



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

August 2020

Dear students, faculty and staff of Aquinas College,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to a new academic year in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Though our approach to education this year is different than in the past, I am proud that within our diocese, there continues to be access to a complete education in mind, body and soul within a Catholic school from preschool to the graduate level, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Christians, we have a special call to show concern for our brothers and sisters by following the protocols found in the Saints Together plan. Doing our part to help limit the spread of COVID-19 shows our commitment to the Great Commandment by supporting the common good.

We give thanks to God for the gift of a Catholic school education, where students have the opportunity to study our faith as well as the sciences and humanities. Along the way, opportunities for service and evangelization invite students to accept Christ's call to spread the love of God and be missionaries for the Gospel.

Catholic education provides a foundation for fulfillment in life. It presents students with Christ's offer of eternal life and cultivates the God-given talents and skills which prepare one for service to Him and others. This is how happiness can be found: by drawing near to our Lord and by making our brothers and sisters the focus of our actions instead of ourselves.

The presence of Aquinas College in our diocese is a true blessing! I am grateful for the leadership of President Kevin Quinn, Ph.D., his team, and all those who support the College in carrying out its Catholic mission and distinctive Dominican mission. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

I will be praying for your continued growth in faith and for your success this academic year. Thank you for all that you do to support Catholic education.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids