

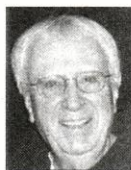
Viterbo announces Pope John XXIII Award recipients

Pat Stephens, founder and organizer of numerous community events; Father André Cirino, OFM, a renowned Franciscan scholar; and Dick and Doreen Brostrom, a couple who launched second careers as full-time volunteers, are the recipients of the 2013 Pope John XXIII Award for Distinguished Service.

The awards will be conferred at a banquet and ceremony June 4 on campus.



Stephens

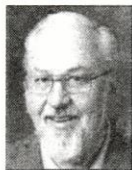


Cirino

Stephens, director of collegiate gifts at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, is well known in the community for his role in founding the La Crosse Rotary Festival of Lights in 1995. Nearly two decades later, he remains president of this huge community effort, which also generates more than 225,000 items for local food shelves.

Stephens also established La Crosse Irishfest and is a founding board member of the Let Freedom Ring Honor Flight. He continues to be active in dozens of community service projects and organizations.

Cirino, who lives at the Siena Friary in Mount Vernon, N.Y., has written or edited nearly a dozen books and journals covering the theme of Franciscanism. He is a leader of what is known as



Dick Brostrom



Doreen Brostrom

Franciscan Pilgrimages, which takes travelers to locales such as Assisi, Italy, ancestral home of St. Francis of Assisi and to the Vatican, seat of Catholic identity and power. Participants have described the pilgrimages as spiritually life changing, crediting Cirino's leadership as the reason.

The Brostroms lived in the La Crosse area for a number of years. After successfully pursuing careers in business and education, in their mid-50s they embarked upon second careers.

Dick was the co-owner of Creative Type, and Doreen was a longtime member of the Viterbo nursing faculty. They sold their home and possessions, traveled to the deep Southwest to begin nearly two decades of volunteerism beginning at St. Bonaventure Mission on the edge of the sprawling Navaho reservation near Thoreau, N.M. Other volunteer assignments would follow right up to when the couple recently retired to Albuquerque.

The Pope John XXIII Award is the highest nonacademic award bestowed by Viterbo University. Recipients are chosen on the basis of contributions in one or several of the following categories: education, business, philanthropy, peace and justice, and religious life.