

For Immediate Release

Monday, August 31, 2020

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Defenders of Religious Liberty Rally to Saint Ambrose Academy

St. Thomas More Society Joins Fight to Open Schools

Madison, WI – When St. Ambrose Academy, a Catholic school with 66 families and a shoestring budget, took on Dane County, with their virtually limitless access to tax dollars, some questioned how long David could stand up to Goliath.

“Challenging the injustice was critical to the future of our children,” said Joan Carey, Executive Director of St. Ambrose Academy, “but we had to have faith that God would help us find a path to victory.”

Within days, a grassroots force of over 825 joined the fight by contributing thousands of dollars to the effort, along with 7 other Catholic schools in Dane County who joined St. Ambrose as plaintiffs. “We didn’t stand alone for long!” said Carey with a smile.

“Today, the prayers and contributions of our kids, their families, and uncounted others have been realized in an amazing way,” Carey continued. “The blow we struck on behalf of our children has drawn a wonderful new ally.” The Thomas More Society, a national public interest law firm, has joined the effort to strike down the unconstitutional and unlawful attempt to close religious schools for in-person instruction.

The Society will join the legal team of Lead Counsel Misha Tseytlin of the Troutman Pepper Hamilton law firm as co-counsel in the suit before the Wisconsin Supreme Court and will offer additional financial resources to ensure St. Ambrose and its allies can stay in the fight to the end.

“Thanks to the initial outpouring of grassroots support and Misha’s incredible work that inspires such confidence, our team continues to grow,” said Carey. “Backed by the prayers of thousands, we will do whatever it takes to secure the religious liberties guaranteed in the Wisconsin Constitution and to raise our children with faith, values, and an excellent Catholic classical education.”

“It's incredible to see a community come together to defend our kids like this,” said Angela Hine, St. Ambrose Academy Learning Services Specialist and long-time parent. “This support gives a voice to the voiceless.”

After business hours on Friday, August 21, Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) banned in-person instruction for grades 3-12. Because most public schools in the county had already chosen to open virtual-only schools, the ban was directed at private schools. On Wednesday, August 26, St. Ambrose Academy, joined by a coalition of Catholic schools and parents, asked PHMDC to rescind its unconstitutional and unlawful order. When the County missed the deadline, the group formally filed a petition with the Wisconsin Supreme Court to strike down the order.

St. Ambrose Academy is an accredited, private, and affordable Catholic junior high and preparatory senior high school located on Madison's west side. To join the growing ranks supporting this effort, go to ambroseacademy.org/openschool or facebook.com/St.Ambrose.Academy.

The Thomas More Society is a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm dedicated to restoring respect in law for life, family, and religious liberty. Based in Chicago, the Thomas More Society defends and fosters support for these causes by providing high-quality *pro bono* legal services from local trial courts all the way to the United States Supreme Court.

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