

CARITAS AWARD DINNER

The Catholic Foundation of Manitoba's 41st Annual Caritas Award Dinner held on April 11th, 2019 honoured one organization and three individuals who have been exemplars of caring leadership and service in all of Manitoba in the area of Social Justice.

THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



From left to right: Gay Hordienko, Katelyn Cambell, Janet Cambell, Joy Smith

"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free the victims and stop this increasingly aggressive crime which threatens not only individuals but the basic values of society and of international security and justice, to say nothing of the economy, and the fabric of the family and our coexistence."

Pope Francis, 12/12/13

Caritas Award Honouree – Joy Smith

Joy Smith has been a leading advocate against human trafficking worldwide, and a champion of women's rights for 20 years. Joy says, *"that it was God's calling for me to pursue politics to help human trafficking victims. I always call upon God to give me direction on what to do."* In Parliament, Joy Smith made Canadian history as the first sitting MP to amend the Criminal Code twice to protect human trafficking victims. She affirms that she's always done things according to where God has wanted her to be. In 2011, she also founded the Joy Smith Foundation, where she tirelessly volunteers her time combatting human trafficking, & fighting for the rights of women in Canada and around the globe. www.joysmithfoundation.com

PRISON MINISTRY

"Mother Church teaches us to be close to those who are in prison... All of us have the capacity to sin and to do the same, to make mistakes in life. They are no worse than you are me! Mercy overcomes every wall, every barrier, and leads you to always seek the face of the man, of the person. And it is mercy which changes the heart and the life, which can regenerate a person and allow him or her to integrate into society in a new way."

Pope Francis

SERVICE AWARD HONOUREES

Carol Peloquin of the Sisters of Holy Names has dedicated over 25 years of her life to prison ministry. She was the Roman Catholic chaplain at Stony Mountain prison from 1994-2001, then left the prison to start the Next Step Peer Support Group for Released Offenders at Future Hope. *"I love meeting guys in prison that want to move forward, move their life in a different direction, and some of them have amazing potential. That's always exciting for me to see that, to nurture it, and to draw it forth."*

Sr. Carol continues to be involved in prison ministry at Rockwood Institution and is the admissions director at Quixote House.



Carol Peloquin, sngm and Bo Gajda

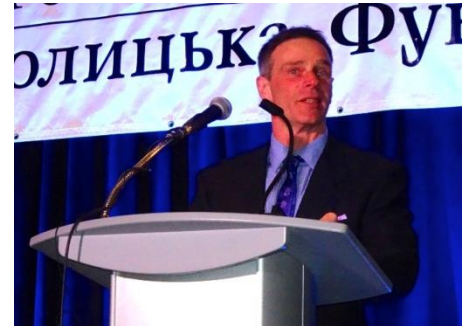
Bo Gajda is a retired prison chaplain with over 16 years experience within Manitoba federal medium and minimum-security institutions. Flowing from professional experiences as well as personal convictions founded on a strong ethic of non-violence and restorative justice approaches, Bo continuously seeks opportunities and situations that contribute to and support respect and dignity for all people and promote essential peace building efforts. In the community he continues to work with church and non-profit committees and groups with social and restorative justice missions, including Future Hope.

CHARITY OF CHOICE - FUTURE HOPE INC.



Future Hope was selected as the 2019 Charity of Choice due to its dedication to helping male ex-offenders rebuild their lives, one step at a time, in their transition from prison and parole to “normal life” back in the community. Their three linked programs are set up to provide affordable, safe housing, the support of one’s peers, and access to qualified and caring people able to accompany the individual according to their ongoing needs. Visit futurehope.ca.

Everyone present had the privilege of hearing Shawn Ward’s heartfelt testimonial about his troubled life, and how the support of people like Sr. Carol and Bo, as well as Future Hope transformed him. When in prison, he met with prison chaplains on a regular basis, attended the church services, and was first escorted from Rockwood on passes to attend Next Step meetings. *“When I was first released on parole I had nothing established, nowhere I could go to, no work, no connections with anybody at that point. But coming to Future Hope for the following year, helped me establish all of this.”*



Shawn resided for one year at Quixote House and was one of the first residents to move into the Massie Apartments. He started his own construction company a few years ago, is now celebrating his 10th anniversary substance-free, and has just been promoted as Habitat for Humanity’s construction manager.

“Mr. Ward’s speech brought tears to my eyes. God bless Sister Carol for her work. “

The Catholic Foundation of Manitoba sincerely thanks all those who attended the 41st Caritas Award Dinner.