

Celebrating the...
2009 Hope and Opportunity Award

Orlando, Florida - April 10, 2010



Marilyn and Joseph Sciortino of Daytona Beach have been honored with the **2009 Hope and Opportunity Award** by Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas G. Wenski at Catholic Charities' 5th Annual Starlight Ball, Saturday, April 10, 2010, the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. Joseph Sciortino passed away on February 1, 2009.

This award is the highest honor bestowed by Catholic Charities of Central Florida and is presented annually. It honors the best instincts of community leaders, who generously help the poor and powerless and attract others to do similarly, according to Pamela Gilardi of Lake Mary, Chair of the Catholic Charities Board.

"Joe and Marilyn were married for 45 years, raised their family and quietly helped increase our community's capacity for caring. We honor them as bright signs of hope and opportunity in this time of great need and human suffering," says Arne Nelson, President & CEO of Catholic Charities.

Members of Epiphany Parish in Port Orange, Joe is a native of Louisiana and Marilyn of Arkansas. They retired and moved to Central Florida in 1999 from South Florida. Joe served as President/CEO of Sysco Foods of South Florida for 22 years. "They have a special place in their hearts for the hungry and homeless," notes Bishop Wenski, "and their hard work and support for Epiphany Parish's Help Center have allowed its ministry to grow and help many more of the poor in the South Daytona area."

"Their contributions to Catholic Charities of Central Florida and many others social service agencies in several states over the years represent an amazing commitment of time, talent and treasure in service to the vulnerable and needy regardless of their race, religion and social status," adds Arne Nelson.

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of Christ."

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Marilyn Sciortino and Family, 2010

“Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of Christ,” says Marilyn Sciortino, who believes that all individuals, couples and families are capable of doing much good for others to help them in their time of need. “When the despair of our neighbors in distress is replaced by hope because someone cares and helps, we experience the joy of Christ’s grace that touches them and those of us, who make ourselves available to them,” adds Mrs. Sciortino. “We look back at our lives and how blessed Joe and I were and realize that we cannot outgive the Lord.”

“Joe Sciortino was a member of our Corporate Board,” says Arne Nelson, “and is deeply missed by our board members, staff and our 130,000 neighbors that we help each year. 70% of Catholic Charities’ assistance each year helps our

non-Catholic sisters and brothers. We serve as a ministerial extension of the parishes of our diocese in their public and organized outreach to the poor. Joe and Marilyn worked tirelessly at their parish (Epiphany, Port Orange) with those in need and also with their collaborators here at Catholic Charities. Our communities and church have been doubly blessed!”

Marilyn and Joe are the proud parents of two children, Marybeth Bluhm of Oviedo and John Sciortino of Washington, DC. Marilyn spends as much time with their six grand children as possible.

“We cannot outgive the Lord.”



BISHOP THOMAS WENSKI
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

PAMELA GILARDI
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARNE NELSON
PRESIDENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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April 10, 2010

Mrs. Marilyn Sciortino
Daytona Beach, Florida

Dear Marilyn:

I bring you the good wishes of our Corporate Board of Catholic Charities of Central Florida. You and Joe have been selected as the joint recipients of our 2009 Hope and Opportunity Award. Congratulations! Catholic Charities is honored indeed to share this day with you at this our Fifth Annual Celebration of the Starlight Ball.

Nominations for this year’s award were unanimous and confirmed what we in our hearts have sensed all along - that you and Joe best represent the values embodied in the Hope and Opportunity Award. It is clear to all of us that your love for our Savior and each other and your authentic desire to help those in need was a shared way of life over your forty-five years together as beloved spouses and parents.

Marilyn, we rejoice in this celebration of your lives in service to your family and to the countless others in our communities for whom you are signs of hope and opportunity in the midst of great need and indifference to human suffering.

The Hope and Opportunity Award honors the best instincts of community leaders, who generously help the poor and powerless and attract others to do similarly. Each year, the donations of countless community, diocesan, and agency leaders and volunteers make it possible for Catholic Charities of Central Florida and its many community partners to make a difference for the better both in word and example throughout our region. Within the context of this process of identifying the many faces of need and providing a broad range of hope-filled responses, wonderfully blessed and generous people stand out across our community. They stand out because they live their faith through personal commitment to the poorest and weakest among us and do not seek notoriety for their selfless acts of charity. These are the values that you and Joe represent so well and for which we remain deeply grateful. You are an inspiration to us all.

This occasion helps remind us that good people like you and Joe see beyond human need and encounter the person of Jesus Christ in each of us. Thank you for who you are and all the good that you and Joe have done for our neighbors. May our beloved brother Joe rest peace and may God continue to bless you and your loving family.

With gratitude and admiration,

Pamela Gilardi
Chair
Corporate Board of Catholic Charities, Inc.



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