



SEPTEMBER 2009

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

John Mulderig, Media Reviewer, USCCB Office for Film and Broadcasting, New York, NY – jmulderig@usccb.org

IN MEMORIAM

Anna M. Friedman, mother of CA member Rev. Greg Friedman, OFM.
Ovila “Mack” Raymond, brother of CA board member Rev. Wilfred Raymond, CSC

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

It’s difficult to believe we are almost three-quarters of the way through 2009. For me this has been a fast moving year, but then this whole decade seems to be going by in high-speed.

Plans are underway for the 2010 Catholic Media Conference which will be held in New Orleans June 2-4. Catholic Academy (CA) Vice-President Sally Oberski, Dan Pitre and Michelle Johnson are the organization’s representatives on the six-person planning committee working with three members of Catholic Press Association. The committee is determined to build upon the solid framework that

that resulted in a successful 2009 program. In designing the Communications track to the conference, the CA wants to provide workshops and sessions that are important to our members. Last year, your suggestions helped make the Anaheim Conference a success and the committee is asking for your input again. I refer you to Sally’s request below.

In This Edition

Welcome New Member.....1

In Memoriam.....1

Letter from the President.....1-2

Catholic Media Conf. Survey.....2-3

Gabriel Personal Achievement.....3-4

Media Literacy Certificates.....4-5

National Film Retreat.....5

Compañero Corner5-6

Paulist Productions Names Pres....6-7

New Series from EWTN.....7-8

CA Member Wins Prize.....8

Web 2.0 Boot Camp.....8

USCCB Film Review.....9



I am also pleased to announce on behalf of the CA Board that the winner of this year's Gabriel Personal Achievement Award is Ann Blyth, a "devoted Catholic" who in the Silver Age of film appeared in some 45 movies. Her personal and professional life exemplifies what the Gabriel Personal Achievement Award is all about. Ms. Blyth is a fitting addition to the honored list of Personal Achievement winners in this 44th year of the awards. A more detailed story on our recipient is also below.

The CA Board is in the process of reviewing elements of the organization, including by-laws, structure and the Gabriel Awards. In the coming months, the board will present proposals to the membership, as required in the by-laws, for feedback and possibly a vote on proposed relevant changes. I'll keep you informed.

As always if you have a comment or question, please do not hesitate to contact me at morock@raldioc.org or 919-821-9732.

Blessings,

Frank Morock

2010 CATHOLIC MEDIA CONFERENCE PLANNING MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

As first vice president of the Catholic Academy (CA) I, along with CA board member Michelle Johnson from EWTN have been asked to represent the CA on the planning committee for the 2010 Catholic Media Convention (CMC) which will be held June 2-4 in New Orleans.

I would highly encourage those of you who are considering the trip to this year's meeting to do whatever you can to make it happen. Our 2009 meeting in Anaheim was a very positive step forward in our relationship with the Catholic Press Association (CPA) and the leadership of the CPA, the CA and the USCCB Communications Office are working together to bring you a meeting that will educate, motivate, open your mind creatively, nourish you spiritually, build your confidence and reaffirm your ministry in communications.

While this annual meeting is always an excellent networking opportunity for those new to Catholic communications, we encourage those of you with years of experience to impart your best practices, advice, tips, and words of encouragement with others. We share a wonderful tradition of networking at these meetings and it is often during meal conversations and nights out on the town that we share our best memories and laughs that nurture our souls.

With that being said, I would ask that you take a few minutes and answer the following questions so we can use your input to plan for a meeting that will address areas of communications, technology,

spirituality and “big picture” issues such as health care reform, immigration, vocations, stem cell research and marriage and family.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and your anticipate courtesy in replying to our questionnaire. The deadline for responses to the survey is September 24. With Blessings and a hope to see you in New Orleans!

Sally Oberski

Diocese of Toledo

Survey link

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Z4eBOjgShf5fumOxbZ_2bKIg_3d_3d

2009 GABRIEL AWARD PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE: ANN BLYTH



The Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals is pleased to announce that Ann Blyth is the recipient of the 2009 Gabriel Personal Achievement Award. The award is presented to individuals whose work and careers provided outstanding leadership which matches the ideals of the Gabriel Awards. In announcing this year’s honoree, Catholic Academy President Frank Morock said Ms. Blyth’s personal life shines more brightly than her approximately 45 film roles combined.

“If you do an Internet search for her name, one of the phrases you will find in almost every biography is ‘devout Catholic,’” Morock said. “And that she is as witnessed by her 57 year marriage to the late Dr. James McNulty and their five children.” (Mr. McNulty was the brother of singer Dennis Day.) In 1971, she and her husband were awarded the rank of Lady and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by Cardinal Terrence Cooke of New York.

Her film career is legendary. Born in 1928 in New York, she broke into the business in radio while still in elementary school. An operatic soprano, she debuted on Broadway in 1941 and while on a tour in Los Angeles was noticed and signed to appear in “Chip Off the Old Block” (1944) with Donald O’Connor.

After two more films that year, she starred in a dynamic dramatic role in the widely acclaimed “Mildred Pierce” (1945) opposite Joan Crawford. Her performance garnered a Best Supporting Actress Oscar nomination. During that year, she suffered a broken back in a sledding accident that kept her in a back brace for 18 months. The injury did not stop a blossoming career as she appeared in “Brute Force” (1947) making a cameo in a wheelchair.

Following her recovery, the films came quickly and so did her recognition. She starred with the major actors of the day, including Gregory Peck, Van Johnson, Howard Keel, Paul Newman and Mario Lanza in the “Great Caruso.” A trained singer, many of her performances were in musicals. Among other movie



credits in which she had a starring role were “The Student Prince,” “Kismet,” “The Buster Keaton Story,” and “The Helen Morgan Story.”

In the 1970s and 80s, she made guest appearances on television programs, such as “Quincy, M.E.” and “Murder She Wrote,” and appeared as recently as 2004 in the “Tony Danza Show.”

“As an actress, I have always believed that the truer challenge, the deeper obligation, begins after the camera stops,” Ms. Blyth has stated. “My role as a woman in my community and in my home has always overshadowed the excitement of any part I have ever played on stage or screen.”

“It is that person that the Catholic Academy is honoring this year with the Personal Achievement Award,” Morock said. “And what makes this even more fitting is that among her many professional acquaintances and personal friends in Hollywood was Father Patrick Peyton, founder of Family Theater Productions.”

Ms. Blyth performed in several of Father Peyton’s programs with performers such as Bing Crosby.



When informed that Ms. Blyth was chosen by the Catholic Academy Board of Directors as the winner of this year’s Personal Achievement winner, Father Wilifred Raymond, CSC, President of Family Theater Productions, said Father Peyton would applaud the recognition.

Since 1994, the Gabriel Personal Achievement Award has been sponsored by [Family Theater Productions](#) in honor of the late Father Patrick Peyton, CSC.

MEDIA LITERACY ADVANCED CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Twelve catechists and pastoral ministers, from seven states, Singapore and Italy, completed the requirements for the Advanced Certificate in Media Literacy from the Pauline Center for Media Studies on July 25. This is the sixth group to complete the catechist specialization certificate that is recognized by the archdioceses of Los Angeles and San Francisco and the dioceses of San Diego, Orange, and Oakland. The course runs for six days and includes lectures, seminars, a tour of Sony Studios and a

Movie Bible Night (and lots of fellowship). Since the California branch of the Pauline Center opened in 2006, 54 participants have completed the course. The next course is planned for July, 2010, dates to be announced. Local catechists will be recognized and commissioned in this catechist specialty for the first time on Catechist Sunday here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (celebrated on September 13 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels). The Pauline Center for Media Studies is a project of the Daughters of St. Paul. Its focus is to develop and encourage media literacy/media mindfulness within the context of culture, education, and faith formation.

10TH ANNUAL NATIONAL FILM RETREAT

July 2009 marked the 10th year for the National Film Retreat founded by Catholic Academy member Frank Frost, president of Frank Frost Productions (and the 15th retreat; some years we had two!). This year's retreat: **St. Paul Goes to the Movies** looked at *Pulp Fiction*, *WALL-E*, *Contact*, *The Price of Sugar* and *Joe vs the Volcano* through the lens of 1) divine encounter, 2) life as participation, 3) spiritual transformation, and 4) care for the earth. Twenty-three people participated. We hope to have the National Film Retreat on the east and the west coast next year. Details TBA. Fr. Ron Schmidt, SJ, was kind enough to step in for Fr. Greg Friedman, OFM as a director, along with Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP and Frank Frost. Congratulation to Frank, who co-founded the NFR with Fr. Mike Mannion, on this anniversary!

COMPAÑERO CORNER



An upcoming episode of *Tu Compañero Católico* features an interview with the Mar Munoz-Visoso, Assistant Director of Media Relations for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, regarding the new Web page from the Bishops dealing with health care reform.

The Web page states that the Bishops support “a truly universal health policy with respect for human life and dignity,” but Mar points out that this does not mean support for a specific piece of legislation. “This why the Web page was launched, so people would have a place to go see what the Bishops are actually saying, what Catholic teaching tells us, so that people can be informed and be able to speak about the subject themselves.”



The Bishops, Mar says, believe there is a basic principal upon which any health care reform should be based. “There should be universal coverage, one that protects all people, including the poor and the most vulnerable, from conception to natural death.”

To listen to the interview in its entirety (in Spanish), go to <http://www.usccb.org/ccc/tcc.shtml>.

Tu Compañero Católico is a Redemptorist radio program nationally syndicated to over seventy radio stations across the country and on Sirius Radio's Catholic Channel. Major funding for the program is provided by the Redemptorist Provinces of Denver & Baltimore, and by the Catholic Communication Campaign.

PAULIST PRODUCTIONS NAMES 3RD PRESIDENT IN 50 YEAR HISTORY

Courtesy of SIGNIS

Film and documentary producer Fr. Frank Desiderio, C.S.P., President and Executive Producer of Paulist Productions, will be succeeded by Fr. Eric Andrews, C.S.P., a television and film producer and currently co-creator and co-host of the new BustedHalo.com web series *The Princess, The Priest and The War for the Perfect Wedding*.

Desiderio will continue in his role as chairman of the board of the Human Family Educational and Cultural Institute, which annually awards The Humanitas Prize to encourage the communication of human values through entertainment writing, and will assume new responsibilities for the organization, according to Fr. John Duffy, C.S.P., the organization's president.

Desiderio departs Paulist Productions on assignment to develop a national series of retreats and seminars on the topic of forgiveness centered on his most recent documentary film, *The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness*, directed by three-time Academy Award nominee Vince DiPersio and featuring Bishop Desmond Tutu, Deepak Chopra, Sr. Helen Prejean, Ravi Shankar and Native American Hopi Elders, among others. For more information, visit: www.bigquestionthemovie.com.



As only the third president in Paulist Productions' distinguished half-century history, Fr. Eric Andrews brings to the position his strengths in the field of digital and new media. Formerly a Producer for Sunday to Sunday at Paulist Media Works in Washington, DC, Fr. Andrews received his BFA from New York University Film School (1987) and a Masters of Divinity from Catholic University (1994). Prior to joining the Paulist Fathers in 1989, Fr. Andrews worked for Jim Henson and The Muppets on a variety of productions, including serving as production manager for segments of *The Jim Henson Hour* for NBC, among others. Most recently, Fr. Andrews was pastor and campus minister at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN (2003-2009).

Fr. Andrews said, "I am excited and honored to be named the third president of Paulist Productions. Watching the students at the University of Tennessee (at Knoxville) enthusiastically embrace all the

exciting new facets of this rapidly changing media world was a transforming experience for me as I begin my new ministry. Paulist Productions' multi-platform production capabilities are uniquely suited to continue the evangelical mission of St. Paul and harness that energy to tell the timeless story of God's love in dynamic and new ways, always seeking to collaborate with those talented members of the entertainment industry who wish to join us in that mission."

Paulist Productions creates film and television programs that reveal God's presence in the contemporary human experience. For more information, visit: www.paulistproductions.org

EWTV UNVEILS SEASON'S NEW SERIES

EWTV Global Catholic Network is proud to unveil a host of new series, which will debut in September. Start programming your DVR now so you preview the shows and find your new favorites. Here is a quick synopsis of what viewers will discover:

NEW SERIES

Theater of the Word: If you love live plays, but hate the hefty price tag, join Kevin O'Brien and the actors of Theater of the Word as they bring a host of biblical and religious-themed stories to life. (Saturdays, 4 p.m. ET)

A Light for All Nations: Do you frequently wish you understood all the fuss about Vatican II? One of its most important documents was *Lumen Gentium*. That's where you'll find all the talk about the role of the laity, the "universal call to holiness," and a lot more. If you want to "get it," tape this new series with Fr. Brian Mullady. (Sundays at 5:30 a.m. ET and Thursdays at 11 p.m. ET)

St. Josemaria Escriva and Opus Dei: You've heard all the dis-information in "The DaVinci Code." Now get the facts about the life, mission and apostolate of this great modern saint with Damon Owen and John Coverdale. (Sundays, 5 p.m. ET and Fridays at 10:30 p.m. ET)

Forgotten Heritage: Europe and the Eucharist: Learn how belief in the Eucharist actually shaped Western Culture in this exciting new series with Father Owen Gorman and Fr. John Hogan. (Sundays, 5:30 p.m. ET and Wednesdays, 11:30 p.m. ET)

Children's Programming - *The Roamin' Catholic:* With a loveable wackiness all his own, Rob Wahl, the Roamin' Catholic, and a penguin who lives in a freezer, traverse the globe on exciting missions of discovery that bring kids an entertaining look at the Faith (Mondays, 4:30 p.m. ET).

The Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids: Your children will be enchanted with this animated special, which features St. Faustina teaching her young friends about the Divine Mercy Devotion and how to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Adults may learn something too! (Fridays at 5 p.m. ET)

CATHOLIC ACADEMY MEMBER WINS PRIZE

“In Spite of Darkness. A Spiritual Encounter with Auschwitz” won the “Prize for the best documentary” at the International Catholic Festival of Christian Films and TV programs held in Belarus in June. The festival screens works in cinema and TV aimed at evangelization of society and support of human values.

The Festival is held under patronage of the Bishops Conference in Belarus.

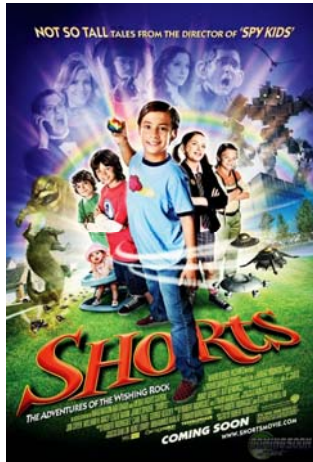
"In Spite of Darkness" was directed and produced by German Jesuit Christof Wolf along with producer Ron Schmidt, S.J., a Catholic Academy member and Chair of the Gabriel Awards. The film has won Silver Telly's in the categories of Religion/Spirituality, Videography, and Music. It also won the Redemptive Storytelling Award at the Redemptive Film Festival in Virginia. To see a trailer go to www.in-spite-of-darkness.com. Additional information on ordering the DVD is at Hope Media Productions, www.hopemediaproductions.com and Maryknoll Productions, www.maryknollsociety.org.

WEB 2.0 BOOT CAMP

If you've been thinking about attending the Web 2.0 Boot Camp on Oct 5 in New York City, time is running out. We'll discuss the rapidly evolving social media and its implications on our work.

Sponsored by the USCCB Communications Office with a grant from the Catholic Communication Campaign, there is no charge for the Boot Camp for diocesan communication personnel, and a small fee for non-diocesan CPA members. If you can't make Oct. 5 in New York, we have another Boot Camp set for Oct. 15 in Chicago (The Chicago boot camp comes at the end of the Midwest Regional Meeting, so join us for both!). For more information, see the link below or contact Helen Osman at hosman@usccb.org.

USCCB REVIEWS: *SHORTS*



Clever children's fantasy about a rainbow-colored rock that grants the wishes of anyone holding it, and the chaos its misuse wreaks on the lives of a bullied schoolboy (Jimmy Bennett), his parents (Jon Cryer and Leslie Mann), his chief persecutor (terrific newcomer Jolie Vanier), her tycoon father (James Spader) and their suburban community in general. Told in a series of nonsequential episodes, writer-director Robert Rodriguez's lively yarn, which carries messages about the dangers of power and the isolating effects of contemporary technology, generally makes for appealing family entertainment, though perilous special effects may overwhelm the most sensitive viewers, while some parents may find a story line about a mucus monster unpleasant.

E-ffinity is a publication of the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals. Contact Jorge Riopedre: <mailto:tucompanero@carismedia.com>