

A. E. F. Aquinas Educational Foundation An Introduction



WHO ARE WE?

Purdue faculty, staff, students, and persons in the larger Lafayette community who share a common interest in the Catholic faith and its intellectual tradition.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

To cultivate the vital connection between faith and reason. In the spirit of Thomas Aquinas, we *THINK* about our Catholic *FAITH* and let our *FAITH THINK* about what really matters to us and our world.

WHY AND HOW IS THIS MISSION IMPORTANT?

- Our Church benefits: The more we succeed, the more we strengthen our Church, especially its appreciation of the close relationship between the soul and the mind
- Our university benefits: The more our scholarship is enriched by faith, the more we contribute to the intellectual climate at Purdue
- We benefit: Faith makes us better scholars; it expands our intellectual interests. Scholarship adds depth to our faith; it strengthens our relationships with God and others

HOW DO WE PURSUE OUR MISSION?

- Offering Purdue students courses in Catholic theology (with transfer credit through the University of Notre Dame)
- Offering graduate courses in Catholic theology at off-campus sites in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
- Sponsoring public lectures (on and off campus) by prominent scholars and people of faith
- Organizing seminars, lectures, interfaith dialogues, scholarships, and workshops (on and off campus) that link faith and reason

HOW DO WE RELATE TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS?

We are a free-standing, tax-exempt organization. We plan our own events and generate the resources needed for them. We work closely with the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, the Haigerty-Piguet Lecture Committee, the Catholic parishes in the neighborhood of Purdue University (St. Thomas Aquinas, Blessed Sacrament, St. Mary Cathedral, St. Boniface, St. Ann, and St. Lawrence), Purdue University, and all schools, civic groups, businesses, and individuals who support our mission.

OUR PRAYER

Heavenly Father, now is the hour. Glorify yourself through us, your small instruments, that we many glorify you (John 17: 1-2). To your wisdom, power, love, and mercy, we entrust the work of the Aquinas Educational Foundation. Let it be the means for a vital, creative, communal flourishing of Catholic intellectual life at Purdue University, on its campus, and in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. Help us to think about our faith, and to let our faith think about everything that matters to us and to our world. Inspire our generosity and that of all the co-workers you have chosen with us for this task. Draw youthful hearts and minds to the faith that is forever beautiful, good, and true—the faith that unites us in you and your Son, the apostolic faith that transforms the world (John 16:33) and triumphs over death. Amen.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The AEF Board of Directors includes university faculty, graduate students, professional people in the Greater Lafayette area, clergymen, and ex-officio members.

Clergy:

- **William L. Higi**, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana (honorary member)
- **Fr. Dan Davis**, O.P., pastor of the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center

Faculty and graduate students:

- **David Anderson** (Department of Statistics, Purdue, Graduate Student Representative)
- **Ann Astell** (Department of Theology, Notre Dame, AEF Vice-President)
- **James Davidson** (Department of Sociology, Purdue)
- **Jennifer Bay** (Department of English, Purdue, AEF Secretary)
- **Sandor Goodhart** (Department of English, Jewish Studies, Purdue)
- **Janice Lauer Hutton** (Department of English, Purdue, Emerita, AEF President)
- **Christiane Keck** (Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Purdue, Emerita)
- **Angela Barron McBride** (School of Nursing, Indiana University, Emerita)
- **James McCann** (Department of Political Science, Purdue)
- **Donald Mitchell** (Department of Philosophy, Purdue)
- **Joseph Uhl** (Department of Agricultural Economics, Purdue, Emeritus, AEF Treasurer)

Professionals in the Greater Lafayette area:

- **Adele Colella** (Haigerty-Piguet Memorial Lecture Committee)
- **Nick Dell** (Dell Brothers, Inc.)
- **Bruce Junius** (The Junius Real Estate Group)
- **Grayce Lechtenberg** (Community volunteer)
- **Rob Pahl** (Alcoa Global Engineered Products, Retired)
- **Robert Reiling, Jr.** (Reiling, Teder, and Shrier)

Professional staff persons/ex-officio members of the Board:

- **Thomas Ryba**, the Notre Dame theologian-in-residence
- **Winnie Adler**, Administrative Assistant

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