

Pastor's Notes: Interview with Sandy Pricer of the St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op - Part 2 of 2 May 9, 2021

On April 24, 2021, I interviewed Sandy Pricer, Basilica parishioner and the founder and co-director of the St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op. Below is the second half of our interview. The full interview can be found on the Basilica's website along with my Pastor's Notes.



Fr. Carter: Who teaches the classes?

Sandy Pricer: The parents teach the classes primarily, because we are our kids' first teachers, right? The mothers and/or fathers that are available teach the classes. And they can - if they're not fluent, but they're comfortable with Latin - they can teach a Latin class. If science is something they're really interested in, then they can come help in the science class. We also have reached out to our parish community, and we've had UTC professors and students help teach the classes before as well, in addition to people like yourself, Father. We've had the priests of the Basilica teach classes, as well. So we make sure that they're definitely not going to teach our kids anything against our Catholic faith. That's first and foremost. But it's, again, this group that we're growing with and learning with.

Fr. Carter: Awesome. What could a family gain from being part of the St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op?

Sandy Pricer: You can definitely gain the Catholic community. Because I feel that so many times, we go to Mass and we leave, and there are opportunities to meet other times. But sometimes when you have a lot of young children, it's not as easy to connect with others, even if there's other events. So being able to join a Catholic co-op like St. Ambrose, you're able to form those relationships, make them stronger, and have that support system, that you're with other like-minded families in a very similar life season as you are.

Fr. Carter: If a family has more questions about the St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op, who would they contact and how?

Sandy Pricer: We have an email address that is on our Facebook page and on the Basilica website.

Fr. Carter: I'll share the Basilica website here just to see if we can see all that. So this is on the stspeterandpaulbasilica.com. There it is. Ministries. And it's down here. Homeschool Co-op. Here's our St. Ambrose Homeschool Co-op. And you said that there is information right here, the documents, things like that.

Sandy Pricer: The FAQ's, the registration process, all that, and then our email address and the contact button, and it's also on the flyer. Our class schedule. So that definitely helps give a lot more information if you have more questions, but you can contact us to ask more as well, for sure. We have a core group of ladies that are our leadership board. And so one of us will be responding to all emails to answer all questions and welcome all potential new families.

Fr. Carter: Now tell me about the image right there: "St. Ambrose Homeschool Co-op" with a beehive and the butterflies. Where did that come from?

Sandy Pricer: That particular banner the kids made. And when we were finding St. Ambrose, we searched different saint names to name ourselves after. And St. Ambrose, because of that hive and the bees and the workers, kind of like you mentioned earlier, we felt, was a very appropriate representation of our co-op, because we want to be together in a working hive to help build the Catholic community.

Fr. Carter: Beautiful. Awesome. I know that it's always been a joy for me to see the kids come on campus and see the life of them and also to be privileged to teach for so many years. Are there any upcoming sessions that would be a good invitation point for people?

Sandy Pricer: Absolutely. For anybody interested in St. Ambrose and you do have more questions and you want to talk to me or one of my core ladies in person, we have a virtual meeting coming up on May 20. And information and Zoom links will be sent out soon. But that would be a great time to hop on Zoom and just ask seasoned homeschoolers about homeschooling and St. Ambrose in particular. We also have monthly informal playdates, that families within the Catholic community can come and meet each other and ask questions there and just get to know each other.

Fr. Carter: Awesome. Well, we invite everybody to spread the word about the good that's found in the St. Ambrose Catholic Homeschool Co-op. And we thank you, Sandy, for all the work that you have put into it and the heart and soul, like you do for everything. And it's an awesome thing to see our community come together to educate our children from especially those families who are choosing that beautiful, noble path of homeschooling.

The interview will conclude in the May 9 pastor's notes, and the video and transcript will be posted on the Basilica's website, stspeterandpaulbasilica.com. For more information, visit the St. Ambrose Homeschool Co-op web page on the Basilica website, under Ministries. Also visit the St. Ambrose Homeschool Co-op Facebook page. If you would like to volunteer, join, or inquire, email stambrosecoop@gmail.com to contact the St. Ambrose Core Committee.