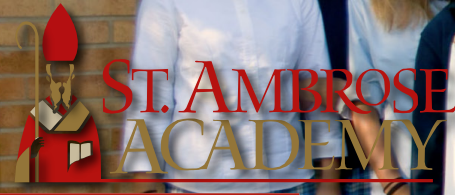


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THE AMBROSIAN

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Save the Date

Thursday, October 13
St. Ambrose Academy
High School
Open House
4:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

Saturday, December 10
5th Annual
St. Ambrose Academy
Benefit Dinner with
Bishop Robert Morlino

Mission Breakfasts

Tues., Oct. 11, 7:30 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 24, 7:00 a.m.

Mon., Nov. 7, 8:00 a.m.

Thur., Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m.

Thur., Dec. 1, 7:30 a.m.

Working Together

St. Ambrose Academy Becomes Member of WIAA

After eight years on its own, St. Ambrose Academy was admitted in September to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), the sports organization to which the vast majority of high schools in Wisconsin belong.

Membership means that St. Ambrose Academy can participate with other schools in fielding co-op teams. Although some St. Ambrose students played football as a club sport last year, this season, for the first time, St. Ambrose boys are playing eight-man football on a recognized co-op team with students from Madison's Abundant Life Christian School (ALCS). Although the St. Ambrose Academy name doesn't appear on the team's jerseys, St. Ambrose players are a critical part of the team. In the first game against Valley Christian in Oshkosh, a St. Ambrose

freshman played quarterback for much of the second half, and another St. Ambrose Academy player scored three touchdowns, helping the team to victory with a final score of 72-20! The second game, against Stockbridge High School, was a loss at 24-36.

WIAA membership will affect more than football. Many WIAA rules will regulate team composition, transportation, and new student recruitment. The cross country team is having a good season, although the long-running

cooperation with Holy Family Homeschoolers on the St. Ambrose cross country team could not continue at the high school level, due to WIAA rules requiring team members to be full-time St. Ambrose students.

For the present, the basketball and cross country teams' schedules will not be affected. Down the road, however, our teams may go up against other WIAA teams and may even participate in sectional and regional competitions!



The St. Francis of Assisi Fund

Making a Catholic Education Accessible to More Families

In the summer, St. Ambrose Academy introduced a new program designed to help students and their families in financial need: The St. Francis of Assisi Fund.

"Our regular tuition assistance program has awarded about \$60,000 in the 2010-2011 school year," said Principal Scott Schmiesing. "But with the St. Francis Fund we hope to be able to share a classical Catholic education with even more able students."

Already benefactors have

contributed over \$7,000 to be preferentially awarded to applicants from families at or below the federal poverty level.

The St. Francis of Assisi Fund is the next step to ensure that willing and able students may attend St. Ambrose Academy regardless of their ability to pay tuition costs. Scholarships will be awarded first to families at or below the federal poverty level. Financial assistance can be provided to families with incomes up

to twice the poverty level. In establishing the St. Francis of Assisi Fund, St. Ambrose Academy remains committed to the mission of providing quality academic and religious formation to children in the Diocese of Madison.

"Our mission is to assist parents in providing a Catholic education to their children," said St. Ambrose Academy Board President David Stienon. "We don't want to turn anyone away for lack of funds. I am so

grateful to all our benefactors who have given so generously to make Catholic education more widely available in our community."

The funds will be available to applicants enrolling between now and the beginning of next school year.

This fund is one step towards answering the call of Pope Benedict XVI that "No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation."



Laura Karlen

Helping St. Ambrose Academy Grow

This summer, Dr. Constance Nielsen, who had served as the Development Director in the 2010-2011 academic year, transitioned to her new role at St. Ambrose as Dean of Faculty. In addition, Dr. Nielsen is serving as an adjunct professor at Edgewood College.

And so, St. Ambrose is happy to welcome Laura Karlen as Development Director in time for the new school year. Laura has a background in the life insurance industry and in pro-life activism with Vigil for Life, a Madison volunteer group that coordinates the 40 Days

for Life campaigns, among other pro-life activities.

She will be involved in planning the 5th Annual Benefit Dinner as well as a new development endeavor, the St. Ambrose Mission Breakfasts, to share the mission of the school throughout the Diocese. "I've loved St. Ambrose since my first introduction to the school four years ago when I met alumna Olivia Bohn. She sold me on St. Ambrose. Now, I'm excited to share the things I love about this school with the Catholic community," said Laura about starting in her role at St. Ambrose in June. Welcome, Laura Karlen!

Sharing the Mission...and Breakfast!

Beginning with the first event on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, St. Ambrose Academy will be hosting free, hour-long breakfasts on location to share the mission of St. Ambrose—quality academic and religious formation—with the community.

"The highlight of these breakfasts will be the perspectives that the students themselves share about their experiences at St. Ambrose," said Development Director Laura Karlen. "So far, the feedback I have received from students has indicated that St. Ambrose has shaped them beyond just academics. They feel that St. Ambrose is a place to call

'home' and to grow in faith. That just about says it all."

Students and school parents will help prepare and present the Mission Breakfasts two times per month during the school year.

St. Ambrose President David Stiennon will address breakfast attendees with his vision for the school: "I see a bright future for St. Ambrose. By this, I mean that our school is growing and that our students and graduates are well-equipped to be leaders in our Catholic faith in our diocese and in the world."

All community members will be invited to find out more about St. Ambrose's great mission through the Mission Breakfasts.

St. Ambrose Academy Benefactors: Carl and Bette Weisshaar

Bette and Carl Weisshaar first met when Carl's older brother married Bette's older sister, and Carl was the best man. Bette, a native of the Madison area, was assigned to show Carl, who was from Rochelle, Illinois, around town so that he could complete his duties as best man.



They began to correspond after the wedding, eventually getting married themselves. Both Bette and Carl came from strong Catholic families with seven children each. The Catholic faith was a way of life for them growing up. Bette's parents sent all the children to St. Raphael's school—Bette's mother loved St. Raphael Cathedral—and helped them work their way through their education at Edgewood High School.

Carl's mother divorced when he was very young, but his adoptive father was very involved in Catholic organizations like the Knights of Columbus. Despite the challenges of the last several decades, Bette and Carl held fast to the faith and raised two daughters, Adrienne and Christine.

Adrienne is a speech pathologist in the Milwaukee area and will be competing in the Iron Man World Championship in Hawaii with her husband soon. Christine is a biomedical engineer in research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Now that they are retired, Bette has been very involved with Vigil for Life and the 40 Days for Life campaigns while Carl has lent a hand with building a Habitat for Humanity house.

Bette recalls first hearing of St. Ambrose Academy while praying on the sidewalk during 40 Days for Life. "I met Connie [Nielsen], and we began talking about the education that the students receive at St. Ambrose. After that conversation, I went

home to Carl and said, "We're going to this [St. Ambrose Academy] dinner!"

When they attended the 2010 benefit dinner, Carl was impressed: "The students were confident and able to express themselves. They have the problem solving and creative thinking skills that I don't see often in other students." For Bette, what stood out to her was the way St. Ambrose prepared the students well for higher education: "The kids at the benefit dinner were on fire for their faith, ready to go to universities and defend that faith."

For Carl and Bette, supporting St. Ambrose has also been a way to remember the faith of their families. In particular, Bette's maternal uncle, Albert Dolfen, always had a soft place in his heart for helping children in need receive Catholic education. Because he struggled with health problems, Albert never took the next step to donate in support of Catholic education. After he passed away in 2009, Bette and Carl began to think of ways to honor Albert and his desire to make Catholic education possible for those students without the financial resources. This fall, Carl and Bette contributed to the St. Francis of Assisi Fund (see article on p. 1) in honor of Albert Dolfen.

Please pray for the soul of Albert and for Carl and Bette. Each day, Bette and Carl pray for the students and staff of St. Ambrose Academy.