

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 29, 2025
Feast of Saint Narcissus

Dear Members of the Aquinas Catholic Schools Community,

This letter is a follow-up to my September 15, 2025 letter, informing you that Fr. Michael Ventre, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Aquinas Catholic Schools, was placed on administrative leave pending a third-party investigation into allegations of misconduct. The allegations of misconduct received by the diocese did not involve a minor. The third-party investigation is near conclusion and there is sufficient information to make decisions regarding the leadership at Aquinas Catholic Schools.

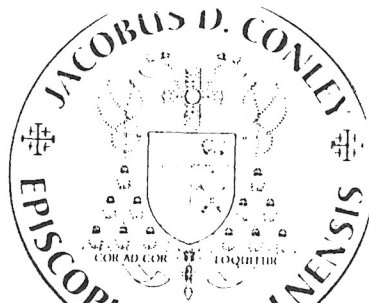
Information received from a third-party investigation established that Fr. Venture violated the clergy code of conduct and engaged in conduct that was detrimental to the school and inconsistent with his position of authority. Therefore, I have made the decision to permanently remove Father Michael Ventre as the CAO of Aquinas Catholic Schools.

Any serious concerns with previous conduct of Fr. Ventre can be reported to Fr. Lawrence Stoley, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, at 402-473-0616 or reported anonymously through the Diocese of Lincoln Ethics Point hotline at 1-844-527-0596 or lincolndiocese.ethicspoint.com.

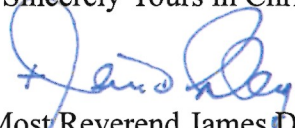
I know this news affects each of you differently and I am very sorry for the difficulties this has caused for the Aquinas Catholic School community. Be assured of my continual prayers and support for all of you. To support students and staff of Aquinas Catholic Schools, counselors will be on site and available to meet with anyone that desires.

As we look to the future of Aquinas Catholic Schools, Fr. Brian Connor has been appointed as the permanent CAO of Aquinas Catholic Schools and will retain his assignment as pastor of St. Mary Catholic Church. In order to assist Fr. Connor as he devotes his attention to the parish and CAO duties, Fr. Michael Zimmer will serve as a priest in residence at St. Mary's beginning in late November 2025.

Please know of my continued prayers for the Aquinas Catholic Schools Community.



Sincerely Yours in Christ,


The Most Reverend James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln