

John & Barbara McGowan

Endowed Scholarship

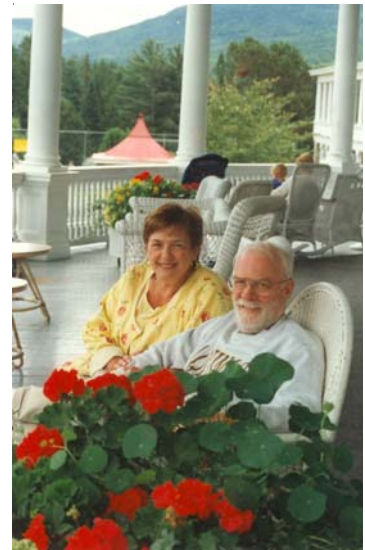
Barbara McGowan, school secretary at Aquinas for 25 years, is remembered with unique affection and esteem. At the time of her retirement in 2003, her colleagues were unanimous in their appreciation of her fine qualities:

Gracious is her name...Barbara McGowan, who greets you at the front office, whose voice is the voice of Aquinas on the telephone...If Mrs. McGowan treats us all like family, it may be that the great love she shared with her husband John was not to be confined within their household. The love of family is surely the center of her life, as a look at her desk, with its beautiful photos of her grandchildren will reveal.

When John McGowan died in 2000, Barbara requested that gifts be sent to Aquinas in lieu of flowers. The generosity of family and friends at that time initiated the John P. McGowan Memorial Scholarship. Little did anyone think that within three years, the scholarship would become the John and Barbara McGowan Memorial Scholarship. The loss of a beloved mother, grandmother, family member, friend and “pillar” of Aquinas was a tremendous one, a loss that time does not erase.

The memory of Barbara and John McGowan is living at Aquinas. It lives not just in the memory of friends, as wonderful as those memories are. Nor is it just in the written and visual annals of the school, where their presence is clear and vital. No, their memory will always be at Aquinas, in the presence of a needy student who could not be a part of this community of faith and learning, with all of its gifts for a lifetime, unless these two loving and caring people were memorialized in this magnanimous way.

It is just 10 years since the first memorial scholarship was established at Aquinas by Mr. J. Martin Comey in memory of his wife Margaret Doyle Comey '52. In the course of a decade, the number of endowed scholarships has grown to 23. For 10% of the student body to be provided for in this way, we need to increase the number of endowed scholarships to 80. If you would like to consider honoring a relative or friend with a gift that will do immeasurable good in their name, please contact Sr. Margaret Ryan, President or Sr. Bea McMahan, Director of Development at Aquinas. The company of those who are memorialized by endowed scholarships at Aquinas is blessed company indeed.



“John and Barbara McGowan have six children and eight grandchildren. I know that I speak for all my siblings when I say that we will always be grateful to the Aquinas family for the myriad ways in which it enriched our parents’ lives. Our mother truly cared about the students and was Aquinas’ greatest cheerleader. Our father jumped right on the bandwagon with her, wearing his favorite Aquinas sweatshirt wherever he traveled. (He’s wearing it in the photo above!) I think they attended every musical and holiday show over twenty-five years, often bringing our grandmother and their grandchildren along. Aquinas will always have a special place in our hearts.”

Anne McGowan Tabacco