

Sister Marie Schramko, OSF, Receives the Lumen Christi Award



On Sunday, September 18, 2011, Sister Marie Schramko, OSF, was awarded the Lumen Christi (Light of Christ) Award from the Archdiocese of Miami Catholic Educators Guild. The Most Reverend Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, presented the award to Sister Marie in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The Lumen Christi Award is presented to a Catholic educator who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of education. Sister Marie undoubtedly personifies this award. Having arrived at Cardinal Gibbons H.S. in 1961 at the request of Archbishop Carroll, she helped co-found the school and has remained there for 50 years! Serving as the first principal for the Girl's Division, she continued in this position for 11 years. In 1972, at the recommendation of the SACS Visiting Committee, the Co-Institutional Cardinal Gibbons High School became one, and the new Cardinal Gibbons High School emerged. Sister Marie has continued to serve in the administration of the school ever since.

Sr. Marie and Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami

Sister Marie was born on February 10, 1917, in Johnstown Pennsylvania to Julia and Frank Schramko. She entered religious life on September 8, 1934, and made her profession of vows on August 12, 1937. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the College of St. Francis (now University of St. Francis) and received a Master's Degree from DePaul University in Chicago. She continued her education at the University of Illinois on a Science grant and also completed a second Master's degree in Administration and Counseling from the Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. Sister Marie taught Religion, Science and Mathematics throughout various high schools in Ohio and Illinois before coming to Fort Lauderdale, where she also taught Latin, Algebra, Geometry, Biology and Chemistry in addition to performing her administrative duties. Finally, in 2009, with an increase in administrative duties and a decrease in teaching duties, she decided to leave the classroom, although she still finds time to help individual students. She truly lives the motto of Cardinal Gibbons High School: "Educating the Heart as well as the Mind."

The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate are very proud of Sister Marie for her service, dedication and for exemplifying a true Franciscan Spirit to the faculty, staff, students and parents at Cardinal Gibbons High School. In a letter sent to Sister Marie, Sister Mary Rose Lieb, President and General Superior, wrote: "We are touched by your dedication, faithful witness and longevity in living the Gospel of Jesus as a follower of Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi and of Mother Alfred Moes, our foundress. Thank you, Sister Marie, for your 50 years of dedicated Franciscan service in education within the Archdiocese of Miami at Cardinal Gibbons High School - which you were instrumental in establishing! Thank you for being our Sister and for carrying the ministry, mission and charism of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Mary Immaculate to all whom you have met and wherever you have journeyed in your more than 75 years as a member of our Congregation. We are proud with and because of you!"



Sister Marie Schramko (holding the award) with her Franciscan Sisters (from left) Sister Mary Jean Morris, Sister Janet Rieden and Sister Jacqueline Hirsch.