

John Hook Award

The John Hook Award is presented to a parishioner who lives the Gospel call to service and justice. It honors one who has shown commitment to social ministry through direct service, advocacy, community organizing, and solidarity with the broader community over an extended period of time. This parishioner has also drawn others into the ministry of charity and justice. The award recipient embodies the belief that Christ is both met and served in the suffering and vulnerable.

John Hook was the longest serving member in the history of the St. Vincent DePaul Society with 75 years of service. John joined a St. Vincent DePaul group at SS. Philip and James when he was just 14 years old and remained an active and faithful member of the Society at St. Dominic Parish until shortly before his death in 2000. John was the quintessential parish volunteer. Once a call came in from a family in crisis, John went into action and never quit until he had fully assisted them. When a given family had multiple needs, John went to other groups and agencies to get help and never took "no" for an answer. For over 75 years he served thousands of families with respectful care and concern.

2024 Recipient: Ryan Slattery

Ryan Slattery is a high school Spanish teacher, associate campus minister, and service coordinator from Mt. Airy, MD. Since attending the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., where he was a frequent volunteer for the Little Sisters of the Poor across campus, the CUA college chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and a short-term immersion trip to Punta Gorda, Belize for ten days, an experience that truly spearheaded his love for service, Ryan has been a long-time advocate of social justice and service. After graduating in 2019 with a degree in Vocal Performance, Ryan spent a year-and-a-half volunteering as a missionary with The Farm of the Child in the rural, northern coast of Trujillo, Honduras. While he worked as an English educator for the elementary and middle school during the day, his primary responsibility was to love and care for children at the home who were victims of trauma and abuse so as to foster an environment that educates, protects, and promotes healing. This experience in Honduras led him to his current role as teacher and service coordinator for Mount Saint Joseph High School, where he has worked these last two years, bolstering the school's service program and opportunities for its students through weekend service days and collaborations in their hometown of Irvington, domestic service trips along the east coast, and for the first time in several decades, an international trip to Puerto Rico.

Doris Johnson Award

The Doris Johnson Award is presented to a person who has worked for justice within the community, local or broader, in harmony with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. The award recipient has made a positive difference to those around them, as well as those indirectly impacted by the issues addressed.

Doris Johnson was a neighborhood activist for many years. Doris raised her six children right across from Clifton Park and helped them to become leaders in the community. Doris began and ran the neighborhood assistance center that, since her death, has been run by her daughter. Doris became a neighborhood leader under then-Mayor Donald Schaefer, and remained a neighborhood force for over 30 years.

2024 Recipient: Helen Miller Rubens

Heather Miller Rubens, Ph.D. is the Executive Director and Roman Catholic Scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (www.icjs.org). She is responsible for advancing the organization's vision to build an interreligious society in which dialogue replaces division, friendship overcomes fear, and education eradicates ignorance. Rubens is an experienced teacher, public speaker, facilitator, and scholar-practitioner of interreligious learning and dialogue. She develops educational initiatives that foster interreligious learning and conversation for the public in the Baltimore-Washington corridor and online. In her research and writing, Rubens creatively focuses on the theoretical, theological, ethical, and political implications of affirming religious diversity and building an interreligious society. She is currently working on a book entitled *In Good Faith: An Argument for the Interreligious Society*.

Dr. Rubens is a member of the Committee on Ethics, Religion; and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She also serves on the Board of the Washington Theological Consortium, and she is an invited member of the Christian Scholars Group. She has also served in leadership positions with the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations and the Catholic Theological Society of America. Dr. Rubens holds degrees from Georgetown University (B.A.), the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (G.Dip.), and the University of Chicago (A.M. and Ph.D.). She has taught at Lewis University, DePaul University, and St. Mary's Seminary.

Some recent publications include: Afterword in *A Sacred Argument: Dispatches from the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Encounter* (2024). Invited chapter—"Developing Theologies of Encounter: Eva Fleischner, *Fratelli Tutti*, and the Unfolding Legacy of *Nostra Aetate*" in *Pluralizing Dialogue: Insights, Actions, and Implications in Eva Fleischner's Judaism in German Christian Theology since 1945* (2024). Invited chapter—"Interreligious Origin Stories: To Begin, and to Begin Again" in *With the Best of Intentions: Interreligious Missteps and Mistakes* (2023).

International Peace and Justice Award

The International Peace and Justice Award is presented to a local activist who has been involved in reaching out to an international constituency through actions taken in the Baltimore area, consistent with Catholic Social Teaching. This may involve working or volunteering with an international group or organization, being a founding member of an international organization dedicated to addressing systemic needs, or being active for many years in a certain international action being conducted by a parish. The award recipient is usually a Baltimore native with ties to a local parish.

2024 Recipient: Louise Geczy

Louise Brink Geczy is a faculty member at John Carroll High School. Her current positions include Academic Project Manager, Human Rights, Speech, and Senior Seminar Teacher, and the Coordinator of External Holocaust Programs. Louise traces her interest in international peace and justice to her life growing up with immigrant grandparents and a grandfather and father who served in World Wars One and Two. She has always been interested in global connections and how the practice of human rights and the cost of protecting them affects us. A seminal moment for her was meeting her first Holocaust survivors almost 40 years ago. The gift of her interaction with them and her ability to have students interact and learn from them completely changed who she and her students were for the better. As a result of that experience, she co-created and continues to teach senior honors level Human Rights. She has also been fortunate enough to travel to and study in Israel with an ADL program for Catholic educators and to participate in a summer program at Columbia University sponsored by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Both of these opportunities added to her passion regarding human rights.

Louise co-created and continues to teach senior honors level Human Rights and Advanced Human Rights classes. In conjunction with the Baltimore Jewish Council, she stages a Lessons of the Shoah (Holocaust) program for area public, private, and religious high schools, a Holocaust Remembrance Day, and a Genocide Awareness Vigil at John Carroll High school. She has been a member of the high school's Peace and Justice Committee for many years.

When asked why she would encourage others to share in her work against genocide, she stated, "In a world where divisiveness and othering has become common, I think the more information we provide our young people about the lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, the greater chance that they will commit to make positive change throughout their lifetimes. We need to examine evil to try to understand and prevent it. Genocide, mass atrocities, and ethnic cleansing still exist and even though most of the children in our care are not directly exposed to it they need to know of its existence. I am fortunate to teach in an institution like John Carroll which is committed to providing our students with multiple opportunities, both in the classroom and with special programs, to explore human rights issues."