

# THE CARDINAL COOKE GUILD

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE CAUSE OF CANONIZATION OF CARDINAL COOKE

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## Cardinal Cooke Right-to-Life Award for 2010 Presented to Three Teenagers

By Juliann DosSantos

The celebrant and homilist at the 27th anniversary Mass of Remembrance for Cardinal Terence Cooke told those gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral that the former Archbishop of New York "would have been delighted that his memory is kept alive by young people."

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Sullivan, vicar general, was referring to the many Catholic school students who attended, and specifically, to three students who were honored at the Mass for their essays.

The Cardinal Cooke Guild and Catholic New York sponsored a "Respect for Life" essay contest this year focusing on what teenagers can do to promote pro-life attitudes and actions.

At the Oct. 6 Mass, the essay contest winners were presented with the Cardinal Cooke Right to Life Award, a medallion bearing the image of the cardinal. Each medallion was mounted inside a frame together with a picture of Cardinal Cooke. The three were the youngest winners ever to receive the honor. The winners are Isaiah Salvador, Xavier High School in Manhattan; Karolina DiStasi, Dominican Academy in Manhattan; and Jasmine Rodrigo, The Ursuline School in New Rochelle

Bishop Sullivan, in his homily, praised



Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan with the three Cardinal Cooke right-to-Life Award recipients (l-r) Jasmine Rodrigo, Karolina DiStasi, and Isaiah Salvador

the winners for their essays. He said their words "speak eloquently and faithfully about respect life, which was a theme close to the heart of the Servant of God, Terence Cardinal Cooke."

"I think having young people reflect on the sanctity of human life truly honors Cardinal Cooke's memory," he said. He also noted that the cardinal had an enduring focus on ministry to young people throughout his priesthood.

Cardinal Cooke was Archbishop of New York from 1968 until his death on Oct. 6, 1983. His canonization cause is under way and is promoted by the Cardinal Cooke Guild.

The bishop referred to the first reading, from the Letter to the Galatians, in which St. Paul speaks about virtues

needed for priestly ministry, especially the virtues of humility and courage. He said these two virtues were clearly evident in the life and ministry of Cardinal Cooke through his spirituality and prayer life and in his decision-making, particularly in regard to introducing the directives of the Second Vatican Council.

The bishop referred to Cardinal Cooke's "deep prayer life." Recalling the Gospel reading from Luke, in which Jesus teaches his Apostles the Lord's Prayer, he said that the cardinal achieved holiness through his daily practice of prayer.

Also attending the Mass were Dr. Timothy McNiff, superintendent of schools in the archdiocese, and Msgr. Joseph Giandurco, postulator of the canonization cause and pastor of Sacred Heart parish in Suffern. Also concelebrating was Father Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., author, psychologist and the postulator of the first phase of the canonization cause.

After Mass, members of the guild and the student essay winners were invited into the crypt below the altar of St. Patrick's to view the resting place of Cardinal Cooke. Prayers were offered there for his cause of canonization.

In an interview after Mass, Isaiah Salvador, first-place winner and a freshman

Continued on page 3

## Scenes at Cardinal Cooke's 27th Anniversary Mass of Remembrance



Two Award Recipients: Reverend Msgr. Joseph Giandurco, Vice Postulator of the Cause of Canonization of Cardinal Cooke is shown above with Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan in presenting the Cardinal Cooke Right-to-Life Award to winners of the Respect For Life Essay Contest. Second place winner was Karolina DiStasi (left), third place winner was Jasmine Rodrigo (right).

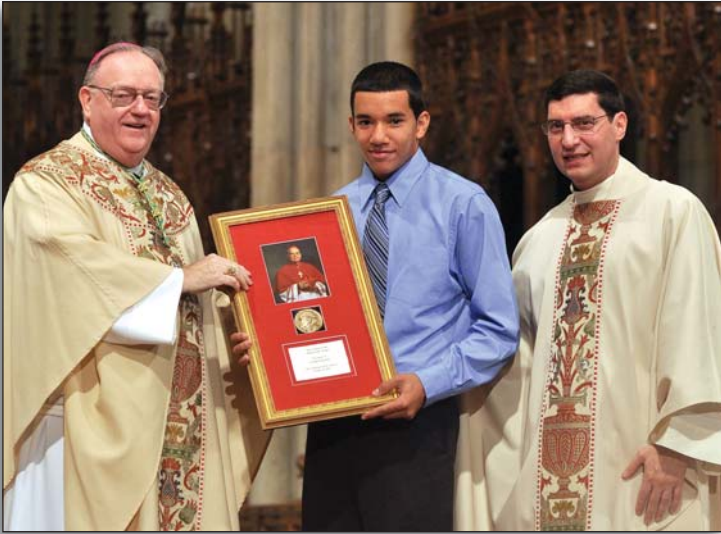


Presentation of the Gifts: Bringing the Offertory gifts to the altar at the Cardinal Cooke Remembrance Mass were (l-r) Angelo Sica, Silvia Izaguirre, Patricia Sica and Joan McGuire. Pat Sica is Cardinal Cooke's niece, Silvia is the indispensable secretary of the Cardinal Cooke Guild and Joan Maguire is a long time Guild volunteer.



Visiting the Crypt: On the left are four members of the Cardinal Cooke family, Catherine (Kay) Leonard, Gregory Cooke, Mary Turek and Patricia Sica. In the center are the three winners of the Cardinal Cooke Respect for Life Essay Contest, Jasmine Rodrigo, Karolina DiStasi and Isaiah Salvador. On the right are Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, Teresa Cooke, and Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, Archdiocesan Superintendent of Schools.

## Cardinal Cooke Respect for Life Essay Contest First Place Winner



Isaiah Salvador, first prize winner of the Cardinal Cooke Respect for Life Essay contest, receives this award at St. Patrick's Cathedral from Bishop Dennis Sullivan, Vicar General, and Msgr. Joseph Giandurco, vice postulator of the Cause for Canonization of Cardinal Cooke.

By Isaiah Salvador

Graduate of St. Lucy's School, Bronx, NY  
Freshman at Xavier High School, New York, NY

We need to respect life. Society seems to be making the decisions on who should live and who should die. This power should only belong to God. Laws are being made everyday about death penalties, abortion, suicides and gun use. Respect for life is important and needs to be promoted by everyone. Teenagers can do many things to honor human life everyday.

One of things teenagers can do to promote respect for human

life in our society is to become more active in fighting causes. We should know what is happening in the society we live in. Teenagers are normally worried about what they are wearing, the latest video games, sports, and popularity. If they would pay as much attention to all the causes that respect life, it would make an impact on society. They could volunteer to hand out flyers during sporting events, or wear ribbons to acknowledge a cause against the death penalty or abortion. If we become more educated on the causes that are available and understand the causes, society would be different.

Another way teenagers can promote respect for life is by starting with themselves. If we respect ourselves as human beings we'll embrace life. We would want to honor each other in a meaningful way just as God has taught us. If we are unhappy about the life we are living, we shouldn't feel scared to reach out to a friend or family member to talk about it. We shouldn't keep it to ourselves; it's tough to reach out but it would be the right thing to do. As a friend you should also help a friend who is in need of help by listening and not judging them.

One last way teenagers can promote respect for life is to deepen their relationship with God. We should come closer with God by going to church and incorporate the message in our daily lives. God has given us the gift of life; we should use this gift wisely. He did not give it to us so that we may judge one another but respect and love one another.

Teenagers may be too young to understand the reasons why life is so difficult but we are not too young to volunteer for causes, listen to our friends problems, and praying. Respect for life is something all of humankind can do, we just have to acknowledge where life came from and who are we to take it away.

### Obituary – Anthony J. Peters



The Cardinal Cooke Guild is saddened to record the passing of its esteemed Advisory Board Member Anthony J. Peters, pictured here with his wife Irene. A good friend of Cardinal Cooke, he was long active in church and charitable causes such as The Cardinal Cooke Guild, Cardinal Cooke's Committee of the Laity, and the Marymount School in New York City.

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Continued from page 1

at Xavier High School, said, "It's an honor to win in the name of Cardinal Cooke and to continue his way of respect for life as a teenager."

Third-place winner Jasmine Rodrigo, a freshman at The Ursuline School, said that many of today's young people "underestimate their impact on society." She said "we should promote" respect for life.

Karolina DiStasi, the second-place winner and a freshman at Dominican Academy, told CNY that her participation in the essay contest expanded her knowledge of Cardinal Cooke. After learning about him, she said, "I feel connected to him. I share the same views, especially his view that life is the most important gift God has given us."

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### *Catholic Guardian and Home Bureau Honors the Cardinal Cooke Guild*



*Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan greets Pat Handal and her husband, Peter at the Catholic Guardian Society's Child of Peace award dinner where the Cardinal Cooke Guild was honored. Photo courtesy of Ryan Brenizer.*

The 2010 Humanitarian Award was presented to the Cardinal Cooke Guild at the 25th Annual Child of Peace award dinner of the Catholic Guardian Society and Home Bureau.

In introducing the event Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

said, "this evening's event gives us an excellent opportunity to acknowledge the indispensable work of the maternity services program of Catholic Guardian and Home Bureau. Since 1925 this organization has been providing mothers and mothers-to-be all of the resources they need to give their newborns the love, good health and nurturing care they need. Blessings that will stay with these mothers and their children for the rest of their lives."

It was only proper that the 2010 Humanitarian Award was presented to the Cardinal Cooke Guild, which is promoting the cause for canonization of Terence Cardinal Cooke who's entire priesthood focused on the preservation of life from conception.

*The Cardinal Cooke Guild wishes  
its members, volunteers and friends  
a very Merry Christmas and a  
Blessed New Year.*