

On July 4th at a national gathering of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests the Universal Brother Award for 2018 was presented to Fr. Thomas L. McCormick of the Archdiocese of Denver. The Fraternity was gathered at St. Paul on the Lake in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. for a Mass celebrated by Bp. Don Hanchon, the Episcopal Moderator of the Fraternity. Presented by the Bishop Hanchon and Fr. Jerry Ragan, the National Responsible for the Fraternity, the Award is given to a Diocesan priest who exemplifies the spirituality of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and who has discovered through his message a way of living the Gospel more fully to the ends of the earth, in fraternal sharing with his brother priests, in caring for the least among us, and in silent adoration of our Eucharistic Lord.

Fr. Tom McCormick is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Denver. In retirement he has been traveling throughout the West to promote the work of the Maryknoll missionaries, for whom he holds a great admiration, because Tom himself saw missionary activity as an important element of the Diocesan priesthood. Throughout his priesthood in addition to parish work, Tom has been involved with a variety of other ministries. As director of Catholic Community Services-Northern, he set up social services in Fort Collins, Loveland and Greeley Colorado. His work also included the experience of Campus Ministry at Colorado State University as pastor of John XXIII University Parish. In 1975 following in the footsteps of Fr. Dan Danielson, he became the second priest to lead the United States branch of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests.

Long before we heard Pope Francis encourage the clergy to reach out and be with the folks on the peripheries of life, Tom was already there. His missionary spirit led him to ministry in Colombia and Mexico. The Archdiocese of Denver established a Mission in the Diocese of Monteria-Colombia in 1979. This mission continued with rotation of other diocesan priests and a lay mission team for 15 years. Fr. McCormick was the priest-leader for the first five years of this foundation. He also started the new mission in the Diocese of Hermosillo (Sonora) Mexico. Returning to USA, much of his ministry was among the Latino populations in Colorado.

Fr. Tom McCormick is considered to be a "Priest's Priest" with a heart of gold and deep desire to serve the poor. There is nothing he likes better than to gather in the twilight of the day with brother priests and a glass of cheap scotch. But even more he loves beginning his day with an hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.