

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Voice of Hope Award Nomination Form 2007

**** Please refer to the "Guidelines for Selection" Sheet for more information ****

All entries must include the following:

- completed nomination form
- 500-word typed essay

Section 1 -- Nominee Information

Award Category (circle one only): Individual Parish Institution

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Section 2 -- Nominator Information

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Section 3 -- The Essay

Please describe in 500 words (about 2-3 paragraphs) or less why your nominee should receive a Voice of Hope Award. Your essay should provide examples of how the nominee's talents, skills and dedication in the areas of charity and/or justice have made a difference in the Diocese of Youngstown. Preference will be given to nominees who interface with the ministries and/or agencies of Catholic Charities.

Please direct any questions to Shellie Sabel at 330-744-8451, ext. 322 or

ssabel@youngstowndiocese.org

Deadline for nominations: April 30, 2007

Catholic Charities Voice of Hope Awards 2007

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION

Award Mission: To recognize an individual, a parish and a Catholic institution demonstrating excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice on behalf of disadvantaged people.

Eligibility/Guidelines: All nominees (individual, parish or institution) must be located in and affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown.

- Individual nominees must serve in a volunteer capacity. They cannot be paid employees of a parish or institution.
- Parish or institution nominees must demonstrate the involvement of a “group effort” in meeting a need or challenge in their community.
- Former Voice of Hope Award nominees *are* eligible for re-nomination.
- Former Voice of Hope Award winners *are not* eligible for subsequent awards *unless* the individual, parish or institution is nominated for an effort unrelated to their previous award.

Standards for Selection: One winner will be chosen from each of the three categories (individual, parish, institution). Award recipients will be selected according to the following criteria:

- nominee’s achievements and leadership
- nominee’s efforts to support and/or assist the ministries/agencies of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Youngstown
- nominee’s dedication to his/her/their cause
- impact of the nominee’s efforts on his/her/their community and/or the Diocese of Youngstown

Selection: Nominees will be individuals, parishes and institutions connected to the Catholic Church who exhibit excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice on behalf of disadvantaged people. An ad hoc committee will review the nomination materials and rank each nominee according to the Standards for Selection listed above. Top recommendations from each category will be submitted to the Executive Director of Catholic Charities for his consideration. The Executive Director will then forward the final choices to the Bishop/Administrator for review and approval.

All completed Voice of Hope Award nomination forms are due by Monday, April 30, 2007.

Mail, fax, or e-mail completed nomination forms and essays to:

**Ms. Shellie Sabel
ATTN: Voice of Hope Awards 2007
Catholic Charities
144 West Wood St.
Youngstown, OH 44503**

**Fax: 330-742-6447
E-mail: ssabel@youngstowndiocese.org**

Questions? Call 330-744-8451, ext. 322

Suggested Stewardship Bulletin Inserts for March / April

March 4, 2007 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Peter, James and John wanted to build a “tent” for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward the Crucifixion. We, too must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

March 11, 2007 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The parable in today’s Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity.

OR March 11, 2007 (3rd Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives.

March 18, 2007 (4th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he’d been given

OR March 18, 2007 (4th Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The blind man in today’s Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message. Spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

March 25, 2007 (5th Sunday of Lent)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today’s second reading, St. Paul says, “For his sake, I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him.” Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

OR March 25, 2007 (5th Sunday of Lent YEAR A)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Every aspect of our lives can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessings.

April 1, 2007 (Palm Sunday)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today’s Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear that the owners of the colt had only to be told, “The Master has need of it,” to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord’s work?

April 8, 2007 (Easter Sunday)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Colossians that they have been raised with Christ, exhorting them to “Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” We too, have been raised with Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad!

April 15, 2007 (2nd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel. For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously.

April 22nd, 2007 (3rd Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In today’s Gospel, Jesus says to Peter again and again, “Do you Love me? Tend my sheep.” He says the same to each of us, “Do you love Me, use the gifts I have given to you to serve your brothers and sisters.”

April 29, 2007 (4th Sunday of Easter)
STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

Respect Life Bulletin Briefs
USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities

March 3-4

A child laughs four hundred times a day, an adult twenty-five.

Steven Quartz and Terrence Sejnowski, *What the New Brain Science Reveals About How We Become Who We Are*

March 10-11

The value of marriage is not that adults produce children but that children produce adults.

Peter De Vries

March 17-18

The duty to respect the dignity of each human being, in whose nature the image of the Creator is reflected, means in consequence that the person can not be disposed of at will. Those with greater political, technical, or economic power may not use that power to violate the rights of others who are less fortunate. Peace is based on respect for the rights of all.

Pope Benedict XVI, World Day of Peace Message, Jan. 1, 2007

March 24-25

As far as *the right to life* is concerned, we must denounce its widespread violation in our society ... Abortion and embryonic experimentation constitute a direct denial of that attitude of acceptance of others which is indispensable for establishing lasting relationships of peace.

Pope Benedict XVI, World Day of Peace Message, Jan. 1, 2007

March 31-April 1

We find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

NFP Bulletin Briefs
Diocese of Youngstown
Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family

March 3-4

Pope Paul VI in *Humanae Vitae* was very prophetic when he predicted what would happen in a culture that becomes a contraceptive society. There are many people talking about the decline of American culture because of the aberrations in the whole sexual area; Paul VI predicted that. What he foresaw is exactly what has come about.

Father Kenneth Baker, S.J.

March 10-11

When I deal with young people, I often sense a kind of hopelessness or anxiety or fear: “Can I make a lifetime commitment?” The Church’s teaching on Natural Family Planning really says one can do this: one can live in a beautiful relationship of love that really images God’s love for His people. It further presents a concrete way, in the practice of Natural Family Planning, to bring that love alive in one’s married life.

Father Anthony Oelrich

March 17-18

I have always encouraged Natural Family Planning. I see its great strength, especially in our present situation in a kind of cultural breakdown of marriage, which, as Pope Paul VI predicted, would derive from the widespread use of contraception. So I encourage couples to investigate Natural Family Planning.

Bishop Frederick Campbell

March 24-25

Recent scientific research has so refined the methods of Natural Family Planning that, today, couples may practice responsible parenthood in ways that are altogether reliable (ninety-nine percent effective), medically safe without harmful side effects, and morally acceptable.

Monsignor James D. Conley

March 31 – April 1

Natural Family Planning takes the dignity of ordinary men and women seriously. It is sensitive to their needs and has experience of their weakness. But it knows how splendid is the greatness that can spring up in the human spirit. In fact, it is for the sake of this goodness and greatness that the universe was made.

Father Ronald Lawler, O.F.M. Cap.

A Family Perspective
March 2007

For March 3 & 4, 2007 **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**

It's easy to sleepwalk through a day, going from one task to another. Today's gospel says the apostles recognized God's presence only when they were "totally awake." This Lent spend a few minutes each day "fully awake", appreciating God's presence in your family. Like the apostles you will say: "It is good for us to be here."

For March 10 & 11, 2007 **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**

The gardener in today's gospel gave the fig tree another chance to produce fruit. In families we need to grasp every opportunity to give another chance to each other. Don't waste the opportunity.

For March 17 & 18, 2007 **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**

The older son in today's gospel thought he earned his father's love by obeying all the rules. He didn't understand a parent's love is not earned – it just is! This is the sacramental dimension of parental love; it gives us a glimpse of God's love for all His children. We are loved because we are – not for what we do!

For March 24 & 25, 2007 **A Family Perspective** **by Bud Ozar**

Jesus sent a strong message when he prevented the stoning of the woman. It is wrong to correct another by verbally attacking and hurling insults. A family must not be an arena of violence, but a refuge where we find love, acceptance, forgiveness and respect.

Intercessions for Life

MARCH 2007

March 4th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

For the safety of all children:
that God might give us the grace
to recognize the infinite value of every human life,
from conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:

March 11th THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

For scientists,
that they may use their God-given talents
to alleviate suffering and participate in God's creative love;
We pray to the Lord:

March 18th FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

That by prayer and penance,
all Catholics might intercede
for those whom the world has forgotten,
ever proclaiming the Gospel of Life;
We pray to the Lord:

March 25th FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

For a growing love for the cross of Christ,
that we might join our suffering to his,
and see in the lives of those in pain
a gift to all who follow the Lord;
We pray to the Lord:

How can we not be alarmed, moreover, by the continuous attacks on life, from conception to natural death? All this offends and helps to destabilize the family by concealing its specific nature and its unique social role. Other forms of attack on life are sometimes committed in the name of scientific research. There is a growing conviction that research is subject only to the laws that it chooses for itself and that it is limited only by its own possibilities.

Benedict XVI to the Diplomatic Corps, January 8, 2007