

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



HONORING TWO EXTRAORDINARY PREACHERS

Sr. Mary Catherine Hilkert, OP
Professor, University of Notre Dame

AND

Fr. Ralph Siefert, SM
Presented posthumously

Because the Preaching must go on....this year, in the time of COVID-19,
the Aquinas community will gather at a virtual celebration

Thursday, November 11, 2021
7pm Central / 8pm Eastern

The Great Preacher Award

WHAT:

Established in 1995, the Great Preacher Award is presented to persons who embody the “Holy Preaching” which Dominicans understand as a comprehensive and dynamic response to God’s presence in our lives and in the world. We honor preachers who proclaim, in word and deed, the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the coming and presence of the reign of God.

WHY:

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Aquinas Scholarship Fund which enables Aquinas Institute to offer financial aid to future preachers, teachers, and Church leaders, many of whom would be otherwise unable to pursue theological studies.

WHEN:

VIRTUAL EVENT ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

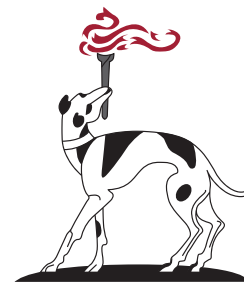
7:00 pm Central Time / 8:00 pm Eastern
(Link will be sent in advance of the event)

Why a Dog with a Torch in his Mouth?

A LITTLE DOMINICAN HAGIOGRAPHY

A dog with a burning torch in his mouth has long been associated with St. Dominic, the founder of the Order of Preachers. The story linking St. Dominic to a dog with a burning torch was first told in *The Golden Legend* (1260), a popular and widely read medieval text on the lives of the saints. In his account of the life of St. Dominic, Dominican friar Jacobus de Voragine tells us that Juana of Aza, the mother of St. Dominic, had a dream about her unborn child. In her dream, Juana “carried in her womb a little dog which held a lighted torch in his mouth, and when the dog came forth from her womb, he set fire to the world.” In time, this dream would come to be interpreted as a sign of St. Dominic’s call to set the world on fire preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yet another interpretation arose with a play on words between the Latin word for Dominican friar, *Dominicanus* and *domini canis*, translated in Latin as “dog of the Lord,” hence, the Dominicans are sometimes referred to as “dogs or hounds of the Lord barking out the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of souls.” Throughout the 800-years history of the Order of Preachers, a dog, often with black and white markings, like the black and white habit of the friars, can be seen holding a burning torch in his mouth, a clever and even humorous symbol of St. Dominic and his friars.



The Honorees

Sr. Mary Catherine Hilbert, OP

Sr. Hilbert, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, is Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame and a former member of the faculty at Aquinas Institute of Theology from 1984-1995 where she is remembered with much admiration and respect by her former students.



A noted theologian and author, Sr. Hilbert's books include *Naming Grace: Preaching and the Sacramental Imagination*, *Speaking with Authority: Catherine of Siena and the Voices of Women Today*, and co-editor with Robert J. Schreier of *The Praxis of the Reign of God: An Introduction to the Theology of Edward Schillebeeckx*. Currently she is working on a book titled *Words of Spirit and Life: Theology, Preaching and Spirituality*. In addition, she has published numerous articles on contemporary theology, spirituality, and preaching.

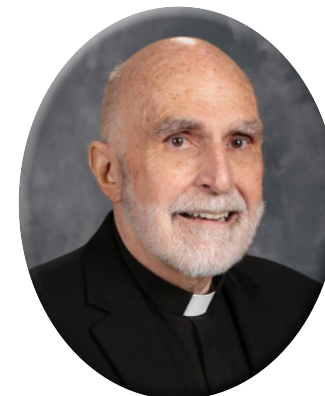
A former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America (2005-2006), Sr. Hilbert is the recipient of four honorary degrees (Providence College, Aquinas Institute of Theology, Oblate School of Theology, and Catholic Theological Union) as well as the Washington Theological Union's Sophia Award for Theological Excellence in service of ministry, Barry University's Yves Congar Award for Theological Excellence, the Veritas Award from the Dominican Colloquium on Higher Education, and the Ann O'Hara Graff Award from the Women's Constructive Theology seminar of the Catholic Theological Society of America. She has preached and offered lectures, workshops, and retreats in Catholic and ecumenical contexts in the United States, Canada, Ireland, The Netherlands, Australia, and South Africa. Sr. Hilbert has also served on two international preaching commissions of the Order of Preachers.

Sr. Hilbert's has preached the Gospel in word and deed throughout her life-long ministry to the Church. As scholar and educator, she exemplifies the mission of Aquinas Institute, and with great respect and admiration, we honor her with the 2021 Great Preacher Award.

Fr. Ralph Siefert, SM

Presented posthumously

On August 20, 2021, there is no doubt that a band of angels and saints, led by Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, gathered to welcome their brother Fr. Ralph Siefert home. Amidst much joy and laughter, there was a surely a great celebration to honor Fr. Ralph's faithful service to the people of God for more than fifty years.



Raised in South St. Louis, Father Ralph met the Marianists as a student at St. Mary's High school. He entered the Society of Mary in 1963 and was ordained a priest in 1972. A learned scholar, Fr. Ralph held a doctorate from the Andover Newton Theological School, and master's degrees from Saint Louis University, the University of San Francisco, and Northwestern University.

Fr. Ralph served as the Director of the Marianist Seminary in Toronto and was the Provincial Assistant for Religious Life for his province for five years. In 1968, he assumed the presidency of Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis where he would serve for almost thirty-five years. A visionary leader for more than a fourth of the school's history, his tenure is marked by many accomplishments including ensuring the financial stability of the school, introducing a state-of-the art technology program, building an outstanding athletic program, and prioritizing the arts. Fr. Ralph was beloved by the school community—faculty, students, and parents alike. He was well-known as a master preacher and recognized for his ability to craft poignant and relevant homilies that helped to make sense of the many difficult challenges in our world today.

In honoring Fr. Ralph with the 2021 Great Preacher Award, Aquinas Institute celebrates his extraordinary legacy and the gift of his presence among us during his long and fruitful ministry as a Marianist priest, an educator, a leader, and as a man of God who preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Event Committee and Past Recipients

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GREAT PREACHER AWARD PAST RECIPIENTS

1995	Reverend James Cormack, C.M.	2010	Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. †
1996	Joseph Cardinal Bernardin †	2011	Reverend Mr. Dennis Chitwood
1997	Monsignor James T. Telthorst	2012	Most Reverend J. Terry Steib, S.V.D.
1998	Reverend John F. Kavanaugh, S.J. †	2013	Monsignor Michael E. Turek, V.F.
1999	Most Reverend Paul A. Zipfel	2014	Bishop Emeritus Robert J. Shaheen †
2000	Reverend Gary Braun	2015	Bishop Robert Barron
2001	Sr. Joan Delaplane, O.P.	2016	Monsignor William J. Hitpas and Reverend John Rogers Vien
2002	Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory	2017	Reverend Edward Stanger and Reverend Jeffrey H. Goeckner
2003	Reverend Donald R. Wester	2018	Monsignor John Costello and Reverend Matthew O'Toole
2004	Reverend Joseph Kempf	2019	Very Reverend Charles E. Bouchard, OP & Reverend Craig Holway
2005	Monsignor William A. Drennan †	2020	Reverend Harry Byrne, OP and Reverent Jude Siciliano, OP
2006	Reverend Dale Wunderlich		
2007	Reverend James Krings †		
2008	Monsignor Patrick Hambrough		
2009	Monsignor Vincent Bommarito		

† Deceased

Great Preacher Award Sponsorship Opportunities



FRIENDS OF DOMINIC – \$10,000

- ◆ Twenty tickets to the November 11th Virtual Celebration
- ◆ Two exclusively branded social media posts
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo in prominent location in production video and on virtual event landing page
- ◆ Evening prayer and dinner with the Dominican community at St. Dominic Priory for you and six guests at an agreed upon date
- ◆ Aquinas Institute will organize a private pre-event Zoom gathering for you and your guests with one of the Dominican friars hosting



FRIENDS OF CATHERINE OF SIENA – \$5,000

- ◆ Fifteen tickets to November 11th Virtual Celebration
- ◆ One exclusively branded social media posts
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo acknowledged in prominent location on website and on virtual event landing page
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo on production video
- ◆ Evening prayer and dinner with the Dominican community at St. Dominic Priory for you and four guests at an agreed upon date
- ◆ Aquinas Institute will organize a private pre-event Zoom gathering for you and your guests with one of the Dominican friars hosting



FRIENDS OF ALBERT THE GREAT – \$2,500

- ◆ Ten tickets to the November 11th Virtual Celebration
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo acknowledged in prominent location on website
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo on production video
- ◆ Evening prayer and dinner with the Dominican community at St. Dominic Priory for two at an agreed upon date

PREACHER CIRCLE – \$1,000

In lieu of buying a table at the event, we ask you to consider joining the Preacher Circle and buy a “virtual table” which includes:

- ◆ Ten tickets to November 11th Virtual Celebration
- ◆ Sponsor name and logo on the production video

Some ideas for hosting a Preacher Circle “virtual table”

- ◆ Organize a Zoom cocktail party with your family and friends prior to or after the event.
- ◆ Invite your “bubble” for a cocktails or dinner and watch the award ceremonies together.
- ◆ Give your family and friends tickets to attend the Great Preacher Award.

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE AT \$250 AND \$100**

For general event information: ai.edu/GPA2021

**For sponsorship information or to
purchase a sponsorship, please contact
Erin Hammond at**

314.256.8808 or Hammond@ai.edu

THE AQUINAS WAY

Founded in 1925, Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic graduate school of theology. Sponsored by the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great, we are firmly rooted in the rich intellectual tradition of the 800-year old Order of Preachers.

At the heart of all our programs is the unique Dominican approach to education that holds as its primary purpose a search for Veritas, the One who is Truth himself, our Lord Jesus, whom we seek to encounter in all our programs, coursework and campus life.

Aquinas Institute is a Center for Institutional Studies, designated by the Order of Preachers to form Dominican friars in order to carry out its mission of preaching the gospel for the salvation of every person. We serve two distinct, complementary constituencies: Dominican student brothers preparing for ordination to the priesthood and pastoral ministry, as well as priests, religious sisters, and lay men and women preparing for careers in service to the Christian community or advanced academic studies. We welcome diversity and those of other faith traditions. We offer multiple graduate degrees and certificate programs in a variety of formats to accommodate the needs of our students, and we are known for our signature programs in Health Care Mission and our Doctor of Ministry in Preaching.

Our life at Aquinas Institute is organized around what Dominicans call the “Holy Preaching.” We place our theological study at the service of the ministry of preaching, which is understood in a very broad sense, not as a discrete experience confined to a few minutes from the pulpit, but rather as an expression of our shared life where as a community, we seek to make a comprehensive and dynamic response to God’s presence in our lives and in the world. Aquinas is a close-knit community, where professors and students learn from one another and we seek God, engage in dialogue, and share life together; all leading towards our primary goal of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and in deed.

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