

2016 Humanitarian Awards: Gino Correa and Gilbert Schneider

There were several outstanding nominees for the Franciscan Alumni Association's annual awards. The Board had difficulty narrowing the list to fewer than three individuals, and so elected to present two Humanitarian awards and one Christian Life award.

Rick Kasper ('70) presented the Humanitarian Award to **Fr. Gino Correa**. He began by telling a story about the first time he met Gino at St. Fran-

Gino's sensitivity began early in Gino's life, growing up with hearing & speech disabled parents. After Gino's ordination in 1976 at St. Leonard's, it was very moving that he said his First Mass both verbally and in sign language.

Fr. Gino was first assigned to pastoral work at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Clovis, NM with an outlying mission near the Texas border. His

developed OLG's Postulancy Program. He did this for 4 years and involved the Postulants in ministry experience in Mexico. He was then asked to serve on the team of the first interprovincial, post-novitiate program in Chicago for 4 years. Fr. Gino served for several years on the Provincial Council and was ultimately elected OLG's Minister Provincial. During his time as provincial, Fr. Gino negotiated an exchange program in which Filipino Franciscan priests came to minister to Filipino teachers, nurses, and medical professionals who responded to US Federal Government requests to work on the Native American Reservations. During his 6 visits to the Franciscan Province in the Philippines, Fr. Gino formed relationships with families that live in the Payatas area of Manila. Payatas is the landfill area of Manila where the poorest of the poor live. Fr. Gino has stayed committed to a few families in the Payatas helping them build simple homes. Currently he is trying to assist them in starting poultry and pig farms to improve their situation and provide a source of steady income.

Last year Fr. Gino began another chapter in his Franciscan ministry by joining the Campus Ministry Team at the University of San Diego. Fr. Gino challenges both faculty and students to use their talents to serve their fellow human beings, especially the poor. He is also very grateful that his university income and stipends from helping at outly-



cis Seminary... something about a funny prank orchestrated by Gino. Rick remarked that Gino's prank was not what inspired him to nominate Gino for this award, rather it was Gino's selfless, caring nature, as evidenced by his reaching out and befriending the most difficult kids at Sarah Fisher-St. Vincent de Paul Home for Children during his years at Duns Scotus College. The seeds of

next assignment was pastor of the Pueblo Indian Parish in Jemez Springs, NM. He was much loved and appreciated by his parishioners.

Even though Fr. Gino felt a strong calling to pastoral ministry, he accepted his next assignment to serve in Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG) Province's formation and administration work for the next 17 years. He founded and

ing parishes on Sundays allow him to send some money each month to support the work in the Payatas. Fr. Gino served this past year as Visitor for the Philippine Province of San Pedro Bautista.

As Rick presented the Humanitarian Award to Fr. Gino, he thanked him for modelling St. Francis and Jesus so concretely and generously in our time by serving the people of God's Kingdom in such diverse and beautiful ways.

The Humanitarian Award was also presented to **Fr. Gilbert Schneider**, OFM, in recognition of his many years of pastoral work and outstanding leadership.

Within the Diocese of Gallup, he has served at Laguna, Zuni and St. Michael's. He has also served at Pena Blanca in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. He was elected as Minister Provincial of Our Lady of Guadalupe Province, after which he returned to the Diocese of Gallup, where he serves as beloved

pastor at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Fort Defiance, AZ, as well as its missions at Sawmill and Navajo.

In the late 60's Fr. Gilbert, along with **Fr Denet Jung**, OFM, were instrumental in bringing the Search for Christian Maturity program to the Diocese of Gallup. This remarkable, inspirational program has helped over 10,000 young people in the Diocese have a special encounter with Christ. In addition to his pastoral ministry work over the years, he has often served as Spiritual Director on weekends.

Fr. Gilbert has a special way of communication with young people and with the Native Americans whom he serves. His sense of humor and humility go a long way in helping to bring people to a deeper relationship with Our Lord and His Church. He is always willing to stop what he is doing to help someone in need.

Fr. Gilbert Schneider recently celebrated 60 years as priest. The Franciscan Alumni Association presented a Humanitarian Award to him as a small token of appreciation for his dedication, talent, and many great contributions over the years.

