

Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | September/October 2023

MISSOURI
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE



Presenting the 2023 Citizen Recognition Award Recipients

What good shall I do this day? Each autumn, the MCC presents the Citizen Recognition Award to one Catholic citizen(s) from each diocese who has exemplified good citizenship in promoting Catholic values in the public policy arena and in their local communities and parishes. We are pleased to announce this year's recipients in this *Good News* — all folks who ask themselves the above question each morning. Within these pages, you'll meet these wonderful members of your Catholic communities across the great state of Missouri. Congratulations to all, and thank you for your dedication to faith and furthering the common good!

Meet the 2023 Citizen Recognition Award Recipients

Archdiocese of St. Louis

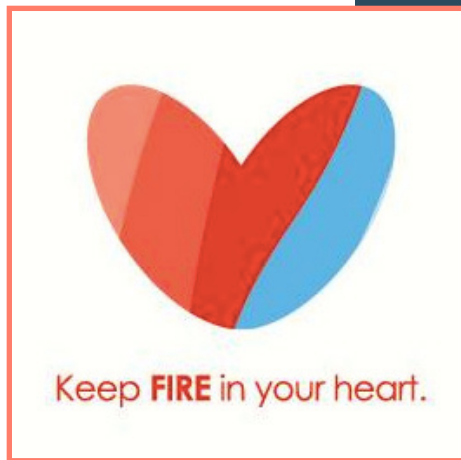
Bernie Sammons

Bernie Sammons currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Voice of the Poor Committee of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In 2016, Bernie founded Social Justice 4 All to assist the needy in the St. Louis area, with a focus on housing, education and employment. He has recently worked with Catholic Charities of St. Louis and the Missouri Catholic Conference to successfully advocate for the “benefits cliff” legislation that will help low-income families meet their basic needs while encouraging individuals to find work and advance within their job.



Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Carnie and Maura Nulton



When their son Charlie was born with Down syndrome, Carnie and Maura Nulton dreamed of him attending his local Catholic school with his siblings and friends. They gathered a group of like-minded parents and together started the FIRE Foundation, an organization that provides grants to Catholic schools to hire special educators and paraprofessionals and to acquire learning materials and technology that create successful learning experiences for all children. For over 25 years, FIRE and the Nultons have supported Catholic education in an inclusive environment for thousands of children in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and have advocated for inclusion in Catholic schools nationwide.

MCC 2023 Virtual Annual Assembly

Listen at mocatholic.org or via your favorite streaming app (Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts, & more!)



MCC FROM THE

CAPITOL



Diocese of Jefferson City
Jean Wankum

When *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973 and Bishop Michael McAuliffe asked Jean to look into starting a local Birthright, she did not hesitate. Jean and two other friends responded by starting Birthright in Jefferson City. She took the first call the day Birthright opened and is still taking calls 50 years later. During that time, Jean has cared for thousands of women, helping them through difficult circumstances with love, care and dedication.

Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
Sue and Paul Epperson



Sue and Paul Epperson serve as President and Coordinator of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. Over the years they have assisted parishes in seeking out the poor and less fortunate, providing food and other assistance to alleviate suffering and deprivation. They have also encouraged home visits, prison and hospital visits, and have provided funds to assist in medical expenses in some areas of the diocese.

*SCAN TO
LISTEN!*

The Missouri Catholic Conference is once again preparing to release a collection of podcasts this fall as part of its Virtual Annual Assembly. MCC hosts will sit down with speakers from across our state and nation to produce a collection of episodes focused on issues of interest and concern to Catholics. We hope you find these podcasts enlightening, challenging, and informative, and we encourage you to share your favorite episodes with family, friends, and fellow parish members. We are pleased to begin with a video message from Archbishop Rozanski of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, who reflects on these ideas and the call for us to engage in them.





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MCC Welcomes (Back!) New Communications Director



Kathleen Lavery returns to the Missouri Catholic Conference as the Communications Director beginning October 2, 2023. She previously was the MCC's Communication Director from 2004 - 2009. Since that time, she served as the Publications Manager at the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and was the Communications/Outreach Coordinator at the Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter in Jefferson City, Missouri. She has more than 25 years of experience in Communications and Marketing. She holds an M.F.A. from Yale University School of Drama in Stage Management.

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