



ST. AMBROSE  
ACADEMY



Mariana Antonio-Serrano (SAA '21) hit the ground running when she arrived at UW-Madison in the fall of 2021. Having been the Co-Chair for the St. Ambrose Academy Guardians for Life student club, Mariana came to the university with a passion for pro-life work and wanted to find ways to get involved.

Friend and fellow SAA alumna Maria Marsland connected Mariana with the outgoing president, a senior, who was looking for someone who could take on the organization as he was phasing out in preparation for graduation.

It proved to be a timely transition as Antonio-Serrano could take up the mantle, becoming the acting president right away as a freshman who already possessed great experience and conviction.

The coronavirus caused the group to become less active, so Antonio-Serrano had a blank slate, of sorts, from which to start. "The outgoing president has been really helpful as a mentor, giving me a lot of tips on running an organization at the university, what kinds of activities happened before covid, and other helpful advice", she

said. "Right now, I'm focused on recruiting new members, getting a leadership board set up, and making the organization more active."

With helpful support around her, including peers who are also engaged in the organization, Antonio-Serrano has also taken inspiration from her past experiences.

"Guardians for Life was a really great experience that I had at St. Ambrose and I loved it so much," she shared.

"I'm modeling what we're setting up at Students for Life off of things that we did at St. Ambrose, including volunteering at Pregnancy Helpline regularly, getting a group to attend the March for Life in D.C., forming a relationship with Biking for Babies, and of course being involved with 40 Days for Life."

Antonio-Serrano's future goals for the organization next year include finding more ways to support students on campus who are facing unplanned pregnancies.

She wants "to be able to send these women to places that can help them and find more ways for Students for Life to be a gateway for students who don't know where else to turn."

Antonio-Serrano also credits her academic formation at St. Ambrose with giving her a strong foundation for her university experiences, saying, "I think my religion classes really helped form me from a logical perspective about why life begins at conception and equipping me to defend my positions very well, becoming strong in my beliefs, and making me want to become active and get this organization up and running again."

She continued, "there are other skills and tools, especially from my history and

English classes, that I can see have helped me. I'm kind of a shy person naturally, but through things like taking part in Socratic discussions and making presentations, I have more confidence to speak up for what I believe, can learn how to manage a group, and I'm just really excited for what we'll be able to do at UW-Madison. My hope is for other people to come to see the fullness of truth found in the pro-life message."

Thank you, Mariana, for your leadership and witness to the dignity of life!



The spring 2022 musical was a smash hit, as students took to the stage in a whirlwind of impressive dancing, comedic timing, and beautiful singing!

Each year's musical offers students ways to grow in skills outside the classroom.

Sophomore Sam Glanville auditioned for his first St. Ambrose musical this year at the urging of friends who said "it would be an amazing experience."

Taking on the role of role of Caleb, one of the seven brothers, Glanville said "I learned more about myself than I thought I would; I learned about my love for musicals and how much fun it is to act, but most of all I grew within myself a strong work ethic and the ability to say yes to any challenge that I would face."

Sam's experience also highlights the importance of surrounding the students with men and women who love the Lord and who can bring out the best in young people.

Sam shared that his "favorite memory is more spread throughout the entirety of the of the rehearsal process, and it was when there would be a break during rehearsal when (Vocal Director) Mr. Carrano would sit down with the guys and start cracking jokes or just giving us good life advice."

The musical theater program is one of many ways students are able to grow in community, self-confidence, creativity, and many other skills. Well done to the entire cast and crew, and thank you for sharing your gifts with us!





Join St. Ambrose Academy for an evening event that will inspire you to put your faith into practice in new ways through the art of living liturgically.

Ms. Theresa Klinkhammer, religion teacher and Director of Student Ministries, will share insights from a book read and discussed as a part of the St. Ambrose high school religion curriculum. ***Get a glimpse of the classroom dynamic while also growing in your own faith!***

Blessed Columba Marmion was a leader of the liturgical renewal in the early 20th century. His book, *Christ in His Mysteries*, shows how we enter into the mysteries of Christ's life by living liturgically.

This talk will first delve into Marmion's thought concerning participation in Christ's mysteries and then explore this idea through looking at the power of the propers of the Mass, especially those of the Easter season.

**When:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7PM

**Topic:** Living the Liturgical Year with Blessed Columba Marmion

**Location:** St. Ambrose Academy

**RSVP:** By Wednesday, May 4, 2022 (encouraged, but not required) by emailing [carolyn.averill@ambroseacademy.org](mailto:carolyn.averill@ambroseacademy.org) or calling 608-827-5863.

