

Joliet Franciscan Sisters honor Mrs. Natalie Bayci with the Mother Alfred Moes Award

Joliet, Ill. (September 18, 2009) - The Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate have named Mrs. Natalie Timko Bayci as the 2009 recipient of the Mother Alfred Moes Award. The Award will be presented at the 20th Annual Franciscan Autumn Feast on October 25, 2009 at the Bolingbrook Golf Club.

Mrs. Bayci has a long history of service to both community and religious organizations. She is presently the Diocesan Coordinator for University Missions and for the past nine years has taken groups of university students to minister to communities who live in poverty in both Bolivia and the Philippines. Mrs. Bayci and her groups of students have built homes, raised money for medicines and food, and have assisted at day care centers, homeless shelters and soup kitchens. She believes that the global problem of poverty is one that can become unmanageable because of how extensive it is. She also believes that by helping one person at a time the problem of global poverty can be eradicated. Her motto has become “one person at a time.”



Mrs. Bayci has been an active member of the American Lung Association, St. Francis Academy Alumni Board, Joliet Catholic Mother's Club, Daybreak Shelter, Diocesan Peace and Justice Committee on Global Solidarity, Joliet Franciscan Peace and Justice Committee and the Franciscan Associate Program. She is also a member of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Parish where she has served as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Youth Minister and Young Adult Coordinator. She has also served on the Parish Council, the School Board, and the Council of Catholic Women.

Mrs. Bayci has received the St. Francis Alumnae distinguished Service and Alumna of the Year Award, Exchange Club's Golden Deed Award, United Way's Volunteer of the Year Award, The Lewis University's DeLaSallian Award, the Nonnatus Society Award from the Cathedral of St. Raymond and the Francis Xavier Award for Mission Work.

The Mother Alfred Moes Award was established to honor the spirit of those women, who like Mother Alfred, responded to the needs of her times with vision and determination. Mrs. Natalie Bayci truly exemplifies the spirit of Mother Alfred. It is an honor to name her as this year's recipient.

The Joliet Franciscans have been providing service to the Joliet community and beyond for almost 145 years. They minister in education, child-care, elder care, social justice arenas, parish work and holistic health throughout Joliet as well as many other areas of the U.S., and in their missions in Brazil. Through these ministries, the Joliet Franciscan Sisters work to promote justice and peace.