

TOLEDO, OHIO · 2025

St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy

A Founders Book

For the Consideration of Founding Benefactors



TRUTH ♦ GOODNESS ♦ BEAUTY

What will we hand on?

"The true end of education is to fit men for this world while keeping them mindful of the next." — St. John Henry Newman

A Liberal Arts Academy in the Catholic Tradition · Toledo, Ohio

PART I

We Inherited a Gift.

The freedoms we enjoy. The faith that formed us. The institutions we did not build — but received.

Holy Rosary Cathedral did not appear by accident. It was built by Catholic families who sacrificed, who gave, who believed that beauty and permanence were worthy of their best efforts. Every institution we have inherited was built by someone who would never see its full fruit. They planted trees whose shade they would never sit beneath. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice. Now it is our turn.

A Faith Received

Two thousand years of saints, scholars, martyrs, and builders — handed to us as a living inheritance.

A Nation Founded

The American experiment, forged in the classical tradition and animated by faith in the dignity of every human person.

A City Shaped

Toledo — built by Catholic families, anchored by parishes, shaped by generations who understood that civilization is a gift to be tended.

We did not build what we have received. We are stewards of it. And stewardship demands that we hand it on — better than we found it.

What will we hand on?

Every civilization must answer this question. Every generation must choose.

The books we read. The faith we practice. The institutions we build. The children we form. These are not private matters. They are the substance of civilization itself — and they must be deliberately handed on, or they will be lost.

What We Received

A faith two thousand years deep. A civilization built on truth, goodness, and beauty. Schools, churches, and institutions built by those who came before us — at great cost.

What We Owe

The same — and more. Not merely to preserve what we have received, but to deepen it, strengthen it, and hand it on with greater beauty than we found it.

We planted. Others will harvest. That is the nature of founding an institution. That is the nature of love.

A Mother's Question.

St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy was not born in a boardroom. It was born around kitchen tables.

It began with a question that countless parents in Northwest Ohio were quietly asking — not about test scores or college admissions, but about something deeper. About the kind of person their child was becoming. About whether the education they were receiving was forming their intellect, their character, their imagination, their soul. About whether school was helping their child discover not merely what he would do — but who he is.

A Question

What kind of human person are we trying to form? Not what career will he pursue. Not what college will she attend. But who is this child — and is everything we are doing ordered toward helping him become who God created him to be?

A Conviction

Parents are the primary educators of their children. The Academy exists not to replace them — but to stand beside them. To assist them. To strengthen what they have already begun at home and at the altar.

Over time, a question became a conviction. A conviction became a calling. And a calling became St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy.

This Academy was born from love for children. It will endure because of love for children. And it will be measured, in the end, by the men and women those children become.

Not a curriculum. A formation.

STACA forms the whole person — intellect, character, imagination, and soul.

Most schools ask: What will this student achieve? Where will he go? St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy asks a deeper question: Who is this child? He is a beloved son of God. She is a beloved daughter of God. Every subject, every book, every conversation is ordered toward helping that child discover — and become — who he truly is.

Intellect

Trained to know truth, reason clearly, and pursue wisdom — through the great books, Socratic dialogue, Latin, logic, and the full inheritance of Western thought.

Imagination

Awakened by sacred art, great music, Gregorian chant, and classical literature — restoring wonder to its rightful place in human formation.

Character

Formed in virtue — courage, temperance, justice, and prudence — not as abstract ideals, but as habits of the soul, practiced daily and embodied for life.

Soul

Oriented toward God — the source and summit of all learning, all beauty, and all love. The ultimate end of every lesson, every book, every year.

"The glory of God is man fully alive." — St. Irenaeus of Lyon

Classical Catholic education does not fill a student with information. It forms a person — for a life of virtue, meaning, and love.

The First Teachers.

The Academy exists not to replace parents – but to stand beside them.

Before any teacher, before any classroom, before any school — there is a mother. There is a father. The first lessons in faith, in virtue, in wonder, in love are given not in a classroom but at a kitchen table, at a bedside, at an altar. Parents are the primary educators of their children. This is not a sentiment. It is a conviction upon which St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy is built.

Partners, Not Replacements

The Academy walks alongside families — strengthening what parents have already begun, never supplanting the irreplaceable authority and love of the home.

Formation Begins at Home

The habits of prayer, the love of beauty, the practice of virtue — these begin before the first day of school. The Academy deepens and orders what families have already planted.

A School That Serves Family

The family does not exist to serve the institution. The institution exists to serve the family. This is the order of things — and STACA is built upon it.

"The most important classroom in a child's life is not a school. It is a home. The most important teachers are not credentialed professionals. They are a mother and a father who love their child enough to ask the hardest questions."

This institution belongs to Toledo.

Toledo has always been a city shaped by faith.

Holy Rosary Cathedral did not appear by accident. It was built by Catholic families who believed that beauty and permanence were worthy of their best efforts. The Maumee River has carried generations of families who built parishes, schools, and communities rooted in faith. Northwest Ohio is home to deeply rooted Catholic families, vibrant parishes, and civic leaders of extraordinary generosity. They have long awaited an institution worthy of their faith — and worthy of their children.

Holy Rosary Cathedral

A testament to what a community can build when moved by something greater than itself. STACA is the next chapter of that story.

Northwest Ohio Families

Deeply rooted. Faithful. Generous. Awaiting an institution that honors the fullness of their faith and the depth of their aspirations for their children.

A City With a Future

The graduates of STACA will carry Toledo forward — as physicians, lawyers, teachers, priests, and civic leaders formed in truth, goodness, and beauty.

This presentation could not be moved to another city. It belongs here. It belongs to Toledo. It belongs to you.

We inherited what others built. Now it is our turn.

As America approaches its 250th anniversary, every generation faces the same ancient test.

Will we transmit what we have received — or spend the inheritance? Those who founded this nation understood that self-governance requires a certain kind of citizen — formed in virtue, capable of reason, animated by faith. That kind of citizen must be formed. It does not happen by accident. STACA exists as an answer to this moment.

1776 – Founders of a Nation

Men who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to establish something that would outlast them.

2025 – Founders of STACA

Men and women of Toledo who will establish an institution that may form citizens, saints, and leaders for the next hundred years.

1875 – Founders of Holy Rosary

Catholic families in Toledo who built a cathedral worthy of the faith they had received — and the city they were building.

"The American experiment was built on a vision of the human person forged in the classical tradition, shaped by natural law, and animated by faith. That vision must be taught — or it will be lost."

Programs come and go. Institutions endure.

There is a difference between a program and an institution. STACA is being founded as the latter.

An institution — properly founded, properly governed, properly endowed — outlasts its founders. It outlasts its first generation of students. It becomes part of the permanent fabric of a city, a diocese, a civilization. That is what we are building. Not a school for this generation. An institution for the next hundred years.

What Programs Do

Serve the present moment. Depend on current leadership. End when circumstances change.

What Institutions Do

Outlast their founders. Deepen over generations. Become part of the permanent fabric of a community. Shape civilization.

Toledo's first K-12 classical academy in the Catholic tradition. Ordered toward truth, goodness, and beauty. Designed not for one cohort of students — but for centuries of families.

An institution is a gift from one generation to the next. It is an act of love for people you will never meet.

This is not an expense. It is an act of founding.

Founding gifts establish the foundation upon which everything else is built.

An investment not in a school year — but in a century. The men and women who give to this campaign will not merely have funded a school. They will have made it possible for Toledo's children to receive a classical Catholic formation for generations to come. They will be founders. They will be remembered as such.

\$750K

Total Campaign Goal

The founding capital campaign to establish STACA on firm and enduring ground.

K-12

Full Classical Formation

A complete, unbroken course of study from kindergarten through graduation.

∞

Generational Impact

An institution designed not for one cohort of students, but for centuries of families.

1

Facility Stability

A permanent, sacred learning environment worthy of the formation within it.

2

Educational Excellence

Master teachers trained in the classical tradition and animated by Catholic faith.

3

Founding Families

Tuition accessible to mission-aligned families of every economic circumstance.

4

Long-Term Sustainability

The financial foundation to carry the Academy through its first generation and beyond.

"We do not give to what is. We give to what will be. That is the nature of founding. That is the nature of faith."

Join the Founders.

You are invited to be among the men and women who made this possible.

Founding benefactors will be permanently recognized — not merely as donors, but as the founders of an institution. Their names will be inscribed in the Academy's founding documents, displayed within the school, and honored in perpetuity as the men and women who made it possible for Toledo's children to receive a classical Catholic formation for generations to come.

Aquinas Society

\$50,000 and above

The highest honor of founding patronage — named for the patron of all Catholic schools and the model of faith perfected by reason. Members of the Aquinas Society are the principal founders of this institution.

Charter Benefactor

\$25,000 and above

Among the essential founders whose generosity secured the Academy's earliest and most critical years — and whose names will be permanently inscribed in its founding charter.

Academy Founder

\$15,000 and above

Recognized as integral to the establishment of STACA — investing not in a school year, but in a century of formation for Toledo's families.

Founding Patron

\$10,000 and above

Making possible the daily excellence of the Academy — its teachers, its texts, its sacred spaces, and its culture of virtue and learning.

All founding benefactors will be permanently recognized in the Academy's founding documents, displayed within the school, and honored in perpetuity.

What will we hand on?

The students who will benefit from this Academy have not yet been born.

The families who will be strengthened here do not yet know this Academy exists. The priests whose vocations will be nurtured here are today in kindergarten. The civic leaders who will someday shape Toledo are today learning to read. The saints known only to God are today in their mothers' arms.

We act in faith. We give in hope. We build in love.

Future Students

Formed in truth, goodness, and beauty — equipped with the wisdom of the ages and the faith of the Church.

Future Families

Parents who were themselves formed here, now raising the next generation in the same tradition of virtue, faith, and learning.

Future Leaders

Statesmen, physicians, teachers, and priests carrying classical formation into the institutions of tomorrow.

Future Saints

Men and women whose education was ordered, from the beginning, toward eternal life and the glory of God.

We do not build for ourselves alone. We build for those who come after us — whose names we will never know, but whose lives we will shape.



We invite you to consider a founding gift to St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy — and to join us in answering the question every generation must answer:

What will we hand on?

St. Thomas Aquinas Classical Academy

Toledo, Ohio — A Liberal Arts Academy in the Catholic Tradition

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Pro Veritate — Pro Bono — Pro Pulchritudine

For Truth — For Goodness — For Beauty