



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

January 29, 2023

Dear students, faculty and staff of Aquinas College,


National Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 29 through Feb. 4 this year. Together, let us set aside this time to recognize the many benefits of Catholic education.

When it comes to Catholic education in our diocese, we have much to be proud of. We are home to 31 Catholic elementary and secondary schools serving more than 6,400 students. With Aquinas College educating nearly 1,500 students, the options for families in West Michigan to choose Catholic schools for their children extends from preschool to higher education. As a result, our young people are being prepared to seek and fulfill God's plan for learning and life.

As one of only six Catholic colleges in our state, your presence in West Michigan is a great gift. Many teachers in our diocesan Catholic schools have discovered their vocation while studying at Aquinas. Acknowledging your patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, undergraduate and graduate students are taught "to foster respect for all human life and material creation in pursuit of truth and the common good."

In a world where human life must be defended and truth is obscured, your dedication to the Catholic faith through prayer, study, service and community is appreciated. May you continue to spread the Gospel of our Lord among the Aquinas community and beyond. Please know of my prayers for you - that the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit will be poured out in your lives and mission over the coming year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids