

Ann L. Swan
Bishop's Medal Recipient

Ten years ago, Ann and Bill Swan began a movement that has burgeoned into this wonderful gathering here tonight. In February of 2001, with Ann and Bill as the pioneering chair couple for the event, the first Celebrate Catholic Education Dinner in the Buffalo Diocese took place. Over the years, this event has evolved into the Making a Difference Dinner – A Celebration of Catholic Schools, and boasts over 1,000 guests annually. Even more impressive, this event has raised nearly \$1.5 million and now supports CTAP, the Foundation's needs-based tuition assistance program.

On this tenth anniversary of the Making a Difference Dinner, it is fitting that Ann L. Swan be honored with the Bishop's Medal in recognition of her unwavering support of Catholic education. Without a doubt, Ann has been a true champion for Catholic education in the Buffalo Diocese, continuing as a strong benefactor of this event and serving as a member of the committee each year.

Those who have worked with Ann over the years say she's passionate, goal-oriented, driven and has the ability to inspire and motivate others. She's a woman of deep faith, a woman of action, and a woman of integrity. Ann has stepped up in the local community as an advocate and supporter of many different organizations, both as a volunteer and as a member on numerous boards and committees, but her enthusiasm for and belief in Catholic education is often what comes to mind when people think of her.

Ann has lived a life dedicated to the field of education. She received a bachelor's degree in education from the University at Buffalo, and completed post-graduate work at Canisius College, Buffalo State College and the University at Buffalo. She had a 27-year career as a health and physical education teacher in the Buffalo public schools. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for the Board of Catholic Education, in 2004 she was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees at Hilbert College.

However, education is not the only cause to which Ann has devoted her efforts, and the list of volunteer activities and board memberships is extensive. In addition to serving as executive director of the William E. and Ann L. Swan Foundation, she currently sits on the boards of the First Niagara Bank Foundation, Western New York Grantmakers, the American Heart Association, Buffalo Therapeutic Riding Center, the Kenan Center and she has served as a member of the Catholic Charities Corporate Appeal Team for several years. Ann is also a member of the Bishop's Council of the Laity and serves on boards for the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, Christ the King Seminary and the YMCA. Ann has been a long-time member of, and very involved with, the St. Gregory the Great parish community.

Her triumphant efforts and generous support in the local community and Catholic faith community has not gone unnoticed. Ann has previously been awarded the Christ the King Seminary Curé of Ars Award in 2002, and was a Community Leaders honoree by the National Conference for Community and Justice of Western New York in 2003. She has also been honored as Lady of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and Lady Commander of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, received the Caritas Award, the St. Bonaventure University Gaudete Medal, and has been a Barnabite Fathers honoree and a National Philanthropy Day Distinguished Honoree.

It is with sincere appreciation and admiration for her unparalleled commitment to Catholic education that we presented the Bishop's Medal to Ann L. Swan.