

2014 CATHOLIC SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



BERNADETTE PARKER



Bernadette Parker was nominated for the 2014 Legacy of Faith Catholic Service Award by her parish Pastoral Council and endorsed by her pastor, Rev. Sebastian Kavumkal, St. Mary School principal, and many other parishioners and parish staff members.

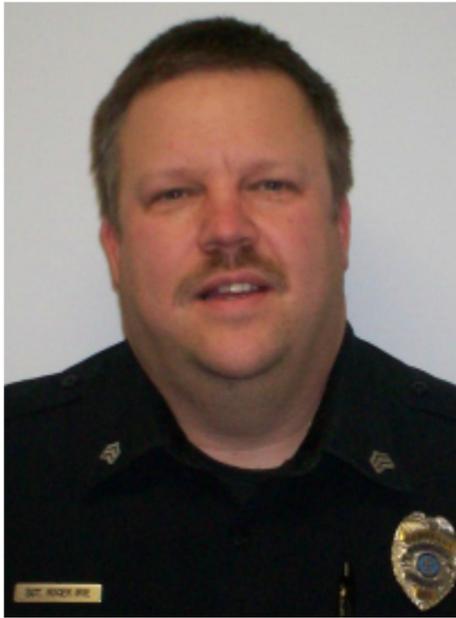
Bernadette is a lifelong member of Holy Name of Mary Parish in Sault Ste. Marie where she serves the church in many capacities. She uses her talents to decorate the church for each liturgical season, and makes it a family affair by getting her husband and four children involved since a very young age. Bernadette also serves as a Eucharistic Minister and lector for masses, and attends to the many other daily needs around the church.

For the past five years, Bernadette has volunteered her time in coordinating and assisting Father Sebastian in providing Catholic Prayer Services and mass at a local nursing home for its residents. Father Sebastian says that when it comes to the needs of the Church and the community Bernadette “always has time.” A parishioner wrote, “her can do demeanor is electrifying.”

In addition to her dedication to the parish, Bernadette is a strong advocate for St. Mary’s Catholic School. She served as the president of the school’s board for several years and still dedicates many hours to the school. Outside of her parish work, Bernadette is a devoted wife and mother of four. Her and her husband, Scott own a local hardware business, where she puts in endless hours each week when she’s not volunteering behind-the-scenes for the parish.

The Catholic Service Award recognizes lifetime dedication and service to the Catholic Church. One of the most important ingredients in passing on the faith is the personal witness of people who have modeled Christian stewardship as a way of life. Their experience serves as example and inspiration to others.

ROGER IRIE



The Catholic Service award annually recognizes members of the Diocese of Marquette for lifetime dedication and service to the Church. Nominees must have demonstrated service and active leadership in the Church, the community and beyond. They must also be an inspiration to others through sharing their time, talent and treasure with generosity and joy. Roger Irie was nominated for the award by the St. Francis De Sales Martha Mary Circle and endorsed by former pastor, Rev. Glenn Theoret, SFDS School Principal, Kitty Lovell, Manistique City Manager, Sheila Aldrich, and several others.

Roger is an exemplary husband, father and grandfather; an outstanding member of the parish and city. His personal faith is visible to all. The Roger who stands in the sacristy preparing everything for Mass is the same person who stands directing traffic, stands by with the ambulance for school and public events, and patrols the streets of our community. He treats all people with dignity and compassion. Everyone seems to know Roger, from small children to the oldest members of our community, and he is respected by all as a faithful Catholic who serves with joy, humor and love. He consistently gives unselfishly to the parish family and brings others to Christ by his smiling service and deep faith.

For over 20 years Roger has faithfully taken on many responsibilities that enhance St. Francis De Sales Parish. He has served as Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, Parish Council member and is currently the chair of the Finance Council. He is a person everyone can count on because he will be there when you need him. He trains the liturgical ministers and altar servers and sacristans. He has been responsible for the ministry scheduling for many years. Roger is in charge of decorating the church for all the liturgical seasons. He serves and arranges all the ministries for the funeral masses. Our parish has an annual All Souls Dinner and Roger makes and serves his special lasagna. He also plans and cooks our Harvest Dinner and many other events like the K of C breakfasts. As a member of the Councils he has often had to give talks, which he gives with grace. For instance, at one of the stewardship talks, he divided apples to illustrate the idea of tithing.

Roger also contributes to the community at large, working on fund raisers, events, and educating the public as an EMT and public safety officer.

*Thank you, Bernadette & Roger, for being a living witness to Christ
in your humble service and to all who meet you!*