



For Release:  
May 13, 2016

Bethany Shaw/[bshaw@ccpgh.org](mailto:bshaw@ccpgh.org) or 412-456-6968  
Media contact at event: Mary Bernhard

**“YOURS IN SERVICE” THE THEME OF TONIGHT’S ANNUAL BISHOP’S DINNER  
FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

**(NOTE: Media coverage is welcome throughout the evening. Bishop Zubik and awardees will be available for photos, video and interviews from 5:30 to 6:00 pm in the Westmoreland Room of the Westin Convention Center Hotel.)**

**(May 13, 2016 Pittsburgh)** --- Service, and the generous support of the community that makes it possible through Catholic Charities, will be the central theme at tonight's 34th Annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Charities at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. Bishop David A. Zubik will host the gala welcoming more than 750 guests.

"Tonight we celebrate the service of so many gathered this evening who define what 'Yours in Service' truly means" said Bishop Zubik; "I am privileged to recognize the exceptional service of our Caritas awardees, who show us that extraordinary acts of service are possible for us all."

Bishop Zubik will present the 2016 Caritas Awards to the following recipients:

**Mark and Carole Shepard: Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl "Flame of Hope" Award**

Married for 33 years and the parents of three children, Mark and Carole live a life centered on faith, family, and service. Mark and Carole's connection with Catholic Charities began in 1997, when they led a team of St. John Neumann parishioners to welcome and help resettle a refugee family. Since then, they have settled two more refugee families – one from Bosnia and the other from Bhutan. Mark served as a member of Catholic Charities' board of directors from 2007 to 2012, and in 2009 and 2010 held the role of President. Currently, Mark serves on the boards of Little Sisters of the Poor and the St. Thomas More Society. He is also co-chair of the Circles Board for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. As a Notre Dame graduate, Mark was President of the local club, and remains actively involved in service opportunities.

After her graduation from Northwestern University with a degree in speech and language pathology, Carole dedicated her professional career to the treatment and care of head-injured children and adults and, for the past 20 years, the care of the elderly. Carole was a founding board member of both the Pittsburgh chapter of the National Aging in Place Council and the Peter Wei Cai Memorial Scholarship Fund. She has participated in numerous task forces for United Way of Allegheny County, serving the elderly and their caregivers. Carole is a member of the Pastoral Council at St. John Neumann Church in Franklin Park. Last year, she was recognized by the Pittsburgh Diocese as a recipient of the "Manifesting the Kingdom" award.

-more-

## **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Charities**

### **The Massaro Family: Caritas Leadership Award**

Together, Joe and Carol Massaro have built a flourishing contracting business and a strong family. But even while the couple achieved corporate success, they remained committed to Christ's call to give back to their community. Generous with their time, talent, and treasure, Joe served on the boards of directors at St. Anthony School for Exceptional Children, La Roche College, Central Catholic High School, and the Pittsburgh Opera, among others. Carol not only shared in Joe's professional accomplishments, but also raised their four children, maintained their home, graduated from Chatham University at the age of 45, and chaired events for Angel's Place, Jubilee Kitchen, Civic Light Opera, the Twenty-Five Club of Magee Women's Hospital, and the Pittsburgh Opera. When Joe was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2010, Carol established the Joseph A. Massaro, Jr. Alzheimer's Research Fund at the Pittsburgh Foundation. Joe passed away in December, 2015. All four of the Massaro children and their spouses continue to follow Joe and Carol's example of giving back to the community. The Massaros continue their devotion to philanthropy through their corporate community outreach, "Massaro Serves."

### **Sacred Heart Church, Shadyside: Caritas "Living the Spirit" Award**

Founded in 1872, Sacred Heart Parish has long served those in need, both locally and abroad. The parish's St. Vincent De Paul Society Conference cares for those in need of shelter, rent, furnishings, and utility payments. Sacred Heart has participated in East End Cooperative Ministries' (EECM) services since its founding in the 1970s, and volunteer parishioners continue to collect food bank provisions, prepare and serve hot meals to residents of community house programs, and deliver meals to the homebound. The parish Activities Building hosts a component of EECM's annual summer day camp. Beyond Pittsburgh, Sacred Heart Elementary School supports the diocesan Chimbote Mission Program, and students and parishioners plan and conduct fundraising activities to support the salaries of teachers at St. Antoine School in Fondwa, Haiti.

### **Little Sisters of the Poor, Pittsburgh: Caritas Service Award**

Continuing the work of their foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, the Little Sisters of the Poor offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and guided with dignity until God calls them to himself. Saint Jugan founded the order in Brittany, France in 1839, after she welcomed into her home a blind, elderly woman who was begging on the street. The Little Sisters' mission grew from that moment, and in 1872 seven Little Sisters arrived in Pittsburgh, where they established the local chapter. The Sisters operated two homes until the early 1970s, when their Penn Avenue home merged with their current location in Pittsburgh's North Side. Today, thirteen Little Sisters operate a fully licensed nursing facility open to financially needy men and women ages 65 and older. Some 100 people live at the home, which consists of three buildings, including an apartment building for 45 low-income seniors. In their 144 year history in Western Pennsylvania, the Sisters, together with lay staff and volunteers, have provided homes for over 12,000 of our neediest elderly.

-more-

### **34<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Dinner for Catholic Charities**

In addition to the Caritas Awards, dinner guests will enjoy a live auction where they can bid on a Year of Mercy Pilgrimage with Bishop Zubik to Italy this fall and a U.S. Open Golf Package with clubs autographed by Arnold Palmer, among other unique prizes.

Molly and Chris McMahon will serve as host chairs for the dinner and KDKA Morning News Host Larry Richert returns as master of ceremonies.

Key sponsors for the 2016 Bishop's Dinner include: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh; Federated; Highmark; Huntington; Jones Day; McKamish, Inc.; McMahon Financial Advisors; UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Mercy.

"'Yours in Service' truly defines the mission of Catholic Charities," says Susan Rauscher, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh; "each act of service extended by our staff and volunteers becomes an encounter with God's love for others as we strive to let no one come to us without leaving better and happier. The Bishop's Dinner is a special evening of expressing our gratitude to all who help Catholic Charities and make our outreach of 'Yours in Service' possible."

For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and services, visit [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org).

###

***Catholic Charities is the primary social service agency of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and serves all regardless of religious affiliation at their time of great need. With offices in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties, Catholic Charities has been providing programs and services since 1910 that include basic needs assistance, Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center in downtown Pittsburgh, counseling services, housing and homeless outreach, pregnancy and parenting support, refugee resettlement, St. Joseph House of Hospitality for older homeless men in Pittsburgh's Hill District and Challenges: Options in Aging Senior Services and Centers in Lawrence County.***