



Friday, May 15, 2020

We are pleased to announce the 2020 Golden Apple Award recipients. Through the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, the Golden Apple Awards program has been established to honor outstanding individuals who devote their lives to teaching in Catholic schools.

In light of the valuable contributions made by Catholic school teachers to the Church, and society in general, the archdiocese is able to demonstrate its appreciation through the Golden Apple Awards program. These honorees are given a golden apple as a keepsake. They also receive a monetary award of \$5,000 and a Certificate of Achievement.

2020 Golden Apple Award Honorees



Tricia Hancock
7th Grade Teacher
Little Flower School, Great Mills, MD since 2016

“Ms. Hancock’s dedication to Little Flower School knows no bounds. She is enthusiastic, energetic, compassionate and a delight to supervise. She has a tremendous dedication to God, her family and her community. We are blessed to have her on our staff.” – Barbara Stirling, principal, Little Flower School



Gregory Landrigan
Middle School Social Studies Teacher and Language
Acquisition Coach
Sacred Heart Bilingual School, Washington DC since 2013

“Gregory reflects the image of a healthy doctrinally sound and confident teacher that the church needs so much today.” - Reverend Emilio Biosca Aguero, pastor, Sacred Heart Church



Germana Rebaudengo
5-8th Grade Religion, 2nd Grade Math Teacher
Saint Bartholomew School, Bethesda, MD since 2002

“Germana’s dedication to her faith and Catholic education is a gift and a blessing to our parish. As pastor, I have a great team of educators with the primary mission to develop lifelong learners. Germana is a leader and an integral part of this team.” – Reverend Mark Knestout, pastor, St Bartholomew Parish and School



Jill Rison
Instructional Specialist and Art Teacher
St. Mary School, Bryantown, MD since 2013

“Mrs. Rison is a great role model for the students. Her own devotion and spirituality to the Lord is shared with her students on a daily basis. She provides excellent and quality instruction in a faith-filled classroom. She is a role model and fosters Catholic identity in our school.” – Reverend Rory Conley, pastor, St. Mary Church



Harry Rissetto
Theology Teacher
Gonzaga College High School, Washington DC since 2003

“Harry’s mastery of content is a spectacle to behold. He has an innate ability to boil down complex theological and philosophical concepts, and make them accessible to all the students. It is no surprise that students clamor to take his classes. Likewise, Harry’s instructional methods and strategies support student learning in a way that is catered to each student’s individual need and each student’s personal faith journey.” – Thomas Every II, headmaster, Gonzaga College High School



Margaret Rodriguez
5th Grade Teacher
Saint Bernadette School, Silver Spring, MD since 2006

“Margaret is an example of Christ’s love in action. She also exemplifies the mission of a Catholic School teacher. Personally, I consider her a mentor for how to treat students with compassion and care, while at the same time, holding high standards that will help them prepare for a successful life.” – Ted Ewanciw, Principal, St. Bernadette School



Susan Scott
Middle School Math and Religion Teacher
Cardinal Hickey Academy, Owings, MD since 2014

“From a pastoral perspective, I found that Susan is a faithful and practicing member of the Church. She is a faithful member of Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish where she serves also as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, in addition to being a sacristan for the CHA weekly masses. – Reverend Michael King, pastor, Jesus the Good Shepherd Parish



Susan Kelly Sweet
Kindergarten Teacher
Saint Mary School, Rockville, MD since 2001

“Kelly is a tremendous asset to our parish community. She works in the school, the CCD program, and in the parish. Most importantly, she is an excellent instructor and resource for other teachers. Kelly works every day to make our parish better – from our youngest preschool students to our adults.” – Reverend Monsignor Robert

Amey, Pastor, St. Mary Church and School



Kathleen Trees
2nd Grade Teacher
Saint Raphael School, Rockville, MD since 2010

“Kathleen is a leader in our community and proudly models for faith to her students and their parents.”
-Reverend Michael Salah, Pastor, St. Raphael Church



Luke Young
Theology Teacher
Saint Mary’s Ryken High School, Leonardtown, MD since 2010

“Luke has had a transformative effect on our school, our parishes, and our community as a whole. A number of the young men who are studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington have pointed to him as a model Catholic school teacher, and as the type of Spiritual Father and mentor they hope to become.” –Reverend Scott Woods, chaplain, St Mary’s Ryken High School