IT BEGAN WITH A PROMISE.
In 1999, St. Ambrose had a vision: to be recognized as a premier Catholic institution of higher learning in the Midwest which is dedicated to the development of the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. To achieve that vision, we embarked upon an ambitious 10-year effort called Our Challenge & Promise: To Give. To Guide. To Grow. This publication highlights the promises we made in 1999 and how – with your support – we have fulfilled them.

The world has changed in very real and profound ways since this campaign began. The first decade of this new century saw the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. followed by protracted wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; natural disasters in New Orleans, Indonesia, Haiti and across eastern Iowa; and dramatic declines in the housing and stock markets, followed by marked unemployment. Technological advances put computers in our phones, personal music players around our necks, and navigation systems in our cars.

During this decade and in this dynamic environment, St. Ambrose thrived with incredible growth in enrollment and dramatic improvements to our physical appearance and program offerings.
TO GIVE.
St. Ambrose promised to give our students and the community a value-added education. Students develop their minds, bodies, and spirits in the classroom, on the playing field, in the music halls, and throughout the community. Structured service learning programs allow students to earn class credit for community service. Ambrose students volunteer more than 31,000 hours each year serving meals to the homeless, teaching children to read, building houses, cleaning our local parks, and providing flu shots to the elderly.

In response to community needs for educated professionals, St. Ambrose has added 18 academic programs including our most recent, the Master’s Degree in Speech-Language Pathology which also provides free services to children at Friendly House and All Saint’s School. These are promises kept.

Yet, some things have stayed the same. St. Ambrose still honors its commitment to personal attention from faculty and staff, small class sizes, and a strong sense of community that creates lifelong Ambrosians.
TO GUIDE.
St. Ambrose promised to guide affordability by growing our endowment and enrollment while continuing our long tradition of excellence as a respected Catholic, liberal arts university. Over the last decade, our endowment has grown nearly 30 percent to $80 million, the number of St. Ambrose alumni has nearly doubled, and student enrollment has increased by 30 percent to nearly 3,900. To keep St. Ambrose affordable, we have focused a significant portion of the campaign on raising scholarship support. Institutional aid has increased more than 75 percent to $22 million, and we have added 36 endowed scholarships to support future generations of students. These are promises kept.

Yet, some things have stayed the same. St. Ambrose's tuition remains in the lower half among Iowa's private colleges. We also continue to attract a large number of students who are the first in their family to attend college as well as students with special learning needs who, with our Student Success Center and Office for Students with Disabilities, thrive in our small school environment.
TO GROW.
St. Ambrose promised to grow its physical plant in the new century. At nearly 130 years old, it has aged gracefully with its rich heritage and historical architecture. With 11 buildings renovated, constructed or acquired over the last decade, we have completed this phase of our ambitious physical growth plan.

The Rogalski Center is a hub of activity as hundreds of Ambrosians and community members pass through each day to socialize over a cup of coffee, to hear a lecture on migration, or to visit the Dean of Students. Christ the King Chapel reflects our sense of place with its stained glass windows, oak sanctuary built by long-time Ambrosian Pat Morrissey and his family, and its stature as the spiritual center of campus. Across campus, students live in new rooms in one of our five new or renovated residence halls and study in the new classrooms of New Hall, the Center for Health Sciences Education or the Downtown Education Center. These are promises kept.

Yet, some things have stayed the same. Davis Hall is still a nostalgic place to call home, hundreds of students learn in the same Ambrose Hall classrooms as their parents and grandparents, and very talented students compete in Lee Lohman Arena or perform on the Galvin stage.
THANK YOU.
When I first looked at St. Ambrose and the opportunities it afforded as president, I was struck by the incredible growth you had achieved in the prior years and the promise that this growth would continue under the very capable leadership and support of the board, cabinet, faculty and staff, volunteers, and very generous benefactors.

That promise of growth and vitality continues to this day, even in the face of some very uncertain economic times. Over the last 10 years, you contributed $77 million to fulfill these promises and many more. Each dollar you have provided directly supports our students, faculty and staff who continue to grow St. Ambrose as a pillar of our community and as a premier Catholic university.

This incredible growth is possible only because of the commitment of thousands of Ambrosians like you – and those who have come before you – who have the mission and vision of this University deeply imbedded in their hearts and, in turn, give very generously of their time, talent and treasure. Just like an acorn that burrows deeply within the earth to grow into a magnificent oak tree that shades millions of people for decades, your gifts help generations of Ambrosians enrich their lives so they can go out and enrich the lives of others. Thank you for being a part of this vision and growth.

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