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At Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on January 15

13 to be Honored for “Keeping Alive the Dream” of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thirteen individuals from the Archdiocese of Detroit will be honored at 10 a.m. Mass on Monday, January 15, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, for “keeping alive the dream” of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The celebrant of the Mass will be Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Flores and a reception will follow. The public is invited to attend. Receiving *Keep the Dream Alive* awards from the Archdiocese of Detroit will be:

Gisela Becker of St. Regis Parish, Birmingham (Birmingham/Bloomfield/Troy Vicariate), who for nearly 20 years has dedicated her time and money to establish orphanages, schools, an agricultural education center, and a job training center in Ghana. She recently built and furnished a 160-bed hospital. Her next project is an orphanage for children who have been orphaned by AIDS and are often shunned by relatives.

Sharon Bender of St. Joseph Parish, Port Huron (Blue Water Vicariate), who is very involved with city and community projects, as well as the Church. Recently, she loaned her car to a young man who wanted to go on a discernment weekend at the seminary. She always puts herself last in order to serve others and is not afraid to speak her mind, especially about injustices committed against those who are most vulnerable.

Joe and Claire Bono of St. Mary of the Hills Parish, Rochester Hills (Pontiac Area Vicariate), who are devoted to Christian service and work in several ministries at the parish. As chair of the Christian Service Commission, Joe organized a variety of services for the South Oakland Shelter. In addition, he has served as president of the St. Vincent de Paul ministry and has provided food and clothing to those less fortunate on many occasions. Joe and Claire sponsored a young boy from El Salvador through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA) and are now sponsoring a little girl. Last March, a CFCA presentation at the parish resulted in 183 new sponsorships for children in one weekend.

Marie Christie of St. Joseph Parish, Ida, and St. Joseph Parish, Monroe (Monroe Vicariate), who has been ministering to Hispanics and the vicariate for more than 20 years. She has been a sacristan, lector, certified catechist, Rite of Christian Initiation instructor, and an Extraordinary Eucharistic minister. In addition, she holds certificates in Pastoral Ministry and Peace and Justice from the Archdiocese of Detroit and has been a member of the Secular Franciscan Order for 28 years. She has organized catechists to go to migrant camps, has prepared migrant children for the reception of the sacraments, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Monroe Vicariate Pastoral Council, from which she recently stepped down as president.

June Clark of Our Lady of Victory Parish, Northville (Northwest Wayne Vicariate), who spends all day—almost every day—in a prison ministering to inmates, most often at the Scott Correctional Facility on Five Mile in Plymouth. She treats each inmate with something from the vending machines in the visiting room. Until recently, she drove every Tuesday to Jackson to minister to inmates who were dying.

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13 to be Honored with *Keep the Dream Alive* Awards– FIRST ADD

Connie Gladhill of St. Cyril of Jerusalem Parish, Taylor (Downriver Vicariate), who has been involved for almost 20 years, with “Rainbows,” a support group for grieving children who experience a significant loss through the death or divorce of a parent. She is presently the volunteer area director and recruits and sets up training sessions for volunteers who work with these troubled children, ranging in age from kindergarten through high school. She has established a unit of “Rainbows” in Grand Rapids, as well as sites throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Carolyn Johnson of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, St. Clair Shores (SERF Vicariate), who is a leader in St. Margaret’s McWarm Homeless Program, which provides hot lunches, a bag supper, hot showers, clean clothing, hair cuts, and friendship/listening to those in need. She volunteers every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from November 1 through April 30. She also solicits food donations from private and county sources and coordinates the parish food pantry.

Sylvester Lafata of St. Jude Parish, Detroit (Renaissance Vicariate), who is involved in nearly every ministry at the parish. He serves on the Christian Service Commission and volunteers each week at the parish food pantry, interviewing and counseling clients in need. In addition, he serves on the Worship Commission, is an usher, Eucharistic minister, lector, and a member of the Parish Council. Most recently, he volunteered at Comerica Park to help East Catholic Elementary School.

ZeeRamell Pace-Cruse of St. Cecilia Parish, Detroit (Trinity Vicariate), who was instrumental in setting up a community THAW (heat and warmth fund) site at the parish. For many years, she served as chairperson of the parish Worship Commission and continues to encourage parishioners to give of their time, talents and gifts to enhance parish liturgies and provide community service. Last year, she secured a resource to provide a safe haven and academically driven program for community youth. She also worked with MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength) to recruit and encourage voter registration and to inform the community and parishioners of other social justice issues and how their assistance can make a difference.

Robert Rodzikowski of St. Alexander Parish, Farmington Hills (Farmington/Southfield Vicariate), who established a Peace and Justice Commission at the parish that sponsors annual speakers, organizes quarterly Sunday liturgies on peace and justice themes, and sponsors trips to Manna Meals. He also serves as a Eucharistic Minister, lector and a worker in the parish’s annual hosting of the South Oakland Shelter.

Mary Sharpe of St. Ronald Parish, Clinton Township (Central Macomb Parish), who as chair of the parish’s St. Vincent de Paul Society and working with the parish Christian Service Commission, will assist the parish in providing temporary emergency shelter for the homeless community through the MCREST Program. In addition, she has worked to secure many new volunteers and to make sure the parish and staff are aware of the needs of those they serve, as well as those who are outside the parish community.

Vernell Smith of SS. Andrew and Benedict Parish, Detroit (Southwest Vicariate), who has been a dedicated parish member for many years. In addition to serving on various parish council committees, he has been an officer of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and an active member of MOSES. He has dedicated many hours to volunteer service and encourages others to get involved.

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*****Media Representatives are invited to cover this event. For more information, call Fr. Clarence Williams at 313-237-4695.**