

Gibbons Medal Awardees

- 1949: Carlton J.H. Hayes
Professor, historian, publicist
- 1950: General Carlos Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs
- 1951: Fulton Oursler
Senior editor, *Reader's Digest*
- 1953: Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen,
S.T.B. 1920, J.C.B. 1920
Professor emeritus, theologian,
television personality
- 1954: J. Edgar Hoover
Director, FBI
- 1955: General Lawton Collins
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army
- 1956: John F. Kennedy
U.S. Senator
- 1956: Very Rev. Ignatius Smith
Dean, School of Philosophy
- 1957: Most Rev. Bryan J. McEntegart,
M.A. 1918
Bishop of Brooklyn
- 1958: Thomas Murray
Consultant, Atomic Energy
Commission
- 1959: General Alfred Gruenther
Past President, American Red Cross
- 1960: Karl F. Herzfeld
Professor emeritus, physicist
- 1961: Charles G. Fenwick
Director, Legal Affairs, OAS
- 1962: Luke Edward Hart
Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus
- 1963: John McCormack
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
- 1964: John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
- 1965: Sargent Shriver
Director, Peace Corps
- 1966: Earl Warren
Chief Justice of the U.S.
Supreme Court
- 1967: James J. Norris, B.A. 1933
Catholic Relief Services
- 1968: Danny Thomas
Entertainer
- 1969: Rev. Theodore Hesburgh,
S.T.L. 1944, S.T.D. 1945
Past President, Notre Dame
- 1970: Carroll Hochwalt
Former Chairman, Catholic University
Board of Trustees

Cardinal Honors

Since 1947, The Catholic University of America Alumni Association has honored those who have “rendered distinguished and meritorious service” to the University, the Roman Catholic Church, or the United States of America with its prestigious James Cardinal Gibbons Medal.

The medal was named in honor of the University's founder and first chancellor. For almost 70 years, it has celebrated groundbreaking scientists, entertainers, priests and religious, as well as politicians, an eventual United States president, and even a potential saint for their distinguished service. Below is a sampling of those honored with the Gibbons Medal. For more information, visit cuamagazine.cua.edu.

1953

The Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen

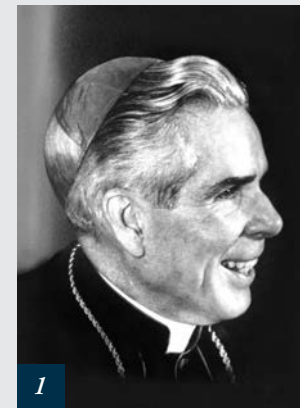
The Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, who had been named bishop of the Archdiocese of New York in June 1951, was the Emmy-winning host of his own NBC television show, *Life is Worth Living*, which reached an estimated 30 million viewers each week. Sheen had a long-standing relationship with Catholic University, both as a student and a professor. For 23 years, Sheen was a popular professor in the School of Theology and Religious Studies and the School of Philosophy.

Today, Archbishop Sheen's reputation continues to grow, as does the cause for his canonization. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the Congregation for the Causes of Saints had proclaimed him “Venerable Servant of God Fulton J. Sheen.” After a reported miracle attributed to Sheen was unanimously approved by the congregation in 2014, Sheen now awaits the next step in his possible canonization process: beatification. *Photo 1*

1956

The Honorable John F. Kennedy

Only five years before he would become the first Roman Catholic president of the United States, John F. Kennedy was honored with the Gibbons Medal for his work in the House of Representatives (1947-1953) and the U.S. Senate (1953-1960). Upon receiving his medal, Kennedy reflected on the honor it was to accept an award bearing the name of Cardinal Gibbons, saying “Few other churchmen have left such an extraordinary and enduring impression upon the American scene; and few have given so much value to the life of their church and their country.”



- 1971: Most Rev. James Walsh
Superior General, Maryknoll Fathers
- 1972: Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle
Archbishop of Washington, D.C.
- 1973: Helen Hayes
Actress
- 1974: Michael Mansfield
U.S. Senator
- 1975: John J. Sirica
Judge, U.S. District Court
- 1976: Cardinal Lawrence Shehan
Archbishop of Baltimore
- 1977: Benjamin T. Rome, M.Arch. 1934,
Alumnus benefactor,
Hyman Construction Company
- 1978: Clarence Walton, Ph.D. 1951
President, Catholic University
- 1979: Cardinal Terence Cooke, M.S. 1949
Archbishop of New York
- 1980: Cardinal William Baum
Sacred Congregation for
Catholic Education in Rome
- 1980: J. Peter Grace
Chief Executive Officer,
W.R. Grace Co.
- 1981: Monsignor John Tracy Ellis,
M.A. 1928, Ph.D. 1930
Professor, Church historian
- 1982: Raymond A. DuFour,
B.A. 1928, J.D. 1936
Alumnus benefactor,
President, DuFour Enterprises, Inc.
- 1984: Rev. Bruce Ritter
Founder, Covenant House
- 1985: Rev. Gilbert V. Hartke,
M.A. 1939
Chairman emeritus, Catholic
University Department of Drama
- 1985: Mildred Fay Jefferson, M.D.
Surgeon and pro-life leader
- 1986: Nancy Reagan
Former First Lady
- 1987: Most Rev. Phillip M. Hannan,
B.A. 1935, M.A. 1936, J.C.D. 1950
Archbishop of New Orleans
- 1988: Admiral James Watkins
Former Secretary of Energy
- 1988: Edward Bennett Williams
Attorney
- 1989: Most Rev. William D. Borders
Retired Archbishop of Baltimore
- 1990: Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Founding Chairwoman,
Special Olympics International

- 1991: Rev. William Byron
President, Catholic University
- 1992: George J. Quinn, B.C.E. 1950
Alumnus benefactor,
Chairman, Alton Engineering
- 1993: Edward J. Pryzbyla, B.A. 1925
Alumnus benefactor,
President, Edwards Enterprises
- 1994: Richard W. Galihier Sr., B.A. 1938
Trustee emeritus, alumnus benefactor,
attorney
- 1994: Hon. Antonin Scalia
Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court
- 1995: Robert Patrick Casey
Former Governor of Pennsylvania
- 1996: Cardinal James Hickey
Former Archbishop of Washington,
D.C.
- 1997: Brother Patrick Ellis, B.A. 1951
President, Catholic University
- 1997: Henry J. Hyde
U.S. Congressman from Illinois
- 1998: Lindy Boggs
U.S. Ambassador to The Holy See
- 1999: Kathryn J. DuFour
Judge, Maryland Circuit Courts,
Benefactor
- 2000: William Graham Sr., M.A. 1954
Former chairman, Catholic
University Department of Drama
- 2001: Cardinal Avery Dulles
Catholic University professor emeritus
- 2002: Aaron Neville
Grammy award-winning vocalist
- 2003: Sister Helen Prejean
Author, *Dead Man Walking*
- 2004: General Barry McCaffrey
National security consultant
- 2005: Darrell Green
NFL cornerback
- 2008: Kenneth Hackett
President, Catholic Relief Services
- 2009: Ronan Tynan
Paralympic athlete, vocalist
- 2010: Sister Alice Zachman
Human rights advocate
- 2012: Kevin Ryan, B.A. 1989
President and CEO, Covenant House
- 2013: Sister Mary Scullion
Co-founder of Project H.O.M.E.
- 2015: Tim Shriver, M.A. 1988
CEO, Special Olympics

To see a copy of Kennedy's Gibbons Medal speech, complete with his handwritten notes, visit cuamagazine.cua.edu. *Photo 2*

1973 Helen Hayes

A well-known American stage and film actress, Hayes starred in such films as *A Farewell to Arms*, *The White Sister*, and *What Every Woman Knows*. As the winner of two Oscars, one Emmy, three Tonys, and a Grammy, Hayes holds the distinct honor of being one of only 12 people to have ever won all four prestigious entertainment awards.

In addition to her accolades, Hayes also was a generous supporter of independent theaters, including the Riverside Shakespeare Company of New York City. Her proudest accomplishment, however, was her work with the Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital in West Haverstaw, N.Y., which served the needs of people with disabilities.

Known by some as "one of the greatest leading ladies of the 20th century," Hayes is now a member of the American Theater Hall of Fame. In her honor, the annual Helen Hayes Awards have recognized excellence in professional theater in the greater Washington, D.C., area since 1984.

A longtime friend of Rev. Gilbert Hartke, founder of the Catholic University Department of Drama, Hayes performed the final stage role of her career at Hartke Theatre in 1971, in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*. *Photo 3*

2003 Sister Helen Prejean, C.S.J.

Sister Prejean rose to recognition as a leading advocate for the abolition of the death penalty. After beginning her prison ministry in New Orleans in 1981, she began to correspond as a spiritual advisor for an inmate sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison. She documented her experiences in the book *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*.

Number one on the New York Times Best Seller list for 31 weeks, the book was later developed into a major motion picture starring Susan Sarandon as Sister Helen and Sean Penn as a death row inmate. Sister Helen's second book, *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, was published in December 2004.

The day she received her Gibbons Medal, Sister Prejean addressed more than 120 Catholic University students, faculty, and staff at Caldwell Hall Auditorium, telling them "to walk the path and, when you do, let it be on the side of the elderly, or maybe children, or maybe abused women. Listen to your heart and see what it's teaching you." *Photo 4*

2005 Darrell Green

Widely considered to be one of the greatest cornerbacks in NFL history, Green played for the Washington Redskins from 1983 to 2002. He is a four-time winner of the NFL's Fastest Man competition who helped bring the Redskins to victory in Super Bowls XXII and XXVI.

In 1988, Green founded the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation, a faith-based charitable organization which runs afterschool and summer programs focused on academics, friendships, and values for children ages 5 to 11. Supported by an assortment of local and national businesses, the foundation operates through after-school Youth Life Learning Centers in Washington, D.C., Richmond, Va., Nashville, Tenn., and Durham, N.C.

Prior to receiving his Gibbons Medal, Green told *CUA Magazine* that he was "honored and humbled that a highly respected and moral university like Catholic" would give him the award. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008. *Photo 5*

Placing Service above Self: An Interview with Gary Sinise

This year, the Alumni Association will honor Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor Gary Sinise with the University's James Cardinal Gibbons Medal on April 8.

Though Sinise is well-known for his roles in films such as *Forrest Gump* and *Apollo 13*, he also has been a committed advocate for America's service members for nearly 40 years. In 2011, he established the Gary Sinise Foundation to serve and honor military members, first responders, and their families. Sinise is the father of three, including Ella Sinise, who earned her bachelor's in elementary education from Catholic University in 2015.

Senior Writer Katie Bahr spoke with Sinise about his acting career, his charity work, and his proudest moments.

Q. Many readers will recognize you from your long and varied acting career, which began more than 30 years ago with the foundation of Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago. Are there any roles that you are particularly proud of?

"Wherever I was going with the handshake tours at the time, people would recognize me as Lt. Dan because they didn't know my real name."

A. Early on in my discovery of acting, I saw a production on stage: *Of Mice and Men*. I was just knocked out by it. After that, I read the book and John Steinbeck's other books and started doing more and more plays. After I founded Steppenwolf Theatre, we did the play and I got to play George. Ten years later, I was able to do the movie. That will always be a special one simply because it goes back to when I was first studying acting in high school and it followed me through.

And then Lieutenant Dan [from *Forrest Gump*] was a special role. Shortly after the movie opened I was introduced to the

Disabled Veterans Organization and that led to me working with our military wounded. The character's story is very powerful because he goes through a lot of anger and challenges because of his disability, but ultimately, he's standing up and moving on with his life. I tell that story when I talk with veterans today. Most of them have seen the movie and know the character. It seems to open doors.

Q. Tell me about the Lt. Dan Band.
A. Sept. 11 changed my life in many ways. I had already been involved with our wounded veterans somewhat, but the terrible attack on our country just opened up the floodgates and I started volunteering everywhere I could to support the men and women responding to the attacks. One of the obvious ways an entertainer can help is by traveling with the USO. So in 2003, I went to Iraq just to shake hands, and visit with the troops. I was there with Kid Rock, Lee Ann Womack, and other musicians

performing for the troops and I wanted to do that too. I had some musicians I played with for fun so I started offering to perform with them for the USO. We've been at it ever since.

At that time, wherever I was going with the handshake tours, many people didn't actually know my real name and would recognize me as Lieutenant Dan. So it was kind of an obvious band name to call it Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. I've never personally made money playing, but I pay the band members and now the band is a program of my foundation. We've played 350 concerts



all for this mission of honoring our defenders and raising their spirits.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish with the Gary Sinise Foundation?

A. I want it to be a reliable and trusted resource for the American people to support the men and women who serve our country. For a long time, I supported lots of different organizations, lending my services as a performer, or by showing up as a fundraiser or as a spokesperson.

Eventually, it just became clear that this was a big part of my life, something I wanted to use my time and resources on. Knowing that God has called me to support our defenders, I started my own organization.

Q. You have received many honors and accolades over your career, including the U.S. Presidential Citizens Medal. What in your life are you the most proud of?

A. My kids. I've been together with my wife for 40 years and been married 35, and we have three healthy, great kids and that's where it starts for me.

I've done a lot of work over the years and I've met some great folks, including many men and women who have served our country. I really do feel called to this work. It's been said before, but there's really a healing power in placing service above self. CUA