

Education Award: Rev. Msgr. Eugene (Geno) Sylva, S.T.D.



Rev. Msgr. Geno Sylva, S.T.D., a dedicated servant of the Church, was ordained in 1993 and currently serves as the Rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, New Jersey. In addition to his pastoral duties, he is the *Episcopal Vicar for Special Projects* for the Diocese of Paterson. Msgr. Geno is deeply involved in his community, sitting on the Board of the Paterson Prep Charter School as one of its founding members. He also serves as Chaplain for the Paterson Police and Fire Departments, the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, and the New York Division of the FBI.

A highly educated theologian, Msgr. Geno holds a B.A. in Psychology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied at the Seminary of the American College in Louvain, Belgium receiving a BA in Sacred Theology (STB) from the Catholic University of Louvain. Msgr. Geno then furthered his studies in Rome, earning both a Licentiate and Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Throughout his career, he has held numerous roles within the Diocese of Paterson, including teacher, coach, chaplain, and president of DePaul Catholic High School. Additionally, he is the founder of *Young Prophets Teen Outreach* in Paterson.

Msgr. Geno was also the founding director of *St. Paul Inside the Walls*, the Catholic Center for Evangelization. From 2012 to 2018, he served as the *Episcopal Vicar for Evangelization* in the Diocese of Paterson, and later traveled to Rome to serve as the English Language Official for the *Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization* at the Vatican. In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as a member of the *Dicastery for Evangelization* at the Holy See, reflecting his commitment to the mission of evangelization.

A steadfast advocate for Assumption College for Sisters, Msgr. Geno believes passionately in its mission of educating and forming religious sisters, viewing it as integral to the success of the New Evangelization. Through his leadership and service, he continues to inspire those around him to embrace and carry out the Church's mission with dedication and zeal.

Assumption College for Sisters is pleased to honor Msgr. Geno with the *Education Award*.

Family Life Award: Steven & Kristy Goulart



Steven and Kristy Goulart have been dedicated to supporting their community for many years through their involvement with the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, the Tri-County Scholarship Fund, and Assumption College for Sisters (ACS).

Steve has made significant contributions as a former trustee of the Tri-County Scholarship Fund, where he was honored with the prestigious Hall of Fame Award at its 40th Annual Awards Dinner in 2021. He also serves as Vice-Chair and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees at the Augustine Institute. Kristy has been an active member of the ACS Board of Trustees since 2017 and serves on

the Facilities Committee. Kristy was an original member of the ACS *Sister to Sister Program* in Mendham, NJ, which supported the international Sister students at ACS.

In addition to their work with ACS, the Goularts have been recognized for their philanthropic efforts by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson, where they were honored at the 2014 *Caritas Gala*, and by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for children and youth in Morris and Sussex Counties. A former foster parent, Kristy and Steve's commitment to supporting vulnerable children is personal—they have also welcomed a grandchild into their family through adoption from foster care.

The Goularts are passionate about ACS's mission to form Catholic servant leaders who can transform lives through education and community. They are committed to supporting the education of these international women religious, recognizing the importance of their formation in order to effect change in today's world.

Beyond their work with ACS, Steve and Kristy have made significant contributions to improving educational opportunities for underserved youth. They established the *Goulart Promise Scholarship* at the University of the Pacific to support students who have been in foster care or who lack a strong family support system. Additionally, they created the *Kristy Goulart Book Buddies Endowment* to help Benerd College students run literacy programs for families in Stockton, California.

Originally from California, Steven and Kristy were married in 1980 and lived in Mendham, NJ, for over 30 years. They now reside in North Palm Beach, Florida. They are proud parents of four daughters, three of whom are married, and grandparents to nine beautiful grandchildren.

Assumption College for Sisters is delighted to honor Steve and Kristy Goulart with the *Family Life Award*.

Spirit of the Heart Award: Rod Donnelly



Rod Donnelly is the Founder and CEO of Donnelly Industries, based in Wayne, NJ. Established in 1977, the company is now celebrating nearly 48 years of success and looks forward to its milestone 50th anniversary in January 2027.

A longtime resident of Wayne, NJ, Rod and his wife, Alice, raised three sons, all of whom are now married with children, bringing joy to the family with eight grandchildren. Both Rod and Alice are committed supporters of Catholic education, having attended Catholic schools throughout their lives. Their children followed this tradition, with all three graduating from Catholic colleges.

The Donnelly family has deep ties to DePaul Catholic High School in Wayne, where Rod and Alice, along with their children, completed their education. Today, some of their grandchildren are continuing the legacy by attending a Catholic elementary school in Pompton Plains, NJ.

For over three decades, Rod and Alice have been ardent supporters of Catholic education. They have provided tuition assistance for underprivileged students, scholarships for high-achieving students, and much-needed funding for facilities and maintenance at various schools within the Diocese of Paterson. Alice served for twelve years as Treasurer of the Parents' Council at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Wayne, while Rod has dedicated over 20 years of service on the Board of Trustees and Buildings Committee at DePaul Catholic High School. In recognition of their unwavering commitment, the Donnellys were honored as "Apostles of Charity" for their decades of support to the school.

In addition to their contributions to education, the Donnelly family has been deeply involved in supporting various charitable causes. Their philanthropic focus includes Catholic education, cancer research, children's health research, and emergency services within their community. Donnelly Industries was proudly recognized as the featured honoree at the Eva's Village Vision of Hope Gala for their enduring financial support and commitment to service.

One notable example of their impact is the renovation of a building at Assumption College for Sisters in 2015. Donnelly Industries played a key role in transforming a large house on the Morris Catholic High School campus from a convent into a college building. This project exemplifies the company's dedication to Catholic education and its willingness to provide expertise and resources to ensure the success of vital educational initiatives. ACS is deeply grateful to Donnelly Industries for giving of their time and resources in order to create a new "home" for the College.

The Donnelly's life mission has been to give back and inspire others to do the same, particularly in the areas of Catholic education and community service. Their legacy of generosity and commitment to making a positive difference continues to leave a lasting mark on their community and on Assumption College for Sisters.

ACS is pleased to award Rod Donnelly together with Chris Powers the *Spirit of the Heart* Award!

Spirit of the Heart Award: Christopher Powers



Christopher Powers is the president of Donnelly Construction, based in Wayne, NJ. His journey with the company began in 1979 while he was still a student at DePaul Catholic High School, where he started working part-time with Rod Donnelly. His dedication and hard work led to a full-time position in 1985 after graduating from Seton Hall University, and since then, he has played a pivotal role in the company's growth and success.

Chris met his wife, Patricia, at DePaul in 1980, and they married in 1989. The couple raised three children—Morgan, Christopher, and Jack—and have made Denville their home since 1989. Chris has been deeply involved in his community, coaching football, baseball, and basketball for local youth teams, as well as the Girls CYO at St. Mary Parish, Denville. His contributions to the *Denville Blue Angels* football program, where he served on the Board of Directors for six years and helped establish a fundraising golf outing, reflect his commitment to giving back to the community.

Chris' connection to Morris Catholic High School and Assumption College for Sisters is rooted in his family's involvement and his own leadership. As the father of Morris Catholic students, he became an active participant in the school's Board of Trustees and contributed to the campus' development. As a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which is chaired by Kevin Hays, Director of Special Projects, Chris helped oversee improvements, including the recent transformation of the *Student Commons* area. However, his proudest achievement was leading the initiative to convert the empty convent at Morris Catholic into Assumption College for Sisters, bringing Sisters back to the property and revitalizing an important part of the campus' history. ACS is forever grateful to Chris for the foresight and hard work that went into converting the empty convent.

In recognition of his legacy of service, leadership, and community, Assumption College for Sisters is proud to honor Chris Powers together with Rod Donnelly the *Spirit of the Heart Award*.