



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2026

Media Contact: Laura Bowman

bowman@catholicextension.org

512.913.6624

Catholic Extension Society Announces the 2026-2027 Lumen Christi Nominees

46 bishops across the U.S. nominated extraordinarily dedicated faith leaders from their dioceses

CHICAGO — [Catholic Extension Society](https://www.catholicextension.org) today announces the 46 nominees for the 2026-2027 Lumen Christi Award. The [Lumen Christi Award](https://www.catholicextension.org/lumen-christi-award) is Catholic Extension Society's highest honor. Since 1978, it has been presented annually to people who radiate and reveal the light of Christ present in the communities where they serve.

Each year, bishops are asked to nominate one individual, group, or institution from their diocese for this award. Collectively, their stories of spiritual care, compassionate service, and compelling self-sacrifice for others showcase the mission of the Church in this country.

"The Lumen Christi Award is a real-time window into the incredible impact of people of faith in America," said Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension Society. "Born out of their love for God, the dedication of these nominees to the good of the Church and the good of their neighbors should make us all proud to be Catholic."

From these outstanding nominees, a group of finalists will be announced later this summer, followed by the selection of a national honoree in the fall. Award finalists will receive \$15,000 each, and the national honoree will be awarded \$100,000 to support their ministry.

The 2026-2027 Lumen Christi Awards nominees are as follows:

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana | Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana
Liz Loeffler | Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau, Alaska

Movidos por el Espíritu | Diocese of Arecibo, Puerto Rico
Marcel Karian | Armenian Catholic Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg
Barbara Comer | Diocese of Baker, Oregon
Carolyn Fernandez | Diocese of Beaumont, Texas
Jennifer Williams | Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi
Mother Mary Joseph Campbell | Diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota
Deacon Ken Pitlick | Diocese of Cheyenne, Wyoming
Father Guillermo Treviño | Diocese of Davenport, Iowa (*posthumous nomination*)
Coleen Stein | Diocese of Dodge City, Kansas
Deacon Bryan Bassa | Diocese of Duluth, Minnesota
Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas | Diocese of El Paso, Texas
Father Christopher Nahra | Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon
Greg Sauvageau | Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota
Andres Zamudio | Diocese of Fresno, California
Vicki Trujillo | Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico/Arizona
Manuel Obando and Maria Victoria Perez | Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan
Jean Ann Molczyk | Diocese of Grand Island, Nebraska
Lori Purpura | Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana
Patricia "Pat" Caillouet | Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana
Father Guy Wilson, S.T. | Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi
Home Heating Assistance | Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan
Bridgette Mouton | Diocese of Lafayette, Louisiana
Deacon Enrique Peñuñuri | Diocese of Laredo, Texas
Father David Powers | Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky
Connie Cobb | Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas
Plainview Pastoral Planning Committee | Diocese of Lubbock, Texas
Bishop Baraga Association | Diocese of Marquette, Michigan
St. Patrick Champion Community Outreach Center | Diocese of Memphis, Tennessee
Kim Derrick | Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee
Susan Montalvo-Gesser | Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky
Deacon Santiago Molina | Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida
Sister Patricia Pora, RSM | Diocese of Portland, Maine
Sapa Un Jesuit Academy | Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota
Father Joe Walsh | Diocese of Reno, Nevada
Michael Edwards | Diocese of Salt Lake City, Utah
Patricia Stokes-Santana | Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
Deacon Andy Orozco | Diocese of San Bernardino, California
Martin Noriega | Diocese of Savannah, Georgia
Marianne Jones | Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Missouri
Mother Marla Marie Lucas | Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn
Yvonne Huck | Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio

Deacon Fidel Carrillo | Diocese of Stockton, California

Michael Mosyjowski | Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of St. Josaphat in Parma, Ohio

Cristina Hernandez | Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio

Read more about each nominee's inspiring stories [here](#).

###

About Catholic Extension Society: Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension Society works in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of America. For more information visit www.catholicextension.org; follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/catholicextension or on X, formerly known as Twitter, at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).