



*Sisters of St. Francis
of Mary Immaculate*

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PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

**Joliet Franciscan Sisters announce the 2011 Honorees of the
Mother Alfred Moes Award and The Franciscan Heritage Award.**

(Joliet, IL – August 19, 2011) The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate are pleased to announce the 2011 honorees for the Mother Alfred Moes Award and The Franciscan Heritage Award. Among the honorees are three Joliet-area residents as well as an Ohio native. The awards will be presented at the 22nd Annual Franciscan Autumn Feast on Sunday, October 16, 2011, at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

Ms. Karen Fleshman, a long time resident of Columbus, Ohio, has been named the 2011 Mother Alfred Moes Award honoree. Ms. Fleshman has devoted the greater part of her life to caring for the needs of many, just as Mother Alfred, the Congregation's foundress, did so many years ago. For over 30 years Ms. Fleshman has volunteered at Children's Hospital in the Columbus area. She provides everything from gifts to sick children, to hugs to young parents who are in need of a reassuring smile or an attentive ear.

Ms. Fleshman has served on numerous boards of church and city organizations to help provide recreational programs in a safe setting to people of different backgrounds. She is a member of the Southeast Community Playground Committee and was instrumental in getting companies to sponsor activity days for neighborhood children. Just as Mother Alfred was a woman of vision who turned that vision into service, so has Ms. Fleshman embodied that same spirit of service.

The Joliet Franciscan Sisters will present two Franciscan Heritage Awards this year. Mr. & Mrs. George Block and Fr. James Lennon have been chosen to receive this distinguished award.

The Franciscan Heritage Award is given to individuals who recognize the needs of their community and use their gifts to respond to these needs. Longtime residents of Joliet, George and Regina Block personify these extraordinary gifts. They have given tirelessly of themselves to the people of Joliet through their support of numerous organizations throughout Joliet as members of boards and committees. They have provided time, talent and treasure to not only their parish and the Diocese of Joliet, but to educational institutions, social service agencies and medical facilities across the community.

Father James Lennon is a native of Joliet. He has been a member of the Diocese of Joliet since his ordination in 1958. Serving and residing in parishes throughout Joliet, he has impacted thousands of lives through his many years in the priesthood. As a former student of the Joliet Franciscan Sisters, Fr. Jim has served as a spiritual director to many congregations of women religious for over 40 years. He appreciates the spiritual relationship and friendships he shares with women religious and he is quick to state that his own life has been greatly enriched by the commitment, dedication and devotion that he received from the Sisters in his formative years.

The Sisters of St. Francis are honored to bestow the Mother Alfred Award and The Heritage Award to these very dedicated and hardworking individuals.

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