

2013 Christian Life Award

By Tom Shumate '77

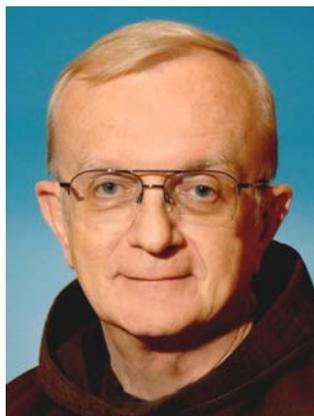
Fr. Dan Kroger '64 is the 2013 recipient of the Christian Life Award from the Franciscan Alumni Association.

Dan possesses many admirable qualities, including love for the poor, a servant heart, a brilliant intellect and a calm, generous and caring approach. Over his many years of service he has worked as a teacher at Roger Bacon High School, a missionary in the Philippines, a professor at Our Lady of Angels seminary, theology department chairman at De La Salle University, and is currently the chief executive officer and publisher of Franciscan Media (formerly St. Anthony Messenger Press).

Dan received a BA in Philosophy from Duns Scotus College, a Master of Divinity from St. Leonards, a master in theology from the University of Dayton, and a PhD in Christian Ethics from the University of Notre Dame.

As a high school teacher, Dan was very much loved by the students and had a great influence in the lives of many youths. Deacon John Gerke, a Roger Bacon grad and former Duns Scotus seminarian, describes Dan as the father that he never had.

After faithfully serving at Roger Bacon High School, Dan was approved to serve as a missionary in the Philippines, which he did from 1979 to 1986. During that time he



worked with the poor in sometimes dangerous situations, both from natural threats such as typhoons as well as man-made threats. Years later someone once asked him if his job at Franciscan Media was stressful, to which he replied, "This is nothing compared to having a gun pointed at your head."

In a pastoral role in the barrios, Dan's heart was with the people. He approached them on their level and took it upon himself to become fluent in three Filipino languages: Tagalog, Cebuano, and Waray-Waray.

He lived with the poor in their primitive environment, void of many modern conveniences, including electricity. He was also subject to squalls as he traveled to work on various islands.

Dan sometimes talks of the injustices that occurred to the people under the Marcos regime. As a skilled ham radio operator, he was able to work with the people to acquire and report important infor-

mation, especially when the authorities were not truthful in their communications.

Dan left the Filipino missions in 1987 to earn his doctorate in Christian Ethics from the University of Notre Dame. His dissertation, which later became a published book, focused on the "Just War Theory" from the Filipino perspective.

After his doctorate work Dan returned to the Philippines in 1992 and took on the role as a seminary professor. Dan's influence in this role, and later as a professor and department head at De La Salle University in Manila, has had broad influence on many students and religious people throughout Asia.

Fr. Dan Kroger's devotion, virtue, selfless service and lasting impact reflect great credit on himself and the Franciscan Order. The Alumni Association is pleased to be able to honor him with the 2013 Christian Life Award!

