and at Saint Joseph Parish in Bellwood, Nebraska from 1971 - 1984. Father finished his active priestly duties as beloved assistant chaplain and then chaplain at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital and other health care facilities in Lincoln from 1991 - 2008. Father retired and moved to the Bonacum Retirement Home for priests in 2008.

May the souls of the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

QUILTS OF VALOR

As many of you may remember, the school always hosts a Veterans Day Program in November to honor our Veterans. This event has included the local Color Guard, the Aquinas Band playing tributes to each of the branches of our military, prayers, presentations by the auxiliaries and a speech or program. This year, the Quilts of Valor group from Shelby asked to present quilts to veteran staff members, parents of current students or spouses of faculty and staff members. Some of those who received them are also alumni of our school. **We are trying to compile a list of all of our alumni who have served in the military. If you served, please send your name, branch of military and years you served to: deb-svec@cdolinc.net**



Pictured left to right: Bill Kozisek '52 MA, Maintenance at Aquinas, Cork DeWispelare '68, husband of bookkeeper Sharon DeWispelare and Galen Pokorny '83, husband of Teresa Pokorny, English Teacher.

Aquinas alumni both near and far, have been stepping forward and helping out their alma mater in a special way by honoring the memory of their parents who supported Catholic education. In the past year, we have had four different alumni families come forward to create named funds within the Aquinas Endowment fund in memory of their parents. These gifts become perpetual as they are invested and provide income for the schools each and every year. As one alumni said, *"My parents made great sacrifices to send my siblings and I to a Catholic school. Now we want to honor their memory by making sure that Aquinas is around for generations to come."*

AQUINAS ENDOWMENT FUND

YOUR LEGACY
THEIR FUTURE



NEWS AND NOTES



Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class **Eric Kobza '14** graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio. He earned distinction as an honor graduate, and also received the Warhawk award for exceptional physical fitness testing.



Paul Schmid, DVM '05 recently started working at Platte Valley Veterinary Hospital in Alda, Nebraska.

Bobbi Stara Schmid '00 and Jeff Dinkelman '02 were elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Butler County Chamber of Commerce.

Tony Moravec, DVM, '93 of David City, Neb., recently completed a two-year continuing education program designed to enhance the business, communication, and planning skills of busy animal health professionals.



Matt Wellman '02 recently purchased Marquis Body Shop in David City where he plans to integrate technology



with body repair on vehicles.

Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class **Sam Wisniewski '18** graduated from basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio in November.



Mrs. Cathie Mimick, who has taught music at Aquinas and St. Mary's for over 25 years, is retiring at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

Mrs. LouAnne Eller, who has worked in the Aquinas Library for the past 19 years, will be retiring at the end of this school year as well.

Thank you Mrs. Mimick and Mrs. Eller for your years of service to our Catholic School system.

Tanner Kahler '10, who has been working as an Emmy-winning Producer for KETV in Omaha the past several years, has taken a new position at WISN 12 News in Milwaukee.



Erin Hotovy '93 was recently recognized for his service as president of the Butler County Chamber



of Commerce. Hotovy manages the Ace Hardware store in David City.

Lisa Brecka Stallbaum '88 was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year at the Butler County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. She is an active member of the Butler County Ambassadors where she volunteers for many of its events and activities.



Deb Hoeft Svoboda '79 was recognized for 25 years of service to the Butler County Health Care Center in David City.



The **Class of 1969** ladies were left off the **2017 Phone-a-thon** donor recognition list last fall. We wish to acknowledge them for their generous donations. These donors are:
 Margaret Kohout Bartek
 Gail Janicek Bomar
 Eva Bougger Cockson
 Kathy Hotovy Grundman
 Cathy Hiemer Hesman
 Sally Pekarek Hodge
 Margaret Platz Pitts
 Nancy Miriofsky Schendt
 Sherrill Thomas Smith
 Betty Stevens Stout
 Pat Pernicek Supancheck
 Delores Tafoya Ulibarri

If you have any interesting news or notes concerning Aquinas alumni, please consider contacting me for inclusion in future newsletters. Please include as much information as you can as well as contact information. If you would like to send me information or if you need to contact me, I can be reached at:

E-mail: deb-svec@cdolinc.net Phone: (402) 367-3175

Address: Aquinas, P.O. Box 149, David City, NE 68632 c/o Deb Svec

Please also check us out on the web:

www.aquinas-catholic.com or find us on Facebook by searching for Aquinas High School Alumni



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Keep up with what is going on with Aquinas and Aquinas Alumni through our Facebook page. Look for us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Aquinas-High-School-Alumni-134378903298894/>



*The Aquinas Class of 2019—
the 58th graduating class,
will graduate on Sunday,
May 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.*

Phone-a-thon 2018 pledges have come in quickly and as of the printing of this newsletter, we have received just over \$58,000.00.

Remember: You have until June 30, 2019, to send in your pledge.

Or you can give using a credit card online at:

aquinas-catholic.com

Thank you for your support!

Phone-a-thon 2018

