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Queen of Peace Celebrates Annual Founder's Day Liturgy

Queen of Peace recognized eight individuals for their commitment and dedication to the values and ideals of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa at its annual Founder's Day celebration on Sunday, Nov. 1. In their attitudes, beliefs, roles, actions and ways of life, these men and women serve as models and guides for Peace's students and all members of the Peace community, past and present.

Karen Lang Reynolds '82 - Truth. In addition to being a Peace alum, Karen is a proud Peace parent. Karen, an Assistant Vice President and Senior Compliance Officer for an investment company, works every day to create an environment of joy, honesty and justice. She has deepened her connections to Peace through her daughter Betsy, a Peace senior, as well as Peace's strategic planning process, "Creating the Vision."

"The school and the Dominican values have taught me to be an independent woman, very focused and charitable to others whenever possible," Karen said.

Lorrie Fisher – Justice. As a Peace employee for 23 years (20 full-time), Lorrie wore many hats and always modeled dedication and commitment to learning. Whether as office assistant, administrative assistant or business manager, Lorrie approached her job with a deep sense of fairness and justice. Currently retired, Lorrie has gotten involved with her church – St. Louis de Montfort – and is doing volunteer work.

Trudi Goggin – Compassion. In 1997, Trudi joined the Peace Board of Directors. She is now in her 10th year serving on the board and is presently serving the fourth year of her second six-year term. She has dedicated her life to modeling and living out the value of Compassion through her work as a drama and religion teacher, through her work in campus ministry, artistic and dramatic presentations for her church and community and her involvement with the Dominicans of Sinsinawa as an associate and, for the past 15 years, as Dean of Students at Dominican University.

Kathy Emmerson – Partnership. Since being introduced to Peace through good friend and current board member Pat DeLeonardis, Kathy has been hooked on Peace’s mission of educating women to be confident, competent and capable. Kathy, a former member of the Board of Directors who has also served on the Executive Committee and as head of the Finance Committee for several terms, values creative thinking, problem solving and “paying it forward” so others are able to take advantage of the opportunities in their lives.

“When I think of Peace, I think of young women graduating with strong faith, confidence and sense of purpose,” Kathy said.

Don Cranley – Community. An ardent supporter of Catholic education for decades, Don was a member of the first Peace Board of Directors in the early ‘80s but remembers visiting Peace as far back as 1969 with his father, who was the original class ring designer for almost all of the Catholic Southside high schools. He began working for Jostens (class rings, diplomas, graduation gowns) in 1990 and recently retired from the company. During that time, Don has handed out rings to thousands of Women of Peace and has been instrumental in creating a special keepsake for each young woman.

Julie Burke-Concannon ’80 – Spirit of Peace. An accomplished “Woman of Peace,” Julie is a managing director for Fitch Ratings’ North American insurance rating group, as well as a former Chair of the Board of Directors. She is recognized for this special award because of her personal and professional accomplishments, her leadership abilities, strong commitment to collaboration and for giving generously of her time and energy to see that young women are afforded the best possible opportunities.

Irene Halko – Hall of Fame. As Technology Director at Peace for the past 14 years, Irene is the reason why Peace is recognized as a cutting-edge 21st century environment. She has tirelessly pursued the best opportunities in technology and is President of Technology Education in the Catholic High Schools (TECHS), which she founded in 1996. She never stops exploring alternatives, researching new applications and management systems and learning how to contain expenses.

John Dragicevich – Heart of the School. For the past 11 years, John has been a Peace Christian Living teacher. His peers believe his long-term commitment to his students and environmental education as moderator of the Environmental Task Force warrants this recognition, which recognizes an outstanding professional presently serving on the faculty or staff at Queen of Peace. He lives in ways that demonstrate his deep devotion to his faith, family and serving the young women of Peace.

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Cutline:



Queen of Peace recognized eight individuals for their commitment and dedication to the values and ideals of the Dominicans of Sinsinawa at its annual Founder's Day celebration on Sunday, November 1. Founder's Day 2009 Dominican Value Honorees: Julie Burke-Concannon '80 (from left), Don Cranley, Kathy Emmerson, Karen Lang Reynolds '82, Lorrie Fisher, Irene Halko, John Dragicevich and Trudi Goggin.