January 2016

Dear students, faculty, and staff of Aquinas College,

I extend my blessings and best wishes as we celebrate national Catholic Schools Week in our diocese, January 31 through February 6, 2016, and as Aquinas College continues its longstanding tradition of honoring its patron saint through the celebration of St. Thomas Aquinas Week.

The events and activities held during these weeks provide an opportunity for us to come together to celebrate and share about the value, rich history and tradition of Catholic schools. Catholic schools play an important role in educating and forming students who carry the practice of their faith out into the world, distinguishing themselves through further academic achievement, community engagement and acts of generosity. Students who attend Catholic schools are not only transformed but, through their witness, are able to impart the transformative message of the Gospel into their daily life experiences and encounters with others.

We are fortunate to be able to provide in our diocese the option of Catholic school education from preschool through the collegiate level. I have made it one of my priorities to ensure that Catholic education at the elementary and secondary levels continues to be accessible to any family who desires it for their children.

During the coming year, may we continue to take inspiration from the example of the “Angelic Doctor” St. Thomas Aquinas and work together to ensure our Catholic schools continue to be “Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.”

Be assured of my prayers for the Aquinas College community and for the successful completion of your academic year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak  
Bishop of Grand Rapids