MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

It is truly a beautiful time in Nashville, Tennessee and at Aquinas College! After five decades of serving the Greater Nashville community and beyond through a liberal arts education grounded in Catholic doctrine and promised to help all students progress into their next phase of life; we are ready to build higher on this strong foundation.

This strategic plan, Vision 2020: Truth and Charity, is the first effort of its kind to truly bring all students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and friends of the College together for one mission. The process of developing this plan has been thorough, and the product is outstanding. We hope that you will agree that the plans, processes, and programs outlined in this document truly illustrate a vision for a stronger Aquinas College. The new Aquinas College will move forward with great respect for the past and tremendous excitement for the future.

Take a moment to explore the following pages and, as always, feel free to contact me any time. Of course, if you find yourself in the Nashville area, we hope that a stop by Aquinas College’s campus will be a part of your plans. Through your support, with your prayers, and thanks to your investment, I feel confident that we can meet and even exceed this grand vision. Join us!

God bless you,

Sister Mary Sarah Galbraith, O.P.
President

MISSION

The Mission of Aquinas College is unchanging because Truth itself is unchanging. Taking inspiration from St. Dominic and St. Thomas Aquinas, the College exists to serve the Church by transforming lives for the Gospel of Christ.

Aquinas College is a Catholic community of learning in the Dominican Tradition with Christ at its center. The College directs all its efforts to the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and professional formation of the human person in wisdom. Students are formed individually and in Christian community so that the harmonious integration between faith and reason can permeate every dimension of their lives. Immersed in exploring the relationship between human civilization and the message of salvation, the College community embraces the Dominican imperative to preach the Gospel, serve others, and engage culture in truth and charity.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Derived from the Catholic and Dominican moral and intellectual tradition, our core principles are:

- The dignity, freedom, and flourishing of every human person as made in God’s image
- The complementarity of faith and reason as the basis for academic community
- The prudent stewardship of God’s individual and communal gifts
VISION 2020
Aquinas College will be a nationally recognized Catholic college known for its distinctly Dominican approach to higher education.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Aquinas College is positioned for the next phase in its history of serving the Church and society. Vision 2020: Truth and Charity is the roadmap for our future, articulating our goals for the next six years. In the words of St. Paul, “now is the acceptable time” for Aquinas to advance its mission and significantly evolve as an institution (2 Corinthians 6:2).

We have identified four key areas for Aquinas College to pursue its mission as a Dominican and Catholic institution of higher education:

STRATEGIC AREA 1
ACADEMICS

STRATEGIC AREA 2
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

STRATEGIC AREA 3
SPIRITUAL LIFE

STRATEGIC AREA 4
STEWARDSHIP & OPERATIONS

Guiding Principles and Documents for Vision 2020
• Four Pillars of Dominican Life: Prayer, Study, Community, Preaching/Service
• Ex Corde Ecclesiae
• A Dominican Philosophy of Education”, Fr. Philip A. Smith, O.P. (anthologized in Behold the Heritage [Angelico Press, 2012])
STRATEGIC AREA 1

ACADEMICS
STRATEGIC AREA 1

ACADEMICS

Aquinas College seeks to be among the first fruits of John Paul II’s prophetic apostolic constitution Ex Corde Ecclesiae by cultivating an academic community from the “heart of the Church.” To achieve this goal, Vision 2020 calls for the following academic initiatives:

- Develop and implement an integrated, unified, and common curricular experience inspired by the intersection of faith, reason, and culture.
  
  Design and implement coursework around a Faith and Culture theme that will be required of all bachelor’s degree students.

- Increase the number of majors and programs available at Aquinas.

  New Academic Programs:
  
  Arts and Sciences: Psychology, Math, Government, Biology, Humanities and Catholic Culture, MA in Theology

  Education: BS in Secondary Math, BS in Secondary Biology, Masters degree in Leadership, Reading Specialist Masters degree

  Nursing: Bachelor of Science in Nursing

  Business: Marketing, Accounting

  Pre-professional programs, such as pre-law, pre-medicine

- Develop and implement international programs of study.

  Conduct a study abroad program in Bracciano, Italy, which includes courses of the common curricular experience.

  Integrate mission trips and study abroad components into curricula.

- Enhance commitment to student academic success.

  Review and strengthen programs designed to help students succeed, such as tutoring and writing support.

  Add new programs and centers, such as academic coaching, ESL assistance, and career counseling centers.

- Strengthen the commitment to scholarship and academic community through faculty development.

  Develop and provide programs, incentives, and opportunities for faculty to focus on scholarship and recognition in their fields of study.
STUDENT EXPERIENCE
STRATEGIC AREA 2

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Aquinas College will cultivate a student experience directed toward the formation of the whole person in virtue, wisdom, maturity, wellness and Christian fellowship. To achieve this goal, **Vision 2020** calls for the following Student Experience initiatives:

- **Create a comprehensive residential student environment.**
  Ensure that the growing student population has access to activities and facilities that promote their social and spiritual maturation, including:
  - Residential facilities
  - Dining facilities
  - Social and recreational facilities

- **Promote House Life and other forms of student-centered fellowship communities.**
  Reinforce the House system through promotion, consistent messaging, and integration of new opportunities.
  - Expand facilities/space/staffing to serve a growing and maturing House structure.
  - Cultivate leadership opportunities within the context of House system.
  - Provide programs and opportunities for fellowship and community to accommodate the expansion of Houses.

- **Cultivate athletic programs and increase other opportunities for student involvement and activities.**
  Develop an organized program of athletics; including possible club, intramural and intercollegiate options.

- **Establish a comprehensive Career Development initiative for all students with the goal of fostering preparedness for professional life.**
STRATEGIC AREA 3

SPIRITUAL LIFE
STRATEGIC AREA 3

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Aquinas College seeks to expand its evangelical and spiritual life initiatives to meet the needs of an evolving student population. We seek to form effective witnesses to the Catholic faith in the unique tradition of Dominican spirituality. To achieve this goal, Vision 2020 calls for the following:

• Construct an adoration chapel and worship space to increase access to Liturgy and the Sacraments.

• Cultivate Dominican spirituality and identity within the Aquinas College community.
  Design and implement programs and activities to introduce and nourish the Catholic and Dominican traditions of prayer, community, study, and service in the life of faith in students, faculty, and staff.

• Increase programs and activities that help students grow in faith.
  Offer regular extracurricular programs and opportunities for students to practice and grow in faith, such as retreats, seminars, adoration, prayer, and study groups.
  Expand the services of campus ministry to accommodate the shifting student demographics.

• Establish programs of service leadership through the Fourth Pillar Program of Dominican Life.
  Expand outreach opportunities, programs, and works of mercy in Nashville and beyond.
STEWARDSHIP & OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC AREA 4
Fulfilling our mission in the 21st century requires bold new initiatives in the areas of stewardship and operations; the success of the previous three strategic areas depends upon successful deployment of the fourth strategic area. To achieve this goal, **Vision 2020** calls for the following Stewardship and Operations initiatives:

- **Develop a results-based, mission-driven, and systematic approach to enrollment management to achieve a student population of at least 750 students.**
  - Establish annual target student numbers by type (e.g., by academic program, full-time or part-time, new or transfer).
  - Identify potential student populations and develop recruiting strategies.
  - Provide financial incentives to attract the target student.
  - Develop and implement new programs to improve student retention.

- **Expand current facilities in the following categories:**
  - Residential halls
  - Dining facilities
  - Social, recreational, and athletic facilities
  - Chapel
  - Instructional space (including labs and clinical) and study space
  - Faculty and administrative space
  - Infrastructure

- **Build a systematic and comprehensive alumni life cycle.**

- **Advance a dedicated, sustained, professional, and mission-driven development program to support the College’s financial needs.**
  - Cultivate new and existing prospects for the Aquinas community.
  - Promote stewardship and donor recognition opportunities.
  - Support an intensified fundraising effort to act as a catalyst for private support that will encourage greater participation in perpetuity.

- **Optimize the efficiency of the organizational structure of Aquinas College**
  - Develop thorough and meaningful systems of institutional effectiveness, policy review and internal communications.

- **Increase the College’s visibility and brand recognition to position it for future growth.**