



ROMAN CATHOLIC

DIocese of St. Petersburg

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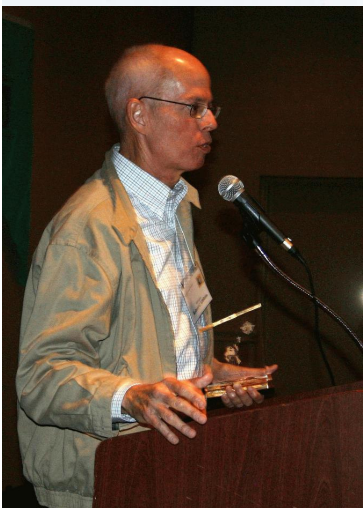
Rev. Msgr. Gibbons Receives Rev. Luis de Cancer Distinguished Priestly Service Award



The Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg is pleased to announce that Rev. Msgr. Robert Gibbons has received the 2008 Luis de Cancer Distinguished Priestly Service Award. He received this award on October 6, 2008 at the Convocation for Priestly Renewal in Tampa, FL. Msgr. Gibbons was selected to receive this award by his fellow priests who serve on The Priestly Growth and Enrichment Commission which chose him based upon his nomination at last year's Convocation for Priestly Renewal.

Msgr. Gibbons has served the Diocese of St. Petersburg as Chancellor and Vicar General. He has served on the faculty at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. His most recent assignment has been to serve as pastor of St. Paul Parish in St. Petersburg.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to Msgr. Gibbons for his distinguished service to the people of God in the Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, and our congratulations for being selected for this award. We pray that God continues to bless Msgr. Gibbons and all who are the beneficiaries of Msgr. Gibbons' ministry.



The Diocese of St. Petersburg established the Fr. Luis de Cancer Distinguished Priestly Service Award in 1998 to be given annually, in memory of the proto-martyr of Florida, to a priest of the Diocese of St. Peterburg who best exemplifies selfless and dedicated service to the people of God.

The award is named in honor of Fray Luis de Cancer, OP, an outstanding Dominican, who came from Spain to the new world in the 16th century to spread the gospel. After great success among the people of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala, Fr. de Cancer came to the shores of Tampa Bay eager to bring the light of the gospel to the indigenous people. His missionary enterprise to Florida was short-lived, as he and two of his companions were martyred on June 26, 1549.

Past Recipients include:

- Rev. Michael Muhr, 2007
- Rev. Msgr. John Neff, 2006
- Rev. Arthur Proulx, 2005
- Rev. Msgr. Brendan Muldoon, 2004
- Rev. Msgr. John Scully, 2003
- Rev. Msgr. George Cummings, 2002
- Rev. Msgr. James Lara, 2001
- Rev. Msgr. John A. Cippel, 2000
- Rev. Frank Goodman, 1999
- Rev. Msgr. John McNulty, 1998

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