



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry to Recognize the 2020 National Catholic Youth Ministry Award Recipients

Washington, DC (January 29, 2021) – The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry ([nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org)) to recognize six individuals and one program for their significant and outstanding contributions to the field of Catholic youth ministry on an online awards ceremony Wednesday, February 3, at 8 pm ET (5pm PT).

Historically, the [National Catholic Youth Ministry Awards](#) ceremony coincided with the biennial National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM), which was not held this past November due to the pandemic. To properly recognize the recipients, the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) is incorporating the ceremony into their annual membership meeting, being held virtually next week.

“2020 was a year of true innovation in youth ministry,” said Christina Lamas, executive director of NFCYM. “It is a joy to recognize those who continue to find new ways to walk alongside youth as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ.”

The awards strive to recognize innovative gifts that empower, equip, and accompany young people as they navigate the path of growing into missionary discipleship and are divided into four categories.

**The Saint Katharine Drexel Pathway Award**, recognizing *diocesan-level initiatives*, goes to:

- Encuentros Juvenils (Archdiocese of Miami)
- Sr. Mary Grace Walsh, ASCJ, (Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis)

**The Saint John Bosco Accompaniment Award**, recognizing *an individual, apostolate, or organization on the national or regional level*, goes to:

- Dr. Patrick Donovan (Diocese of Bridgeport)
- Mr. Rob Kaczmark (Spirit Juice Studios)
- Dr. Alan Tarlo, Sr. (Archdiocese of Detroit)

**The Saint John Paul II Parish Leadership Award**, recognizing innovative outreach at the *parish level*, goes to:

- Mrs. Helen Megally (Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Park Ridge, IL)

**The Saints Joachim and Anne Cross Award**, recognizes *a family ministry or outreach*, goes to:

- Mrs. Kim McMillan (St. Benedict Parish, Chicago)

For more information about the awards, recipients, and online ceremony to be held Wednesday, February 3, at 8 pm ET (5 pm PT), visit [www.nfcym.org/youth-ministry-awards](http://www.nfcym.org/youth-ministry-awards).

For media inquiries, please contact Michelle Duffey, director of communication for NFCYM, at [communication@nfcym.org](mailto:communication@nfcym.org).

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**About the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), Inc. ([nfcym.org](http://nfcym.org)), a nonprofit organization, is a broad, internationally recognized leadership alliance for Catholic youth ministry. Its mission is to “support and strengthen those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ.” With the national office located in Washington D.C., NFCYM membership is comprised of Catholic dioceses in the United States, including U.S. military bases throughout Europe, the National Catholic Committee on Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, youth-serving member organizations, and associate members. In addition to advocacy, research, and support for the field of youth ministry, NFCYM is the executive producer of the largest single gathering of Catholic youth in the U.S. at the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference ([ncyc.info](http://ncyc.info)).

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