

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

# Catholic education: Leads you to Christ, says bishop

By Julianne Nornberg

CATHOLIC HERALD STAFF

**MADISON** — The whole point of Catholic education is that it leads you to Jesus Christ, Bishop Robert C. Morlino said during a recent Mass with students, faculty, staff, and families of St. Ambrose Academy here.

The Mass was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Madison.

## 'Christ leads you'

During his homily, Bishop Morlino said, "You go forth to Christ in whatever vocation he chooses for you."

Marriage is the vocation of most disciples, but for those called to consecrated life and the priesthood, that's a special grace, he said. "That means you'd love to be a good wife or a good husband, but Jesus calls you to give it up. Jesus gives you the grace to make sacrifices. Christ leads you by the hand."

We are witnesses of Jesus' suffering which means we're strong in Christ in whatever vocation he calls us to "and that means we have to always tell the truth," he said. "So we not only say what's right but we do what's right."

"In our faith in Jesus Christ,

we're not supposed to stand at the edge of the pool and dip our toe in. That's what a lot of people do: you could call them 'Big Toe Christians,'" said Bishop Morlino. "Others wade in up to their knees and those are 'Knee-deep Christians.'"

But Jesus said to put out into the deep and dive in, he said.

Jesus will lead you to be a great parent, spouse, or priest or sister, said the bishop. "Let him do it."

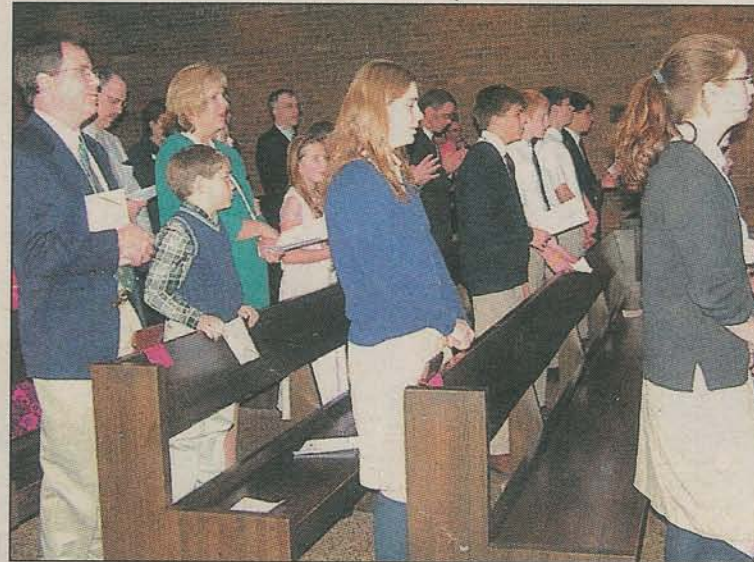
That's why John Paul the Great was called a witness to hope and was willing to die for the faith, he said. "Imagine with all the pain he had, he said, 'I'm happy and I want you to be happy.' That's a witness to hope. The only way to get that is your life in Christ."

## Leading you to Christ

We believe in Catholic schools because they're the best way to lead you to Jesus Christ, he said. "Jesus is the reason."

"I am in support of St. Ambrose Academy and I want to see it grow and flourish because I love Jesus," said Bishop Morlino. "You are a good Catholic school. I'm with you 100 percent."

For more information on St. Ambrose Academy, call 608-827-5863 or visit [www.ambroseacademy.org](http://www.ambroseacademy.org)



Students, faculty, staff, and families of St. Ambrose Academy, Madison, participate in Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Madison. (Catholic Herald photos by Julianne Nornberg)



Bishop Robert C. Morlino addresses the students during his homily.