

Day for Consecrated Life observed as 175th anniversary event

By Sr. Carol Hoverman, OSF
Editor, The Witness

DUBUQUE — Celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Dubuque and the Catholic Church in Iowa would be incomplete without recalling the religious, social and cultural contributions of thousands of men and women in religious communities whose benefits are reaped today.

Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, invited women and men from religious communities and their associates to celebrate this heritage and that of all the area religious congregations during a prayer service for the "World Day for Consecrated Life." Approximately 450 religious came to the Church of the Resurrection, Dubuque, for the 2 p.m. celebration on Sunday, Feb. 5.

Before the diocese of Dubuque was even formed in 1837, Dominican Father Samuel Mazzuchelli ministered in the tri-state area.

In 1843, Mary Frances Clarke and her Sisters of Charity, BVM, accepted Bishop Mathias Loras' invitation to leave Philadelphia and come to this frontier territory of Dubuque to teach children of the immigrants. Trappist monks came from Ireland in 1849 and founded the contemplative community at New Melleray Abbey south of Dubuque.

The archbishop recalled the influence of Catherine McCauley and the Mercy Sisters, Mother Xavier Termehr and the Dubuque Franciscans. "We also remember the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of the Visitation, the Christian Brothers — all powerful influences in the field of education and in parish life. The history of the archdiocese cannot be imagined without the contribution of the apostolic communities," he said.

He spoke of the communities founded by Saint Arnold Janssen: the Society of the Divine Word Fathers and Brothers, and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. He also thanked the Trappist and Trappistine communities for their monastic presence.

"A true religious makes the Lord the center of one's life," he said, quoting from a hymn led by the Archdiocesan Chorale. "How can one keep from singing, 'I will always serve you, I will always keep you in my sight.'"

In referring to the prophetic witness of the founders of religious orders, Francis,



Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, awards Sister Liana Glynn, OP, for her years of service in the Pastoral Center. (Photo by Sr. Carol Hoverman, OSF)

Clare and Benedict, the archbishop included a contemporary prophet — "the diminutive Dorothy Hennessy who witnessed to the peace aspirations of many other similarly minded religious."

Referring to the Gospel passage of Mark: 10:24b-30 read earlier, the archbishop said Jesus' invitation to "give up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel" although challenging, still attracts men and women to give up their resources to share with others.

The centerpiece of the prayer service was the presentation of service awards. (See recipients listed at end of article.)

"Today's gathering is an opportunity to recognize and thank publicly representative women and men religious whose stories have been so interwoven with the history of this archdiocese," said Archbishop Hanus. "In the name of the thousands to whom you have brought a lasting treasure, in the name of the frail, to whom you have extended a guiding hand, I say thank you! You have shown a love that knows no end, to the outcast and rejected."

A short bio was given as each person was called to receive an Archdiocesan Distinguished Service Award.

"Working for the church in varying ministries has always been enriching for me," remarked Sister Francine Quillin, PBVM, a recipient. "But as a religious community, we believe that 'where one is, we all are,' so, while I greatly value this honor, I want to make clear that this is really a tribute to my community, the Sisters of the Presentation, which educated me and

supported me in all the work I have been blessed to do."

This was the sense of all the award recipients — "where one is, we all are."

A collection was taken to assist three organizations related to religious: Divine Word Missionaries in Epworth, Catherine McAuley Center in Cedar Rapids (provides basic education for adults and transitional housing for women affiliated with Mercy Sisters), and the Lantern Center in Dubuque (sponsored by Presentation Sisters to provide English as a second language instruction).

In reflecting on the day, Sister Susan O'Connor, RSM, summarized the gratitude of those who were present.

"The ceremony was especially meaningful with beautiful prayers, readings, music and the archbishop's very poignant homily," she said. "It was wonderful to gather with men and women religious from around the archdiocese to celebrate our religious vocations as well as our commitment to the church of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. It was a graced day!!!"

The full text of the archbishop's homily can be found on the Witness web page at www.dbqarch.org/witness

The day was planned by associate members of the various religious communities who also hosted the reception after the prayer service.

Archdiocesan Distinguished Service Awards

Sister Marci Blum, OSF for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for over 16 years in the offices of Catechetical Services, Persons with Disabilities, Adult Faith and Lay Formation.

Sister Jean Marie Brady, BVM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 19 years as a Regional Director for the Office of Educational Services.

Sister Bernadine Curoe, SVM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque at Loras College for over 30 years in service in counseling.

Sister Gail Fitzpatrick, OCSO for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 24 years as abbess at Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey.

Sister Liana Glynn, OP for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for seven years as Chancellor, also in service in the Tribunal, and as co-director of the Pastoral Center.

Sister Corita Heid, RSM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque ministering in Catholic healthcare at Mercy Medical Center in Dubuque where she served as President, and on several Archdiocesan boards.

Sister Carol Hoverman, OSF for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for nine years as editor of the Archdiocesan newspaper, The Witness, and for over 30 years in communications.

Sister Mary McCauley, BVM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque as the first director of the Office of Health Ministry. Also for serving as a Parish Life Coordinator at St. Bridget Parish, Postville, where she led the Archdiocesan response in the wake of the largest immigration raid in U.S. history at that time, by providing aid to almost 400 people.

Sister Mary Montgomery, OP for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 13 years as the Director of Pastoral Planning.

Sister Susan O'Connor, RSM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque ministering in Catholic healthcare at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids where she currently serves as the Vice President for Mission Integration and on several Archdiocesan boards.

Sister Carla Popes, PBVM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for almost 20 years as director of the Office of Lay Formation.

Sister Francine Quillin, PBVM for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for over 15 years as an auditor and then Director of the Metropolitan Tribunal.

Abbot Brendan Freeman, OCSO for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for the last 27 years as abbot at New Melleray Abbey.

Father Michael Hutchins, SVD for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 18 years as president of Divine Word College in Epworth.

Brother Stephen Markham, FSC for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in the schools and the parishes, serving as pastoral associate and as a parish life coordinator for the St. LaSalle Pastorate.

Unable to attend but also received the award:

Sister Marian Einck, OSF for service in the Archdiocese of Dubuque for 14 years at Catholic Charities working extensively with people who were separated, divorced, or who had lost a loved one.



As part of the archdiocesan observance of the 175th anniversary, Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB, presented Archdiocesan Distinguished Service Awards to the following members of religious communities at a 2 p.m. prayer service at Resurrection Church, Sunday, Feb. 5.

(Back row from left:) Sister Corita Heid, RSM; Sister Liana Glynn, OP; Sister Gail Fitzpatrick, OCSO; Sister Jean Marie Brady, BVM; Sister Francine Quillin, PBVM; Sister Carla Popes, PBVM; Abbot Brendan Freeman, OCSO; and Father Michael Hutchins, SVD. (Front row from left:) Brother Stephen Markham, FSC; Sister Mary Montgomery, OP; Sister Mary McCauley, BVM; Sister Carol Hoverman, OSF; Archbishop Jerome Hanus, OSB; Sister Marci Blum, OSF; Sister Bernadine Curoe, SVM; and Sister Susan O'Connor, RSM.

(Photo by Sister Mary Martens, BVM)