



Dear friend of St. Ambrose Academy,

We have an important invitation for you to consider, **to make a colossal impact for the Church in the Madison diocese** and the revitalizing effect well beyond this community.

Our project entails a bold vision to build a new Catholic school campus in Fitchburg from the ground up to accommodate explosive growth. Our new campus will also help begin to fill a huge local need, namely:

- The Diocese of Madison has **major catching up to do** with neighboring Wisconsin dioceses in offering Catholic secondary education: the Green Bay diocese has seven Catholic high schools, the La Crosse diocese has eight, and Milwaukee has 16. Yet Madison, the center of influence for our great state, *has only two!*
- We can and should collaborate and invest in more options as families seek the best fit for every child and a teaching program aligned with their core values.
- A Catholic education is a “*complete education*,” as Cardinal Burke explains in the enclosed letter.

We focus on equipping young people with the virtues to thrive: to become clear, critical thinkers and self-learners, responsible and hard-working citizens, generous and ambitious *leaders*, always eager to act on God’s voice in their lives. In short: solid people like you. Today’s world tells us to live anyway we want, which only leads to chaos. Virtuous leadership instead honors and promotes timeless truths, loyalty, purity, family, country, and faith – and true leadership is contagious, multiplying good upon good.

Because we have the privilege to partner with families to educate and form students 8 hours a day, for 8 months a year, for up to 7 years during their most impressionable years – we’re incredibly effective in helping to raise up strong Christian leaders that benefit us all, and the fruits are lasting. Our own **Bishop Donald J. Hying** has enthusiastically recognized this:

“Whenever I meet a St. Ambrose graduate, I know what I’m going to encounter. I’m going to meet a young person who is strong in their faith, is well formed in knowledge, and is confident of succeeding at what matters the most – that is loving God and loving each other. As St. John reminds us, it’s on those two scales that we will be weighed at the end of our life.”

When you put all this together, the approach and impact of our mission are a crucial remedy for today, and we’re offering a true course correction. In a day when culture is attacked, values are degraded, and faith is mocked, our powerful answer is to build and restore Catholic education: to save family, church, and society from those seeking to destroy these pillars.

Yet **we need a new home** and permanent facilities to continue this *transformational* program.

We have agreed to purchase a 5-acre parcel in an ideal central location in Fitchburg, WI because we draw families up to 45 miles away in every direction. The bold vision calls for a complete campus suitable for providing *complete human formation*. The full campaign goal of **\$17M** will not only provide for a complete campus but will also create a restricted maintenance fund to protect this major capital asset in perpetuity. A Phase 1 building plan is also possible at approximately **\$10M**.

We seek creative advice, networking support, and special contributions to propel this bold plan and expand our powerful mission.

An investment in St. Ambrose that leads to well-formed, well-educated lay Catholics and Christians ready to engage our world should matter to all of us. For as surely as our young people depend on us today, we will depend on them soon! Therefore, this project is not just for our school and children's future – as important as these are – but the future of the Church and world.

Please consider how you could uniquely help us rise to this significant and historic opportunity: the first new Catholic school building in the Madison diocese in over 50 years! I welcome you to learn more about our mission and project with the enclosed materials as well as to offer your ideas, referrals, and support in the days ahead.

In Christ,



Joseph Draves
Development Director
josephd@ambroseacademy.org
(920) 284-4771

*Thank you for your special interest,
prayers, and support!*