



December 7, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to commend St. Ambrose Academy as an essential institution in our diocese for the education of youth. I wholeheartedly endorse its growth and current need for expanded space.

St. Ambrose assists parents in their children's formation both intellectually, through the lens of the Church's teachings and great works of Western civilization, and spiritually, through personally encountering Jesus Christ in the sacraments and experiencing His love through staff witness and school relationships. St. Ambrose Academy equips students to evangelize the world.

St. Ambrose Academy graduates have brought their love for Jesus Christ to higher educational institutions all around the country. On the UW-Madison campus alone, St. Ambrose graduates consistently take on major leadership roles at the St. Paul University Catholic Center. In addition to serving as cantors, altar servers, and at the front Welcome Desk, they lead Bible studies, purity groups, retreats and service trips, and organizations like the Phi Kappa Theta Catholic fraternity, the men's Damascus House, the women's Bernadette House, and the Knights of Columbus.

Alumni earnestly strive to discern the vocation to which God calls them: around 20% of male graduates have discerned the call to the priesthood in seminary formation. Many others have followed the call to sacramental marriage and are now raising families of their own. They serve as faith-filled professionals in fields ranging from teaching to health care to the military. I can only begin to imagine what the spiritual and temporal legacy of St. Ambrose will ultimately be!

In my estimation, St. Ambrose's success lies not only in its Christ-centered focus but also its commitment to challenging young men and women to clear, critical thinking. Knowing the Truth, the person of Jesus Christ, they are equipped to share it with everyone around them without being daunted by the tangled thinking of Modernism.

St. Ambrose is facing a challenge right now: the happy challenge of a school experiencing a 15% increase in enrollment over the previous year. This pace of growth necessitates a vigilant search for a new school home where St. Ambrose students can thrive for generations.

Please join me in rallying around St. Ambrose by following this important project carefully and considering at each stage how you can move it forward with the gifts that God has given you. For my part, I will do everything that I can to assist this campaign, because I know that every St. Ambrose student who learns to respond to God's call for him or her will be an unstoppable force for good in Madison and beyond in the universal Church.

Thank you for your faithfulness!

+Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

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