

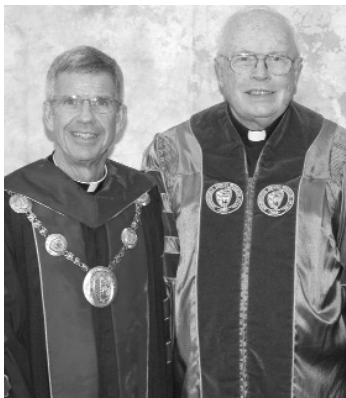
Monsignor Schaffer receives honorary doctorate degree

On May 18, 2007, Msgr. Gregory Schaffer, a priest of the Diocese of New Ulm, traveled to the University of San Francisco (USF) to deliver the commencement address for the School of Nursing and School of Education. At the same time he, himself received an honorary doctorate degree from USF.

As pastor of San Lucas Mission in Guatemala, Monsignor Schaffer has directed many projects, however, the project that led to this honor has been one of his favorites. In a wonderful collaboration with the USF School of Nursing, represented by Professor Linda Walsh, Ph. D., the Mission has been involved in the cross-cultural training of nursing students in the area of maternal infant care. In what Professor Walsh and the students themselves describe as “life changing experiences” the students spent time in the San Lucas area working with the local midwives and expectant mothers mutually sharing their knowledge in the areas of pre-natal, birthing, and post-natal care. It has been a true collaboration radically shaping the students presumptions about service among the poor and adding to the rich experience of life among the midwives (co-madronas) of Guatemala.

Professor Walsh said that Msgr. Schaffer’s address was “very moving” as he spoke of the qualities of service that the University has sought foster in their graduates. The program for the commencement exercises included these words that point to why he was being so honored:

“The University of San Francisco is proud to honor Monsignor Gregory Schaffer for his life’s work among the poor, which



Msgr. Schaffer (r) is pictured with Rev. Stephen A. Privett, S.J., President of the University of San Francisco.

embodies the Ignatian ideal of ‘faith that does justice’, and reflects the mission of the University of San Francisco to develop ‘men and women for others’. In honoring Monsignor Schaffer, the University of San Francisco also hopes to deepen public awareness about the plight of the poor in Guatemala and throughout the world. The University does, therefore, confer upon Monsignor Gregory Thomas Schaffer the degree of Doctor of Humane letters, (honois causa)”...

In addition, the Guatemalan government will be presenting the “Order of the Quetzal” to Monsignor in recognition of the social and community development work he has done during his forty-four years in San Lucas. *(Watch for further coverage in the September Prairie Catholic.)*