

# *John Courtney Murray Award Citation*

Our recipient is a proud native of the city of Chicago who was raised by two factory workers as an only child. As a longstanding citizen of Chicago, our awardee has frequently patronized the arts there and has a particular love for theatre and dance.

Our awardee joined the Servites in 1958, after which he studied in Northern Ireland for several years before returning to Chicago and concluding seminary studies at Mundelein. He later received a Ph.D. in social ethics at the University of Chicago where he was involved in early studies on the role of religious, racial and ethnic prejudice in American culture. He was one of the founding faculty members of the Catholic Theological Union in 1968 and has taught social ethics there ever since. For a number of years our recipient was also the director of the Cardinal Bernardin Center at the CTU. He has participated in the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, a premier foreign policy think tank, and is also a member of the religious leaders group of the World Economic Forum.

The biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan first introduced our honoree to the field of Jewish-Christian studies. Crossan and church historian Martin Marty both encouraged our awardee to consolidate and expand on the important developments introduced by Vatican II's Declaration on the Church and Non-Christian Religions, *Nostra Aetate*. In the many years that have followed he has done that and far more, becoming an internationally respected figure in the field. This distinguished member of our society has served for many years as an advisor to both the USCCB Committee on Catholic-Jewish Relations and the Christian-Jewish Committee for the National Council of Churches. He served for six years as the President of the International Council of Christians & Jews (ICCJ). He is a founding member of the Christian Scholars Group on Jewish-Christian Relations and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Parliament of the World Religions and the National Advisory Council of the United States Committee for the World Conference of Religions for Peace. His expertise extends beyond inter-faith dialogue to ecumenism as he served for several years as a member of the US Presbyterian/Reformed-Roman Catholic Dialogue.

Our honoree has been named to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council by three US presidents. The list of awards he has received is remarkable. Here are but a few: "The Righteous Among the Nations Award" from the Holocaust Museum in Detroit; the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award from The American Jewish Committee; the "Person of the Year" Award from the Polish Council of Christians and Jews; The *Nostra Aetate* Award from the Archdiocese of Chicago; the Eternal Flame Award from St. Leo University and the American Jewish Committee. He also has an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.

An accomplished academic, our JCM award recipient has published countless articles and book chapters and has either authored or edited over fifteen books including: *The Challenge of the Holocaust for Christian Theology* and *Christ in the Light of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue*. His most recent title is *Restating the Catholic Church's Relationship with the Jewish People: The Challenge of Super-Sessionary Theology* (Mellen, 2013). Rabbi Michael Balinsky has observed that our award recipient "has opened doors for many Christians in general and Catholics in particular to appreciate and have deep respect for

the vitality of Judaism. [He] is unafraid to ask difficult questions of himself, his fellow clergy, his Jewish dialogue partners and his sacred texts on their portrayal of Jews and Judaism. He is a friend who has stood and continues to stand with the Jewish community as he has led and fostered new depths in the theology of the Church's understanding Of God, Torah and Israel."

Our award recipient has been an inspiration for at least two generations of scholars, pastors, ministers and rabbis who wish to further Jewish-Christian relations. It is a great honor and privilege for me to introduce this year's recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award, Rev. John Pawlikowski.