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Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy Recognized as ‘Peace Partners’

And the Peace Partner Award goes to ... The Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh. That’s what happened Feb. 24 at the Regional Enterprise Tower in Pittsburgh as the Center of Victims of Violence and Crime presented one of its five Peace Partner Awards during the Pittsburgh-based group’s annual dinner.

“We are grateful to receive it in the name of Catherine and her sisters everywhere,” said Sister Sheila Carney, who accepted the award on behalf of the sisters.

According to the center, the award recognized the sisters’ long-standing commitment to “effect peace and social justice in the communities of southwestern Pennsylvania; specifically, their efforts at advocacy for and empowerment of economically, racially, and socially marginalized groups, and their courage to stand as women peace-brokers to facilitate dialogue and effect change for the less-advantaged in society.”

Allyson M. Lowe, Ph.D., chair of the Political Science Department of Carlow University, Pittsburgh, nominated the sisters, whom she said in her remarks followed the example of Catherine McAuley, who told her sisters to “not bestow gifts as benevolent persons, but to bestow themselves.”

Lowe said the sisters’ works continue to focus on the safety, health and educational needs of women and children. “The Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy exemplify what both research and experience have shown: there is no tool for peace and development more effective than the empowerment of women.”

In accepting the award, Sister Sheila said: “When Catherine McAuley formed the Sisters of Mercy, she gave her followers the mandate to insert themselves wherever our world, its people and systems inflict violence on human persons. We, who today follow in the path of Mercy, which she laid out for us, are honored that this tradition of service has been recognized through the Peace Partners Award,” she said.

The Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community is comprised of Buffalo, Erie, the Philippines, Pittsburgh and Rochester.