

According to the NCEA annual statistical report, 20 percent of Catholic high schools nationally are all-female and 13.5 percent are all-male. The two high schools in the Diocese

## St. Ambrose students: Put solidarity into practice

By Joan Carey

FOR THE CATHOLIC HERALD

CANTON, Miss. — Nailing shingles under the 100-degree southern sun in one of the poorest counties in America may not be the way many kids would choose to spend their school vacation, but St. Ambrose Academy student Carey Weakland Warden wouldn't have had it any other way.

Youth ministry teams from St. Ignatius Parish, Mt. Moreb, St. Mary Parish, Pine Bluff, and St. Aloysius Parish, Sauk City, led a summer mission trip to Canton, Miss., one of the poorest counties in America, with the goal of funding and building houses for those living in poverty, and a group of St. Ambrose students accompanied them.

"It was a great experience getting to build an actual house for an actual family in need," Weakland Warden said.

"When the family came to see the house, they were so happy, and we were so excited to see their reaction. To me, it was a fairly small house, almost just a cottage, but to them, it was THEIR HOUSE, something they had never had!" Weakland

Warden said. "Even though we were just kids, it made us feel like we were doing something real to make life better for a family."

This year's group, through garage sales, bake sales, car washes, and selling shares, raised enough to pay for the entire house.

Some students even gave their own earnings to help fund the trip. John Paul Carey, a St. Ambrose Academy student who works at McDonald's, tithed 10 percent of his year's McDonald's income to buy building supplies for the house.

"I've worked hard to earn this, and I'm giving it freely to a cause that I'm concerned about," said Carey. "That does



Thomas Carey, Suzi Weakland Warden, and John Paul Carey, students at St. Ambrose Academy in Madison, work on siding during a mission trip to Mississippi. (Photo by Jackie Lesperance)

feel good."

St. Ambrose Academy students had spent the winter studying the social teachings of the Church in their course "The Church in the Modern World,"

taught by Connie Nielsen.

"The course taught the kids that you have to take your Christian faith into the world to change the world," Nielsen said. "Part of the Church's social

### St. Ambrose information

St. Ambrose Academy, founded in Madison in 2003, is a lay-run organization formed to assist parents in the formation of their junior-high- and high-school-aged children by providing a classical education rooted in the Catholic faith. For more information on St. Ambrose Academy, call 608-827-5863, send an e-mail to [info@ambroseacademy.org](mailto:info@ambroseacademy.org), or visit [www.ambroseacademy.org](http://www.ambroseacademy.org)

teaching is solidarity. John Paul II put it best: 'All are responsible for all' (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*).

"The summer mission trip gave our students the opportunity to put that solidarity into practice, living their Christian commitment to neighbor in the world," she said.

## Edgewood Campus: Makes plans to build, renovate

MADISON — Edgewood Campus School is looking toward the future with exciting plans for renovations and additions. In 2006 a Capital Campaign, "Building on our Values", commenced with a total target of \$8 million for a two-phase construction plan.

Eppstein Uhen Architects have designed plans that maintain the beautiful windows and



Artist's rendering of the proposed new front entrance and Administrative Offices of Edgewood Campus School. The refurbishing, renovation and addition is Phase 1 of a two-phase plan. The hope is to break ground in June.