

Bishop to recognize five for distinguished service to diocese

recognition to take place following Bishop Lucker Lecture March 29 in Redwood Falls

On March 29, Bishop John M. LeVoir will present the 2011 Diocesan Distinguished Service Award (DDSA) to five Catholics in the diocese in recognition of their outstanding diocesan service, exercised in some leadership capacity. The presentation will be held following the annual Bishop Lucker Lecture at the Church at St. Catherine in Redwood Falls beginning at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend the evening's events free of charge.

This year's DDSA recipients are: Fr. John Goggin, Encarnación (Chona) Ajcot, Joseph Eikmeier, Sr. Therese Collison, and Regina "Jeane" Appel.



Fr. John Goggin



Encarnación (Chona)
Ajcot



Joseph Eikmeier



Sr. Therese Collison



Regina "Jeane" Appel

Fr. John Goggin currently serves as a diocesan priest at the Diocese of New Ulm parish mission in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. He has served there over 43 years. Fr. Goggin is a native of DeGraff and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler in May 1964. He was assigned as associate pastor to the Church of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson for three years before accepting an assignment as associate pastor in San Lucas.

While in San Lucas, Fr. Goggin took charge of all parish programs in the rural communities and the plantations, coordinated the catechists, and directed the social and religious projects. He is also very involved with the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA), a sponsorship for children in need of assistance with their educational, medical, and other needs in the areas surrounding San Lucas.

Encarnación (Chona) Ajcot is a member of the Diocese of New Ulm mission parish in San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala. She has worked with the parish since the age of 14. In her early years of parish work, Ajcot prepared milk to be distributed to the poor, then assisted the nuns with household

chores, and later took up cooking. She is now the head cook at the mission and in charge of the entire food service for the parish.

Ajcot has raised three children alone after her husband was kidnapped and disappeared during the years of violence in the 1980s. From this experience she found the strength to help the mission in a new way. She now travels to the United States with Msgr. Greg Schaefer and assists him in his effort to raise financial support for the people of San Lucas. She prepares Guatemalan food for fundraisers, and speaks to church groups, schools, and universities. During the 47 years she has worked with the mission, she has found a means to help her people who have suffered greatly and need assistance to build a better life.

Joseph Eikmeier is a member of the Church of St. Mary in Willmar and has been involved in diocesan efforts for many years. He was a representative of Region 5 Regional Council when that structure existed in the diocese and served on the Diocesan Pastoral Council as the Region 5 representative. He also was a member of the Committee on Parishes for 10 years, from 1993-2003.

Eikmeier currently serves on the Diocesan Building Committee, where he has been active for the past 15 years. He also has been active with parish ministries, serving as lector at liturgies and counting the money from collections the parish receives.

Sr. Therese Collison, SSND, currently serves as principal of John Ireland Elementary School in St. Peter and as pastoral associate at the Church of St. Peter in St. Peter. In the early 1980s, she served on the Continuing Education of the Clergy Advisory Board and from 1979-1984 she served on the Sisters' Council. During this time she also served on the Diocesan Pastoral Council as a representative of the Sisters' Council and then as representative of the diocesan Catholic school principals. Since 2005, she has served on the diocesan Evangelization and Catechesis (E & C) Committee, currently serving as chairperson. Since 2010, she has served on the Catholic Charities Advisory Council for the diocese.

From 1980-1984, Sr. Therese represented the diocese with the Catholic Conference Task Force, helping to form the nonpublic school accrediting association agency. She was involved with the Educational Cooperative Services Unit in Marshall from 1979-1983, representing diocesan Catholic schools and principals.

As a pastoral associate at the parish level, she is involved with baptismal preparation with parents of children to be baptized; ministers to the homebound, sick, and dying; leads Word and Communion services in nursing homes; coordinates social concerns needs in the area; assists with the RCIA; coordinates adult faith formation; and assists with sacramental preparation.

Regina "Jeane" Appel served as president of the New Ulm Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman (NUDCCW) from 2008-2010. Prior to serving as president, she served on the Family Concerns Commission of the NUDCCW and currently serves as chairperson of the Organization Commission. Appel has also served as DCCW Region 3 president, vice president, and treasurer.

In her home parish of St. Genevieve in Lake Benton, she serves as a Eucharistic minister in the parish and to the homebound. She is involved with meals on wheels and visits the local nursing home regularly.