

## The High School of St. Thomas More Robert L. Aimone Scholarship



The Robert L. Aimone Scholarship fund has been established at The High School of Saint Thomas More in honor of Mr. Aimone's active commitment to Catholic education. His strong Catholic faith was the most important aspect of his life, and he was dedicated to strengthening the local attitude towards Catholic education. In 2004, Mr. Aimone was honored with The Champaign Vicariate of the Catholic Diocese and The High School of Saint Thomas More Paideia Award for his commitment to the educational community and leadership in spreading the Good News of Catholic education. He was an original member of the Education Commission at The High School of Saint Thomas More from 1998 through 2004. The STM community is grateful for Mr. Aimone's committed belief in the need for a Catholic high school in Champaign. He was a believer in helping the less fortunate, so a scholarship was established in his name for a student(s) who would otherwise not be able to attend because of the cost of tuition. The recipient(s) of the scholarship award will be determined by the STM Scholarship & Financial Aid committee. Each year the High School of Saint Thomas More will grant up to **two (2) scholarships of \$1,000 each** to two students at STM. Students will need to reapply each year for scholarship consideration.

The scholarship established in Mr. Aimone's honor supports students from St. Thomas, Philo; Immaculate Conception, Bongard; St. Mary, Pesotum; St. Boniface, Seymour; St. Joseph, Ivesdale; or St. Patrick, Tolono who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend The High School of Saint Thomas More because they are in need of tuition assistance. All STM Families from these parishes are eligible to apply for the scholarship and selection will be based on financial need, including those who do not otherwise qualify for the Illinois Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship, Spalding Grants, or Parish Assistance.

### **For students to be eligible, they must:**

- Be able to demonstrate that they are an active member of one of the following parishes: from St. Thomas, Philo; Immaculate Conception, Bongard; St. Mary, Pesotum; St. Boniface, Seymour; St. Joseph, Ivesdale; or St. Patrick, Tolono OR have attended St. Thomas School, Philo
- Family must have submitted the FACTS application, and must demonstrate a financial need
- The student must submit a 300-500 word reflection focusing on his/her involvement in service at their Parish and the impact that this has had on him/her, as well as how Catholic education at STM will help him/her fulfill God's will
  - Essays should be typed, Times New Roman 12 pt font, double-spaced.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parish:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School, Parish, & Community Involvement (please list all sports, clubs, groups, activities, etc and any specific Leadership Roles):**

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# The High School of St. Thomas More

## Robert L. Aimone Scholarship

Bob was born March 27, 1933, in Clinton, Indiana, to John and Antoinette ( Fenoglio) Aimone. Bob died on Sunday, June 26, 2011, at C-U Regional Rehab Center in Savoy, IL. A Funeral Mass was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Tolono with burial in St. Patrick Cemetery, Tolono, IL.

He was extremely proud of his Italian heritage and had many stories to tell about the people from the “old country”. His father was in the dairy business while his mother was a typical Italian housewife- cook during the week and attend Mass on Sunday. Bob was educated in the Clinton education system and graduated from high school in 1951. He attended Indiana State University where he received a B.S. in Education in 1955. The next step in education was the University of Illinois where he obtained a Masters Degree in 1957

Apparently the State of Illinois was to his liking since he started teaching at Unity High School in the fall of 1957. His first teaching position was in Industrial Arts, where the students learned that when Mr. Aimone said “no”, that was what he meant and there was no negotiating. The U.S. Army came calling and Bob served his country for 2 years while not enjoying any part of the service. One semester was spent teaching at a Catholic high school in Indianapolis after service, but a city was not to his liking. He had enjoyed his short tenure at Unity prior to the service and was eager to return. It was upon his return that a long career began, where many students would have contact with Mr. Aimone in the classroom or a school activity. His classroom teaching was first in Industrial Arts, then Algebra and Physics, and lastly, Algebra and General Mathematics. Students were expected to have their homework completed each day or they would hear his famous line- “tonight or tomorrow night?” for detention. Many other students encountered Mr. Aimone in the hallways at school or athletic events and they were expected to represent Unity High School to the highest standard. He took his turn as class and prom sponsor while sponsoring the student council for many years, along with organizing the homecoming dance. One of his other duties was being in charge of the after school detention, where some students got to know him quite well. He was a regular at football and basketball games where he was the statistician for Coach Hicks. Accuracy was very important to him and he had to have the same number of baskets made as the official scorer before he could leave the gym. He retired from Unit # 7 in June, 2000, after serving the district for 42 years.

Bob’s Catholic faith was vital to him and this love was shared by teaching CCD at St. Patrick’s in Tolono for over 40 years. He was also a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knights of Columbus member while remaining active in the choir at his home parish of Sacred Heart in Clinton, Indiana. Many of you are aware of his singing ability and he was most gracious in sharing this gift by singing at numerous weddings and funerals. Bob was also a godfather to 27 or 28 children, many of which became students of his later. Other fun activities included the “Little Italy Festival” in Clinton and the Illinois Basketball State Tournament. He enjoyed a good card game if the stakes weren’t too high and relaying stories that his Uncle Bass had told him.

After retirement, Bob quickly returned to teaching at St. Thomas Grade School, where Pre-Algebra became his passion for 2 hours each day. In addition, he joined the St. Thomas More High School Education Commission in 1998 and served 3 terms. He was awarded the STM Paideia award in 2004, which represents spreading the good news, active in Catholic education and a contribution of time, talent and treasure to the Champaign Vicariate education community.

For additional information, contact

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*The High School of Saint Thomas More is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization. Please consult with your tax advisor for confirmation of tax deductible gifts. A summary of annual giving will be provided to all donors in January of each year.*

Applications and Essay are due May 1st to the STM Office