

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



AT A GLANCE

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

The development staff have made a sincere effort to ensure information contained in the annual report is accurate and complete. If you were a contributor to Aquinas between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 and your name has been omitted, misspelled, or is listed incorrectly, please advise us by calling 314-256-8856 or email give@ai.edu.

A Message from the President

Dear Friends of Aquinas Institute,

“To preach the Gospel in Word and Deed” is an expression that we often use here at Aquinas Institute of Theology to describe what we aspire to — individually and collectively — as we attempt to live out our mission.

As my first year as President drew to a close on June 30, 2020, amidst the drama and devastation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, I was heartened to see widespread evidence that the entire Aquinas community, was, indeed, preaching the Gospel in Word and deed. Even under the most difficult of circumstances, faculty and students worked together seamlessly to bring the semester to a close while pivoting to remote learning. Our staff rose to the occasion by taking on added responsibilities to ensure the safety of all and the continued continuity in all phases of our operations. Our Board of Trustees were actively involved in assessing the impact of the overall situation and formulating a comprehensive response plan. Our alumni all over the country, many of whom are on the frontlines in Catholic healthcare and ministries, responded selflessly to serve the people of God. Dominican communities from all over the country joined our many friends and donors supporting us with extraordinary generosity, and as you will see in the attached report, our Annual Fund exceeded its goal by over 25%. All the members of our community — student, faculty, staff, board, alumni, Dominicans, and friends and donors alike have come together as a faith community preaching the Gospel in Word and deed every day. I am humbled and honored to lead Aquinas Institute, and I am grateful for your support, hard work, and love for our school.



Of course, the coronavirus is not the full story of our 2019-2020 and in the following pages you will see many highlights of what has been, despite the challenges, a very good year at Aquinas Institute. I am particularly proud of one of our new initiatives, the Aquinas Scholars Program which will offer up to five, full-tuition merit scholarships to lay men and women and we are pleased to announce two new programs in Catholic healthcare for mission leaders.

In the past months, I have often said that I knew there would be many challenges in my first year as President, however, a worldwide pandemic was not on the list. Every leader of an educational institution, be it a major university or a small school like ours, is grappling with unprecedented issues and problems. As I write this letter, we remain unsure about many things in the future. And while this is a bit disconcerting, given what I have observed in this faithful and strong community, I am optimistic and believe that the Aquinas Institute of Theology is well-placed to continue its almost hundred-year tradition of offering excellent theological education and ministerial formation to the next generation of preachers, teachers, ministers, and leaders.

Be assured of the prayers of the Dominicans and the Aquinas community and please keep the needs of Aquinas Institute in your prayers.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Dominic,

Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP, PhD

PRESIDENT

OH! WHAT A YEAR!

Installation of the 10th President of Aquinas Institute

On Saturday, September 14th, 2019 over two hundred and fifty friends and supporters of Aquinas Institute of Theology gathered at Pius V Catholic Church for the Installation of Fr. Mark E. Wedig, OP, PhD as Aquinas Institute's tenth President.

Fr. James Marchionda, OP, Prior Provincial of the Province of St. Albert the Great, presided at the formal Installation ceremony. Guests were welcomed by members of the Aquinas community including Mr. Dave Wenzel, Chair of the Aquinas Board of Trustees, Dr. Rhodora Beaton, Associate Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology, and Aquinas students Ms. Addison Tenorio and Br. Christopher Johnson, OP.

Fr. Vivian Boland, OP, Socius to the Master of the Order for Fraternal Life and Formation, and noted author and scholar delivered a Keynote Address entitled, *Creating and Redeeming: Aquinas on the Theological Significance of Teaching and Learning*.

The entire Aquinas community welcomed Fr. Mark with much enthusiasm at a celebration luncheon held at Aquinas Institute after the Installation ceremony. Over fifty friends and family members traveled to St. Louis from around the country to celebrate with Fr. Mark.

Fr. Mark is a Dominican friar of the US Southern Province of St. Martin de Porres. Prior to his presidency at Aquinas Institute, Fr. Mark spent over twenty years at Barry University in Miami, Florida where he served as Chair of the Department of Theology and Philosophy, a Professor of Theology and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, Fr. James Marchionda, OP, Prior Provincial, Province of St. Albert the Great, and Fr. Tom Condon, O.P., Prior Provincial, Province of St. Martin de Porres.



ABOVE: Fr. Mark Wedig, OP and family.

LEFT: Fr. Mark Wedig, OP.





The 25th Anniversary Great Preacher Award

On November 7, 2019, the Feast of All Saints of the Order of Preachers, Aquinas Institute of Theology presented the Great Preacher Award to Dominican friar, Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, Senior Director, Theology & Sponsorship at the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), and Fr. Craig Holway, Pastor of St. Joan of Arc parish in St. Louis.

Established 25 years ago, the Great Preacher Award honors preachers who proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming and presence of the reign of God.

Over 350 people attended the dinner to honor Fr. Charlie and Fr. Craig and to support Aquinas Institute. The funds raised at this event are used to support our internationally recognized preaching program and assists us in preparing the next generation of men and women who, like our esteemed honorees, will go forth and preach the Gospel in word and deed.

Aquinas Institute would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who attended. Over \$100,000 was raised at this event to support the Great Preacher Award. We would also like to give a special thank you to our Committee Chair, Dr. Dan O'Brien and to all of the Great Preacher committee members.

At the dinner, Fr. Craig reminded us that "all is gift" and Fr. Charlie called us to work together to build the Kingdom of God in the here and now. Our world desperately needs preachers who, like these two fine men, offer a word of hope by sharing the Good News of God's love and mercy.



Award recipient, Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, preaching during evening prayer.



Fr. Craig Holway with his award.



Fr. Charlie Bouchard, O.P., Fr. James Marchionda, OP, Prior Provincial, Province of St. Albert the Great, Fr. Craig Holway, Fr. Tom Condon, OP, Prior Provincial, Province of St. Martin de Porres, and Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, President.

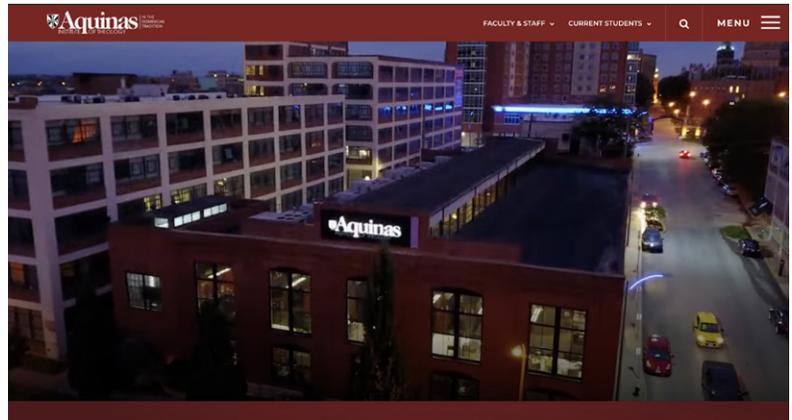
OH! WHAT A YEAR!

New Website Launch

On January 28, 2020, the Feast of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, Aquinas Institute celebrated the occasion by launching a new website.

Working closely with Final Site, a noted website provider in the academic world, Aquinas staff participated in extensive planning and training and the exciting tasks of creating a new format and content.

Our new website is geared toward sharing the Aquinas mission with the greater theological community, our alumni, prospective students, as well as within the Aquinas community. Visitors to the website will find easy access to a wide range of information about the Aquinas mission,



our academic offerings, the Dominican Order and events and activities taking place at Aquinas Institute. We are grateful to the Southern Dominican Province of St. Martin de Porres for their generous contribution underwriting the website project.



The Aquinas Scholars Program: Offering full-tuition merit scholarships to academically gifted lay men and women

There are many lay men and women today who feel called to serve the Church in a variety of ministerial professions. All too often, theological studies are out of reach for financial reasons. Recognizing this need and in keeping with our mission to educate the next generation of Church leaders, Aquinas Institute has established a new scholarship program that provides multiple full-tuition, merit-based scholarships including a housing stipend, book stipend and work-study opportunity.



These scholarships would not be possible with the extraordinary generosity of friends of Aquinas Institute who have stepped up and provided financial support enabling Aquinas Institute to award multiple full-tuition scholarships to young lay men and women who desire to serve the Church and the people of God as preachers, teachers, ministers, and leaders. Applicants were received from throughout the United States and those fortunate enough to become Aquinas Scholars began their studies in the Fall of 2020.

New Programs in Health Ministry Leadership

The Ashley-O'Rourke Center for Health Ministry Leadership announced two new programs



Many Aquinas Institute alumni are serving in leadership positions in Catholic healthcare around the United States. As a part of our effort to continue our long history of providing theological education to Catholic healthcare community, and in consultation with our alumni working in the field, the Ashley-O'Rourke Center for Health Ministry Leadership announced two new programs in health ministry leadership: An online Graduate Certificate in Health Care Mission program and a Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a Specialization in Health Care Mission Leadership program

The Graduate Certificate is for mid-level and senior executives, clinicians, board members, and sponsors seeking competency in theological and ethical foundations of health care mission and is offered fully online and is a stand-alone certificate with credit and non-credit options and is designed to accommodate the schedule of busy professionals. The Masters of Arts will be of interest for those desiring a more comprehensive theological grounding and rigorous academic experience and is offered with the option of building on the Graduate Certificate program.

Applications are now being accepted for Fall 2021. For more information about the new health care programs: <https://www.ai.edu/study-learn/aor>.

COVID-19 and its impact on Aquinas Institute

Aquinas Institute has not escaped the upheaval caused by the global pandemic.

In mid-March, Aquinas made the decision to move to virtual learning for all classes, a decision which was extended to the summer semester, as well. Due to local limitations on public gatherings, it was also necessary to move to a Virtual Commencement ceremony in May.

In an effort to remain connected to our students and the extended Aquinas community, we offered a pastoral bulletin with reflections from members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. Also included were links to electronic resources for personal prayer and reflection and ministerial resources for those searching for new ways to connect with those they minister to during stay-at-home orders which lasted through Lent and into Easter.

To prepare for an in-person school opening, Br. John Steilberg, OP, Executive Director of Operations,



implemented a series of comprehensive protocols based on CDC recommendations and the best scientific information available to ensure the health and safety of our faculty, staff, students and all visitors to the campus.

The Dominican friars and the Aquinas community continue to hold all those suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic in prayer within our own community and around the world, and to stand in solidarity with marginalized and disenfranchised people who disproportionately bear the effects of the pandemic.

What Sets Us Apart from Other Theology and Ministry Schools?

Our mission statement — *Impelled by the Catholic faith and the Dominican mission, Aquinas Institute of Theology educates men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead* — identifies our school as an educational institution that is both Catholic and Dominican. Most people have a good sense of what it means to a Catholic school and Aquinas Institute is grateful and proud to be a part of the Catholic religious tradition and all it stands for and offers. However, what truly sets us apart from other fine Catholic schools is our Dominican identity. The following “Hallmarks of the Aquinas Way” describe what we believe sets Aquinas Institute apart from other schools of theology and ministry.



Hallmarks of the Aquinas Way

- ◆ Our engagement with and access to our Dominican heritage in the 800-year-old rich intellectual tradition of the Order of Preachers and its extraordinary contribution to the intellectual and pastoral life of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ At the heart of all our programs is the unique Dominican approach to education that holds as its primary purpose a search for Veritas, the One who is Truth himself, Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we seek to encounter in all of our programs, coursework and campus life, and whom we seek to share through our mission of evangelization, namely to be useful by preaching and teaching for the salvation of every person.
- ◆ Our theological orientation is informed and built upon the scholarship and intellectual legacy of the Dominicans of the River Forest School of Thomism and its interpretation of our great patron, St. Thomas of Aquinas whose study of the Word of God led him to engage the world positively in a pursuit of Truth that was expansive, comprehensive, and all-encompassing.
- ◆ Aquinas Institute likewise undertakes its intellectual mission in the same spirit of St. Thomas by following his example. We seek the Truth of Christ as it has been

revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures and Tradition of the Church and we strive to understand it by our engagement with others, with men and women from various cultures, backgrounds, and social strata, which is the contemporary reality of the Church and the world in our own time and place.

- ◆ At Aquinas Institute, we place our theological study at the service of what Dominicans call the “Holy Preaching.” The Holy Preaching is not a discrete experience confined to a few minutes from the pulpit; rather for Dominicans it is an expression of our shared life, where as a community we seek to make a comprehensive and dynamic response to God’s presence in our lives and the world. Building on and from the Dominican preaching charism, we form men and women in a living community where professors and students learn from one another and where those who study with us are well-prepared to go forth into the world, preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

For more information about
Aquinas Institute, please visit ai.edu

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Dave Wenzel

Dear Friends of Aquinas Institute,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and thank our donors for their generous support of the Aquinas mission. On the following pages, the names of our donors are listed – as you can see, there are hundreds of names of individuals that have partnered with our school in the education and formation of the next generation of preachers, teachers, ministers and Church and community leaders.

This long list of names reflects significant diversity – many are alumni, including me, who are grateful for the ways in which their Aquinas education has impacted their professional and spiritual life. Many of our donors are members of the Dominican Order who are committed to supporting an institution that continues to engage and advance the Order's 800-year-old intellectual tradition. Many of our contributors support Aquinas Institute because they know that well-trained theologians, ministers, and preachers are needed to serve the Church that their children and grandchildren will inherit. And of course, many of our donors support Aquinas Institute because their lives have been touched by our graduates and by Dominican friars and sisters. Though we come from all over country, and from different backgrounds, careers, and walks of life, we are a community bound in love – love for all God's people and for the institutions, like Aquinas Institute, that serve their essential need to connect with their God.

I am grateful for our excellent Board of Trustees who continue to actively participate in advancing the mission of Aquinas Institute, and I am proud to note 100% participation by the Board in our fundraising effort. We proudly walk alongside the dedicated administration, faculty and staff of Aquinas Institute. With outstanding leadership from our President, Fr. Mark Wedig, OP, and our Academic Dean, Fr. Michael Mascari, OP, Aquinas has met the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with grit and grace. Even in this difficult time, Aquinas Institute is flourishing. This could not be the case without your generosity, so I thank you with all my heart on behalf of the Aquinas community, especially the students who are at the heart of our mission.

With profound gratitude,

Dave Wenzel

CHAIR, AQUINAS INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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With gratitude to the following individuals
and companies for their generous support of
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Aquinas Scholars

We are grateful to the following friends of Aquinas Institute, each of whom have made a two- or three-year commitment of \$25,000 to \$35,000 per year which makes it possible for Aquinas Institute to offer full-tuition merit scholarships with housing and book stipends to academically gifted lay men and women who desire to serve the Church.

Dr. Jennie Weiss Block, OP ♡

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Word and Deed Annual Fund

With gratitude to our Annual Fund Committee and to our donors who helped us to exceed our Annual Fund goal by over 25% raising \$205,983 from 289 gifts.

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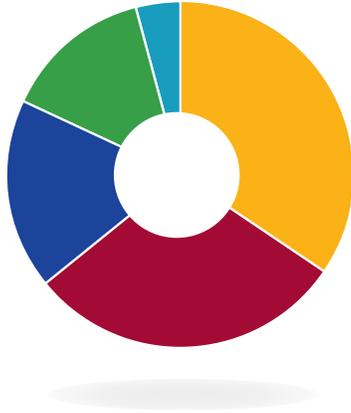
The development staff have made a sincere effort to ensure information contained in the annual report is accurate and complete. If you were a contributor to Aquinas between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 and your name has been omitted, misspelled, or is listed incorrectly, please advise us by calling 314-256-8856 or email give@ai.edu.



Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Financial Overview

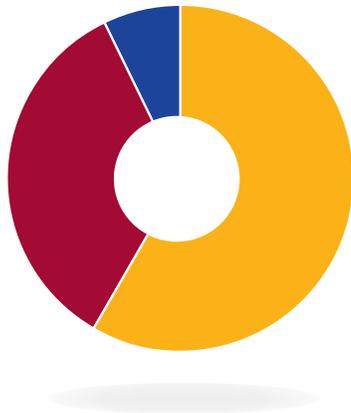
(As of June 30, 2020)

Sources of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Tuition and Fees	\$906,315	35%
Gifts	785,292	30%
Subsidies (Province and Contributed Services)	467,214	17%
Grants	363,248	14%
Investment Income	104,545	4%
Total	\$2,626,614	100%

Uses of Funds



Source	Amount	Percent
Education Programs	1,499,041	59%
General Administrative	883,210	34%
Physical Plant and Depreciation	188,172	7%
Total	\$2,570,423	100%
2019-2020 Surplus	\$56,191	



Friends of Aquinas Institute gather for an Advent Prayer Service and Reception.

Ways to Support Aquinas Institute

We welcome your participation in The Aquinas Way and encourage you to consider the many ways to support Aquinas Institute:

- Annual Fund Gifts**
- Planned Giving**
- Legacy Society**
- Volunteer**

Become an Aquinas Volunteer

There are many volunteer opportunities at Aquinas Institute and we welcome your participation in our community. We look forward to the end of the pandemic when we can safely welcome you to campus. Our volunteer opportunities include:

- Special Events**
- Front Desk**
- Development Office**
- The Aquinas Library**
- Building and Grounds**

Please contact Erin Hammond to discuss how you can get more involved at Aquinas Institute: hammond@ai.edu

The Dominican Blessing

From an anonymous thirteenth century source

May God the Father bless us,
May God the Son heal us,
May the Holy Spirit enlighten us and
give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and
hands to do the work of God with,
feet to walk with, and
a mouth to preach the word of salvation with,
and the angel of peace to watch over us and lead
us at last, by our Lord's gift, to the kingdom.

Amen





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