



F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 8

CALL FOR GABRIEL ENTRIES UNDERWAY—AND MEMBERS' HELP NEEDED! A major change has been made this year in calling for entries: Instead of a multi-page *booklet* as in past years, Gabriel Awards chair Father Ron Schmidt is mailing a simple call-for-entries *brochure* that directs entrants to the Web site to find an entry form and detailed eligibility and category information. This is in keeping with the approach now taken by other industry calls for entries.

The Catholic Academy National Office is sending these Gabriel brochures to all broadcast stations—but Father Ron encourages each member to get involved on the local level to encourage entries. Members will soon receive a letter requesting this assistance along with a draft of a sample letter that can be used by members to encourage your local radio/TV stations to enter.

Requesting entries from networks, stations, production companies and individuals who produce high-quality programs and films is a way of affirming their efforts and their products—and this is a responsibility of each member, Father Ron emphasizes. He believes that the Catholic Academy and each member must do more to make broadcasters, reporters, and producers aware that the Gabriel Awards exist to honor these efforts. Ideally, whenever a member sees a program or story during the year, he or she will call or e-mail the station and/or reporter/producer and thank them for the story and suggest that they enter the story or program for a Gabriel Award.

Regarding films: If you are aware of a film that fits the criteria of children's, documentary or feature narrative, call or e-mail the National Office with your nomination. Father Ron will seek out the producers and request that they put in an entry.

Call the National Office at 937-458-0265 for additional entry brochures or e-mail Sue West at admin@catholicacademy.org. Complete entry information including entry form are also available at www.gabrielawards.com.

TIME TO GEAR UP FOR CA ELECTIONS. At the annual meeting during the Catholic Media Convention, May 28-30, in Toronto, the Catholic Academy will elect a president, first vice-president and member-at-large. Members are invited to nominate themselves or other members for these important leadership positions. (*A reminder:* According to the Catholic Academy bylaws the second vice president, secretary and treasurer are elected from among the board, which is made up of affinity group representatives and member-at-large representatives.)

A nomination form will be sent out soon. Or you may e-mail Sue West at admin@catholicacademy.org for a copy. Nominations are due no later than May 1, 2008. The Catholic Academy bylaws, which contain descriptions of the responsibilities of president and first vice-president are available on the Academy's Web site, <http://www.catholicacademy.org/index.cfm/NewsItem?ID=64583&From=about>.

MARTIN SHEEN AND CATHERINE HICKS: FIRST MEMBERS OF GABRIEL HONORARY BOARD. As part of the effort to raise visibility of the Gabriel Awards, an Honorary Board is being

formed. It will be made up of noted TV and radio broadcast journalists, reporters, entertainment notables and others who, through their name recognition, will increase awareness of the Gabriels and help to encourage organizations to enter their programs and films for award consideration. Invitations to this Honorary Board are now going out. Martin Sheen and Catherine Hicks, co-host of the 2007 Gabriels and co-star of "7th Heaven" have agreed to be on the board. It is anticipated that there will be 8 to 12 members.

MEET NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE AUDIO AFFINITY: CATHOLIC MEDIA PARTNERS. *Michael Kreidler* and *Kate Sell* founded Catholic Media Partners on the feast of St. Therese (Oct. 1) in 2004. Originally conceived as a professional resource for the founding and support of Catholic radio stations, CMP's vision has expanded as new technologies and opportunities presented themselves. It now specializes in connecting talented, high-caliber Catholic media professionals with resources, peers and distribution platforms; creating channels of distribution for new media content, programs and talent; profiling professional media talent and content; and equipping the Church to evangelize in the new millennium by providing new media resources and top quality professionals and content. CMP calls itself "the new face of Catholic media"—*at the service of the Church, through the talents of others, by collaboration and creativity.*

"We will be hearing more from this forward-thinking media company," says *Sherry Kennedy Brownrigg*, audio affinity representative to the CA board. "We are blessed to have them as new members of the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals."

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS—since the publication of the last newsletter:

Charles Robert Carner, Writer/Director, South Side Films, Calabasas, Calif.

David DiCerto, Communication Manager, The Christophers, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Michael Kreidler, Catholic Media Partners, North Canton, Ohio

Anthony Sands, Family Theater Productions, Hollywood, Calif.

Stacey Sears, Office of Radio/TV, Archdiocese of Hartford, Prospect, Conn.

Kate Sell, Senior Partner, Catholic Media Partners, Suwanee, Ga.

JOB POSTING: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS. The Diocese of Manchester (N.H.) is looking for a communications professional with 7-10 years experience to manage and coordinate all communications and public relations for the diocese, including Parable Magazine, the diocesan Web site and e-news. A full job description is available at www.catholicnh.org/dircomm. Send resume to: chagen@rcbm.org. Review of all applicants will begin in February.

'MISSION' DVD INVITES YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCOVER THEIR OWN MISSION. Maryknoll Electronic Communications has just released a DVD entitled *Mission*, reports executive director *Larry Rich*. Produced for the U.S. bishops for the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Church in mission, the DVD seeks to create in youthful viewers a worldwide heart. In very personal terms, missionaries tell us why they do what they do and, in the encounter with them, young people may find themselves moved to discover their own mission. All of us are called to mission—that is the point of "Mission," says Rich. It is meant to inspire the sense that to be church is to do mission. As one missionary sums it up quite simply, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours."

The DVD consists of thirteen 13 90-second segments which can be shown separately. For a copy, go to www.maryknoll.org/missionvideo, where user's guides can also be downloaded. Individual segments will soon be posted to social networking sites such as YouTube.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR CHURCH COMMUNICATORS. Catholic Church communications officials from around the world will meet in Rome in April to discuss how to spread the Church's message in an era of conflict and controversy. This conference, "The Sixth Professional Seminar for Church Communications Offices," will be held at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross from April 28- 30. It is specifically organized for communications personnel of dioceses, bishops' conferences and other Church institutions.

Communications officials from about 70 countries are expected to participate, reports **Brian Finnerty**, communications director for Opus Dei. He points to "a terrific lineup of speakers...including Holy See press office director Father Federico Lombardi, Pat Ryan Garcia of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and John Allen of the *National Catholic Reporter*. The conference registration fee is 190 Euros (about \$280 dollars). A complete schedule and online registration is available at www.pusc.it/csi/conv08/.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Mar. 14 Deadline for entries for 2008 Gabriel Awards
- May 1 Deadline for nominations for CA elections
- May 28-30 2008 Catholic Media Convention in Toronto
- Oct. 6-10 Congress 2008, the fourth world conference for communicators, in Cape Town, South Africa. Theme "Communications Is Peace: Building Viable Communities." Organized by the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), a sister organization to SIGNIS.

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