



## Aquinas College Student Activities

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“[Students] are challenged to continue the search for truth and for meaning throughout their lives since ‘the human spirit must be cultivated in such a way that there results a growth in its ability to wonder, to understand, to contemplate, to make personal judgements, and to develop a religious, moral and social sense’”. (*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, para. 23).

The student experience at Aquinas College reflects the Dominican charism in the formation of the whole person in Christ. To that end, the College consolidates and thus organizes extra- and co-curricular activities according to the four Dominican pillars of study, prayer, community and preaching/teaching. Those pillars are accomplished through in the **SPARK** initiative (study, prayer, apostolate, reflection and koinonia (community)). Multiple College offices and personnel work together to develop cohesive extra- and co-curricular experiences that complement students’ academic endeavors, reflecting the totality of Dominican life.

The 2022-2023 academic year is the inaugural year for SPARK, and the following activities have either already occurred or are currently scheduled.

### 2022-2023 Program of Activities

#### **Study and Reflection**

- Father Augustine Wetta and the influence of classical literature
- Siena Lecture: Perseverance and the Canterbury Pilgrimage
- Library Research Tutorials and Seminars
- Brown Bag Lunches
  - Christopher Columbus (fall)
  - Mother Catherine of Siena Abrikosova, OP (fall)
  - J.R.R. Tolkein and meditative painting (fall)
  - Origins of Mardi Gras (spring)

#### **Prayer and the Spiritual Life**

- Mass of the Holy Spirit (August)
- Mass for the Deceased (November)
- St. Thomas Aquinas Day Mass (January)
- Regular monthly Masses
- Father Wetta and Holy Hour
- Lenten Divine Mercy Chaplet

#### **Apostolate (Preaching/Teaching)**

- School of Education monthly seminars
  - Time management
  - Classroom organization
  - Test preparation
  - Others
- Diocesan In-service – student-led discussion groups with diocesan teachers (Sept)

#### **Koinonia (Community)**

- Octoberfest
- Mardi Gras
- Gratitude Lunch
- Others TBD