August 2015

Dear students, faculty, and staff of Aquinas College,

At this year’s May Baccalaureate Mass, I challenged the 2015 graduates to continually ask themselves several big spiritual questions. Who is my God? What is my ultimate value? What is my ultimate meaning? To find answers to these questions, I urged the graduates to turn away from the noise and distraction of our secular society and make time to listen quietly for God’s divine voice in their lives.

As we embark on the journey into the new academic school year, I am reminded of the opportunities we have in our diocesan Catholic schools, from preschool through graduate level, to encourage young people toward a closer relationship with God. Catholic school education helps young people to discover and follow God’s plan. Catholic schools are places where, through prayer, learning, and service to others, young people are well-educated, formed in faith, and come to understand their connection to one another and the greater community.

I am grateful for the leadership of Dr. Juan Olivarez, who has worked to strengthen the College’s Catholic identity, including the connection between Aquinas College and our Catholic elementary and high schools in our Diocese. The presence of Aquinas College in our Diocese is a true blessing! The College provides a local opportunity for graduates and their families to continue to choose a Catholic education beyond the high school years.

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 school education.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids