



\$1 Million Humanitarian Opus Prize to be Awarded at Marquette University

Opus Prize ceremony slated for Nov. 7

Nov. 4, 2005

Milwaukee, Wis. – The \$1 million Opus Prize, an international humanitarian award given to people or organizations that are committed to changing deeply rooted problems such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy or disease, will be awarded at Marquette University's Alumni Memorial Union Ballroom on Nov. 7 at 6 p.m. Marquette University was chosen by the Opus Prize Foundation, which funds the Opus Prize, to administer this year's award.

Reach Education Action Programme (REAP), founded by Rev. Trevor Miranda, S.J., in Mumbai, India, is the second recipient of the annual prize. The million-dollar cash award will be used to further REAP's mission of "empowering the underprivileged through literacy for a new world of freedom, justice, dignity and self-respect."

Bringing Literacy to the Poor

Under Rev. Miranda's leadership, in just six years REAP has opened more than 450 literacy centers to bring books and teachers to the desperately poor. Wherever the children may be – on the streets, in the hills, on the highways or in tribal areas – REAP's mission is to reach them, and to set them on a more hopeful path in the mainstream of society. REAP has also launched an adult literacy program that focuses on giving women the education, training and skills they need to take on dignified jobs and escape from the streets.

Other Award Winners

Two other endeavors will also be recognized at the Nov. 7 award ceremony. Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos ("Our Little Brothers and Sisters"), a charitable organization serving orphaned and abandoned children in Latin America and the Caribbean founded by Rev. William Wasson, will receive a \$100,000 prize.

Dr. Juliana Akinyi Otieno will also receive \$100,000 for her service as a pediatrician in eastern Kenya, where two in every ten children still die before the age of five. Until recently, she was the only pediatrician serving a community of 300,000 people.

All three winners will be in attendance to accept their awards. Father Miranda will also receive an honorary degree from Marquette. The award recipients will also participate in a week-long series of events on campus dedicated to the cause of human rights around the world.

Media Contact & Interviews

Media are encouraged to attend the dinner on Nov. 7. All three winners will be in Milwaukee from Nov. 3 through Nov. 12 and are available for interviews. Please contact Anne Broeker at (414) 288-0286 or Brigid O'Brien Miller at (414) 288-7445 to set up interviews or for more information.

Event Information

What:

\$1 million Opus Prize Award Dinner

When:

Monday, Nov. 7
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Who:

Human rights leaders from across the country, Marquette faculty, staff and students, Opus Prize jurors and others will be in attendance as the \$1 million Opus Prize is conferred. Two additional prizes of \$100,000 each will also be conferred.

Where:

[Alumni Memorial Union](#), Ballroom
Marquette University
1442 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI
[Map and Driving Directions](#)