



PRESS RELEASE

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For Further Information

April 8, 2010

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Visitation Sisters of Minneapolis Join Visitation Order in Receiving NCEA Religious Community Award

The Sisters of Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis joined other sisters of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary on April 7, 2010, in receiving the prestigious 2010 Religious Community Award given by the National Catholic Educational Association. The award was presented during a convocation and awards ceremony at the NCEA annual conference held this week in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The award is presented annually to selected orders that have had a longstanding impact on Catholic education. The award is often tied to a significant anniversary being observed by the order. "Every year we recognize those orders tied to schools that have been working in the vineyard for a long time and have given long and faithful service to the Catholic school system," said Brian Gray of the NCEA communications staff. The Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary received one of three awards given this year for its significant contributions to Catholic education since the Order was founded 400 years ago this June in Annecy, France.

Sister Susan Marie Kasprzak, VHM, President of the Second Federation of the Visitation, accepted the award on behalf of the Order. Sister Karen Mohan, VHM, superior of Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, and Sister Katherine Mullin, VHM, the Monastery's vocations director, joined her in receiving the award, along with Visitation sisters from Mendota Heights, Minnesota; St. Louis, Missouri; Brooklyn, New York and Georgetown, District of Columbia who operate schools for young women.

"I am proud and humbled to receive this award when I see all the educators, former educators and lay people who are gathered here," said Sister Katherine Mullin. "Our ministry in the neighborhood on Minneapolis' North Side involves teaching/forming children, but not in a classroom setting. We continue the great tradition of education."

The Visitation Sisters currently have 11 monasteries in the United States. Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis has grown in number to include seven Visitation sisters who carry out the Order's

motto to “Live Jesus” by reaching out in friendship and service to their often marginalized neighbors on Minneapolis’ North Side.

“I get a sense of our mission of education to women and a feeling of gratitude,” said Sister Karen Mohan upon receiving the award. “This award makes me aware of our commitment to that mission.”

The Orders of St. Francis and the Daughters and Sisters of Charity also received the Religious Community Award this year.



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