

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop Bradley announces 2022 recipients of the “Bishop Paul V Donovan Founder’s Society Award for Outstanding Service”

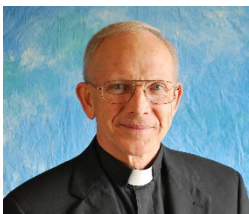
JULY 21, 2022 (KALAMAZOO, MICH.): During the 51st Anniversary Mass today, celebrating the founding of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Bishop Paul J. Bradley announced the “Bishop Paul V Donovan Founder’s Society Awards for Outstanding Service.” This year’s distinguished honorees are **Msgr. Michael Hazard**, Vicar General and hospital chaplain and **Margaret Mary (Peggy) Gallagher**, retired religious education director of St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph. Honorees are chosen who exemplify tireless service in the name of Jesus and who reflect a love for God through service to the Catholic Church and the members of the Body of Christ.

Bishop Bradley highlighted the 2022 recipients’ impressive and selfless commitment to the Church.

“Both Msgr. Mike and Peggy exemplify the motto of Bishop Donovan, *‘to serve rather than be served’*,” said Bishop Paul J. Bradley. “Msgr. Mike has the distinction of being the second man ordained to the priesthood for the newly founded diocese and has modeled the love of Jesus in the many Parishes he has served and in a special way through his pastoral care for the Hispanic/Latino community. Currently Msgr. Mike continues his ministry, even in retirement, to the sick and suffering as Chaplain to Ascension Borgess Hospital.

“Peggy’s selfless commitment to her Catholic faith and the Church has borne the fruit of her labors with hundreds of people being brought into the Church, through her teaching music in the local Catholic grade school, and in her volunteer service to various parish ministries. She exemplifies the true spirit of being a missionary disciple.

“I am honored to recognize these two outstanding individuals who have used their gifts and talents for the glory of God and the good of helping to build up the Church in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.”



Msgr. Michael Hazard was ordained on April 15, 1972 and became the second priest ordained for the newly formed diocese. Throughout his 50 years of priestly ministry, Msgr. Hazard has provided pastoral care to a number of parishes throughout the nine counties of the diocese, most notably for 30 years as the Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Kalamazoo. He was one of the first English-speaking priests to formally study Spanish so as to provide pastoral care for the

Hispanic/Latino community. He was instrumental in establishing a sister diocese relationship with the Diocese of Lodwar, Kenya. He is currently the Chaplain for Ascension Borgess Hospital, Kalamazoo.



Mrs. Mary Margaret (Peggy) Gallagher, St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph, parishioner, is recognized for her more than 30 years of service to the Church. Peggy worked as the Director of Sacramental Preparation and Religious Education for St. Joseph Parish from 1985 to 2012 (and also simultaneously for Ss. John/Bernard Parish for nine years). During her tenure she estimates that more than 800 people came into the Catholic Church through the RCIA program. In addition, Peggy taught music at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School (formerly Lake Michigan Catholic). Her husband, Deacon Michael Gallagher, was ordained to the diaconate in 1999. She

was elected to the board of the NDICE representing all deacon wives from the United States for a four-year term. Additionally, she has shared in ministry work with her husband visiting the sick and the homebound.

The 2022 recipients will be honored on **August 28, 2022 during the 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.** All are invited to attend.

Bishop Paul V Donovan Founder's Society Award for Outstanding Service

This prestigious award, which Bishop Bradley established in 2021 on the diocese's 50th anniversary, honors the legacy of Bishop Paul Vincent Donovan who served as the first Shepherd of the Diocese from July 21, 1971 until his retirement in January, 1995. He chose as his Episcopal Motto: "To serve rather than be served." (Matthew 20:28)

Past honorees include Sir Michael Emmons and Sister Betty Veenhuis who received the award in 2021.