

PACEM IN TERRIS
PEACE
AND FREEDOM
AWARD

Tuesday, December 3, 2024



**StAMBROSE
UNIVERSITY**

DAVENPORT, IOWA



Photo courtesy of Living Lands & Waters

Chad Pregracke

Chad Pregracke was born December 4, 1974 in Silvis, Illinois to Gary and KeeKee Pregracke. His upbringing in the Quad Cities along the Mississippi River and the enthusiasm of his parents for the river inspired Chad.

At age 15, he started working on the river as a commercial shell diver, fisherman and barge hand. Chad witnessed firsthand the conditions of the Mississippi River, filled with often-toxic debris, including tens of thousands of 55-gallon barrels, tires, appliances, propane tanks and other objects.

At age 17, Chad began calling government agencies to tell them about the problem of trash in the river. The lack of response compelled him to begin his own cleanup efforts on the Mississippi.

While watching a NASCAR race, he got the idea to seek a corporate sponsor for his river cleanup efforts. He received his first sponsorship of \$8,400 from ALCOA and began working alone in the summer of 1997, storing the debris in his parents' backyard.

Community support for his work grew and, in April 1998, Chad founded his not-for-profit organization, Living Lands & Waters in East Moline, Illinois. Local and national media attention led to other corporations providing funds to help Chad build a small cleanup crew and fleet of boats.

Since its founding, Living Lands & Waters has spread its efforts to multiple rivers around the country and has grown to become the only "industrial strength" river cleanup organization like it in the world.

"WHEREVER YOU ARE, NO MATTER IF THERE'S A STREAM, A CREEK, A LAKE, WHATEVER, THAT NEEDS TO BE CLEANED UP, YOU CAN DO IT. JUST ORGANIZE IT AND DO IT."

Chad Pregracke

2024 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

PROGRAM

MUSICAL PRELUDE

Mary Jacobsen

Coordinator of Music Ministry, St. Ambrose University

WELCOME

Amy C. Novak, EdD

President, St. Ambrose University

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Melinda Pupillo

Campus Chaplain and Director of Spiritual Development
Augustana College

ONE AMONG US JUSTICE AWARD

Introduction

Deacon Kent E. Ferris, OFS

Director of Social Action

Diocese of Davenport

Presentation

Most Rev. Dennis G. Walsh

Bishop, Diocese of Davenport

Acceptance

Barb Arland-Fye

HISTORY OF PACEM IN TERRIS AWARD

Jason A. Mahn

Associate Professor, Religion

Director, Presidential Center for Faith and Learning
Augustana College

LITANY HONORING PAST RECIPIENTS

St. Ambrose University students

BIOGRAPHY OF THE RECIPIENT

Barb Arland-Fye

Editor

The Catholic Messenger

AWARD PRESENTATION

Most Rev. Dennis G. Walsh

Bishop, Diocese of Davenport

REMARKS

Chad Pregracke

CLOSING PRAYER

Sister Kathleen Holland, OSF

Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton

2024 PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

is presented to

Chad Pregracke

by Bishop Dennis G. Walsh of the Diocese of Davenport and the Pacem in Terris Coalition of the Quad Cities in light of your lifelong commitment to peace and justice.

The coalition recognizes your persistence and passion for the environment, your leadership in calling attention to local environmental needs, and for creating a nationally recognized non-profit organization. Your commitment and dedication have motivated thousands globally to care for the environment. You are an inspiration for future generations.

Your dedication and care for our common home is a profound expression of peace and justice and is befitting of the words of Pope John XXIII as “a spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying leaven” to your brothers and sisters around the world.

Give on this 3rd day of December in Davenport, Iowa.

The Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award was created in 1964 by the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council. Since 1978, the award has been presented by the Quad City Pacem in Terris Coalition. The award honors Pope John XXIII and commemorates his 1963 encyclical letter, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, which called on all people to secure peace among all nations.

THE 2024 PACEM IN TERRIS PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONTRIBUTORS

Diocese of Davenport
St. Ambrose University
Augustana College
Islamic Center of Quad Cities, Moline
The Catholic Messenger
Muslim Community of the Quad Cities
Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Davenport, Iowa
Sisters of St. Benedict, Rock Island, Illinois
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa
Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, Iowa

PACEM IN TERRIS PEACE AND FREEDOM AWARD

John F. Kennedy awakened in us a hope that no problem was too great to conquer—race relations, violence or poverty—when citizens work together. (1964, posthumous presentation)

John Howard Griffin's powerful book, *Black Like Me*, showed us how we are too often judged not by the content of our character but by the color of our skin. (1964)

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. challenged us to dream of a world transformed through nonviolent civil rights activism. (1965)

R. Sargent Shriver, first director of the Peace Corps, taught us that one person can indeed make a difference. (1966)

A. Philip Randolph's efforts to organize railway employees convinced us that the dignity of work must be rewarded with a just wage. (1967)

Reverend James Groppi awoke people to the injustice of unfair housing and racial prejudice in Milwaukee. (1968)

Saul Alinsky taught people how to organize and to act together in promoting justice in society. (1969)

Dorothy Day founded the Catholic Worker Movement and reminded us to look for Christ in the faces of the poor. (1972)

Harold Hughes brought the message of the Gospel to the cause of equal education, civil rights and opposition to capital punishment. (1974)

Dom Hélder Câmara, gentle shepherd of the poor of northwestern Brazil, embraced the impoverished and gave sharp prophecy to the wealthy. (1975)

Saint Teresa of Calcutta gave hope to the desperate and offered light to those living in abject poverty. (1976)

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton challenged church leadership to embrace nonviolence instead of the just war theory. (1979)

Crystal Lee Sutton organized labor in the South and reminded us that equal work demands equal pay. (1980)

Bishop Ernest Unterkoefler advocated for the rights of workers and helped to buoy the labor movement among the poor in Appalachia. (1980)

George Kennan, statesman and diplomat, realized that the only hope for solving the world's problems lies in abandoning violence. (1982)

Helen M. Caldicott, Australian physician and peace advocate, spoke on behalf of the world's children in the face of possible nuclear holocaust. (1983)

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin through his notion of the "consistent ethic of life" and the "seamless garment" taught us that all life is God-given and therefore precious. (1985)

Bishop Maurice Dingman through his love for the land worked for peace and justice and reminded all of us of our roots in the soil. (1986)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu helped free South Africa from the yoke of apartheid, teaching the entire world that racial injustice is sacrilege. (1987)

Eileen Egan through her work with Pax Christi and Catholic Relief Services addressed the world's problems through missionary zeal and creative nonviolence. (1989)

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, peace advocate in Ireland, was a global force against violence in the name of religion. (1990)

María Julia Hernández directed the Human Rights Committee and spoke for the victims of the long civil war in El Salvador. (1991)

Cesar Chávez led the United Farm Workers to become a passionate voice for workers who have long been disenfranchised. (1992)

Daniel Berrigan, SJ, American poet, peace activist and Catholic priest, offered powerful witness on behalf of peace and justice. (1993)

Jim Wallis, founder of the Sojourners Christian Community, has brought people of faith to espouse radical social engagement. (1995)

Bishop Samuel Ruiz demonstrated great courage in his fight against violence and injustice inflicted against the poor and oppressed of Chiapas, Mexico. (1996)

Jim and Shelley Douglass—the only married couple to receive the award—have been steadfast in their efforts to build a world of peace based on justice. (1997)

Helen Prejean, CSJ, through her loving presence on death row has fostered reconciliation and spiritual healing. (1998)

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel inspired the world with his Gospel-rooted work on behalf of Argentina's "disappeared ones." (1999)

Monsignor George Higgins wove together communities of faith and organized labor to support economic justice. (2000)

Lech Walesa, defender of the rights of workers in the face of Communist repression in Poland, became a global leader for freedom and democracy. (2001)

Dorothy Marie and Gwen Hennessey, OSF, sibling sisters and Dubuque Franciscans, devoted their lives and ministry to local activism on global issues of peace and justice. (2002)

Arthur Simon, founder of Bread for the World, has shown how one person can make a difference alleviating world hunger. (2004)

Don Mosley of Jubilee Partners has served others by offering hospitality to refugees, housing for the homeless and mediation to situations of war. (2005)

Bishop Salim Ghazal worked with Muslims and Christians to promote reconciliation, peace and hope for young people and others displaced by Lebanon's civil war. (2007)

Monsignor Marvin Mottet devoted his life to walking the two feet of social action: direct service and social justice. (2008)

Hildegard Goss-Mayr was one of the world's leading experts on nonviolence, a teacher, visionary and pioneer who helped forge a new path toward peace on earth for all humanity. (2009)

Reverend John Dear, SJ, a Jesuit priest, has delivered the message of the nonviolent Jesus in word and deed in confronting nuclear arms manufacturing and use. (2010)

Bishop Álvaro Leonel Ramazzini has drawn the world's attention to the exploitation of natural resources by multinational companies adversely affecting the poor and indigenous people of Guatemala. (2011)

Kim Bobo, founded Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) and educated a nation about the prevalence of wage theft and injustice that disproportionately affects the poor amongst us. (2012)

Jean Vanier, philosopher and writer, founded L'Arche and worked to build caring relationships that fostered the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities so they have a sense of belonging in the world. (2013)

Simone Campbell, SSS, raised awareness about social and economic transformation through the advocacy of NETWORK, a social justice lobby. (2014)

Venerable Thích Nhất Hạnh, a Vietnamese Zen Buddhist Master, teacher, author and peace activist, was honored for his commitment to peace and for his inspired, dedicated work to bridge Eastern and Western spiritual traditions. (2016)

Rev. Gustavo Gutiérrez Merino, OP, a theologian and Dominican priest. He is recognized as a prominent figure in Latin American Catholicism. His 1971 book “A Theology of Liberation” led many to view him as the founder of liberation theology. (2016)

Widad Akreyi, PhD, is a health expert, author and human rights activist. She has worked tirelessly for peace and justice and advocates for human dignity for all in the Middle East. (2017)

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. He is recognized for his commitment to human rights, world peace and the nonviolent resolution of conflict. (2019)

Bishop Munib A. Younan, a Palestinian Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. He is recognized for his strong faith and leadership within the Arab Christian community. (2019)

Sister Norma Pimentel, MJ, has worked tirelessly for peace and justice and advocates for the human dignity of all immigrants. (2022)

Atiya Aftab and Sheryl Olitzky, their vision and commitment creates relationships based on shared values between Muslim and Jewish women. (2023)