



Above, Bishop Robert C. Morlino's hands are a blur as he chops garlic for his chicken saltimbocca. He was chef chef for the recent benefit dinner marking the 50th anniversary of St. Ambrose Academy in Madison. At right Bishop Morlino proudly displays the finished entree. (Catholic Herald photo by Joseph Pohl)



## Look who's in the kitchen!

### Bishop Morlino cooks for St. Ambrose Academy

#### The menu

St. Ambrose was Bishop of Milan in Northern Italy from 374 to 397 AD. As such, St. Ambrose Academy chose a menu with particularly Northern Italian influences. Given the title "Honey Tongued Doctor" by those who loved his preach, St. Ambrose is, among other things, the patron of bees, bee-keepers, and candle-makers. Thus, St. Ambrose Academy also incorporated honey into the meal.

Guests were invited to enjoy the meal. *Bees' Appetizer*

*Assorted Antipasti*

*Paula*

*New Orleans-style Italian Red Gravy with Shiitake Mushrooms alla*

*Patricio*

*Secundo*

*Northern Italian Chicken Saltimbocca*

*Roasted Asparagus*

*Garlic and Rosemary Roasted Potatoes*

*Calvin*

*Schubert's Dusted Rosettes with Mascarpone and Ambrosian Honey Drizzle*

By Joan Carey

For the Catholic Herald

MADISON — Bishop-turned-Chef Robert C. Morlino prepared a delicious gourmet meal of northern Italian favorites for over 200 guests at a recent benefit dinner for St. Ambrose Academy.

All afternoon, students took turns with the red-aproned bishop roasting asparagus, garlic-and-rosemary potatoes, and chicken saltimbocca over a snowy grill.

#### Beautiful school

Indoors, sparkling white snowflakes and glittering trees turned the St. Thomas Aquinas social hall into a winter wonderland.

"This is a beautiful school," smiled Msgr. Donn Heitz, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, which provides classroom space and support for the Academy. "These children, these young men and women, are for real," he said.

#### Gala event

The gala event celebrated St. Ambrose Academy's fifth year of providing Catholic classical education for students in grades

seven to 12.

The evening began with cocktails and fellowship, along with an opportunity for holiday shopping as guests browsed through a wide variety of silent auction items.

Among the items auctioned were a Rocky Mountain vacation and sports memorabilia.

#### Hope for the future

Bishop Morlino told those present that the Catholic education provided at St. Ambrose fills him with hope. "When we see the way these young women and men are going forward toward a future in Christ," said Bishop Morlino, "we see a hope that takes us outside of ourselves."

St. Ambrose Coordinator of Development Bridget Gill reported that the event grossed over \$35,000. In thanking the attendees for their generosity, Bishop Morlino declared, "These young men and women are our hope in Christ. We are moving to a day when they lead the world toward the Kingdom of Heaven with a full burst of energy."

"When you come here to celebrate St. Ambrose Academy, that's what you celebrate," he said.



Above, St. Ambrose students join Bishop Morlino in the kitchen. Showing off the potatoes prepared for the garlic and rosemary roasted potatoes from left are: Andy Teeter, Timmy Weiskind, Warden, and David Schiederemayer.



St. Ambrose carvers visited individual tables and sang throughout the evening. From left are: Alex Marsland, Peter Carey, John Paul Carey, Mimi Enneal, Thomas Carey, Jenny Marsland, Paul Ptak, and choir teacher Lisa Pantano.

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

# With food à la bishop: Dinner to benefit St. Ambrose

By Joan Carey

FOR THE CATHOLIC HERALD

**MADISON** — On December 7, you will find the Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino cooking in the kitchen! As St. Ambrose Academy approaches its five-year anniversary, Bishop Morlino is calling attention to the school's mission by donning a chef's hat.

The gala event begins with cocktails, fellowship and an opportunity for holiday shopping.

Guests may browse through a wide variety of silent auction items, including a Rocky Mountain vacation, an original Hofmann painting worth thousands of dollars, sports memorabilia such as a signed Brett Favre photo, framed with a rare rookie card, and a signed Badger football, a framed Claudia Daniel coin, a \$200 birthday party at Madison Ice Arena, lunches with local celebrities, coupons for a professional house cleaning, golf rounds at local links (including an outing hosted by Vicar General Msgr. Donn Hilar), and much more.

While guests enjoy their bids to the sound of Christmas carols by St. Ambrose musicians, Bishop Morlino will share cooking tips with the students as they prepare a classic of fine Italian dining, chicken saltimbocca, with all the trimmings. School leaders are planning a fun, elegant, and lively evening for all who attend.

## Equip teens with faith

"We're hearing this benefit and the presence of our bishop attracts those who want to share in the



"Chef" bishop in the kitchen with St. Ambrose students Logan McCloskey, Lucy Winnoski, Andy Teeter, Theresa Pak, Maggie Smith, and Michael Bowden. The bishop will cook for a dinner benefiting the school. (Continued photo by Joan Carey)

mission of establishing teens in the Catholic faith," said Bridget Gill, coordinator of development at St. Ambrose.

Gill, who worked in campus ministry before coming to Madison, noted that so many young people enter college practicing their faith, but by the time they graduate, they no longer believe. "At St. Ambrose, we have an opportunity to provide teens a solid foundation so that when they arrive on the college scene, they are equipped to keep the faith and spread it among their peers."

## Investing in the future

The generous donors who currently support St. Ambrose, Gill noted, recognize that by investing in youth now, they are investing in the future of the Church. In a Catholic high school setting, Gill said, "we have the full attention of the kids; the opportunity to infuse their whole day with the Christian life. We propose the faith to them in its fullness."

Ralph Buechner, a retired building contractor and developer who lives in Mt. Horeb, noticed St. Ambrose students assisting at daily Mass before school. "As I got to know those kids, I realized

## More information

All are invited to the St. Ambrose Academy dinner, held at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 602 Lovejule Dr., Madison, on Friday, Dec. 7.

■ 5:30 p.m. cocktail hour and silent auction

■ 7 p.m. dinner

The cost is \$75 per plate or \$500 for a table of eight.

Make reservations today by calling 608-827-5863 or by e-mailing Katie Haun at [khaun@ambroseacademy.org](mailto:khaun@ambroseacademy.org).

Silent auction items will be posted at [www.ambroseacademy.org](http://www.ambroseacademy.org) on December 4 to allow for early bidding by those who cannot attend the event.

that they are really learning why we're here on earth."

It didn't take him long to become one of the school's major benefactors. "This school teaches kids that life is all about gaining heaven," Buechner said.

Buechner also cherishes the hope that by supporting St. Ambrose, he is helping with vocations. "In the end," he smiled, "I'm hoping we'll get some priests out of this effort." With one St. Ambrose graduate in seminary, another considering the priesthood, and three current students heading to St. Paul, Minn., with Most. James Bartylla, diocesan vocation director, for a seminary visit, it looks like Buechner's hopes are well-founded.

"But," Buechner was quick to add, "I also expect that these girls and boys will grow up and give strong Catholic marriages and families to the world. Whatever vocations they follow, they are learning that life is not about the distractions and side things that happen; it's about loving and serving God, and the kids who hear this message are going to be ready to do what God asks of them."

## Keep Christ-centered education affordable

Support from people like

Ralph Buechner is crucial to the future of the school, says Principal John Gillett, who hopes the benefit will attract new benefactors who feel the same way.

"Now that we're in our fifth year, with an excellent faculty and a great group of students, we hope to reach out to a broader community," he said. "Our mission will continue to thrive if we can get the word out about the good things happening at our school."

St. Ambrose Academy came into existence in order to answer John Paul II's call for a new evangelization, raising up young people ready to spread the good news, Gillett pointed out that it's a mission for all.

"We need the support of many to give families a Christ-centered education for their children," he said, noting that St. Ambrose strives to keep tuition low.

"We charge less than half of what it actually costs to educate a student, and we rely on donors to fill the gap," Gillett said. "Plus, our donor-funded financial aid program offers up to full support for families who don't have the means to invest financially in Catholic education. Catholic education should be available to all."



**DOPPELGÄNGER** — Fr. Steve Umhoefer, pastor of Nativity of Mary Parish, Janesville, received a surprise visit from a "guest priest" on Halloween evening. Doesn't Father look surprised? His "guest" is



■ tree climbing ■ basketball riding  
■ mountain biking ■ swimming