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At Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on January 16, 2006

Ten to be Honored for “Keeping Alive the Dream” of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ten individuals from the Archdiocese of Detroit will receive *Keep the Dream Alive* awards at a Mass to be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 16, at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward, Detroit. Msgr. John Zenz, moderator of the curia and episcopal vicar of the Northwest Region of the Archdiocese of Detroit, will be the celebrant. A reception will follow.

Receiving awards for keeping the dream of Dr. King alive in the Archdiocese of Detroit will be:

Glennie Barber of SS. Andrew and Benedict Parish, Detroit (Southwest Vicariate), who has spent her life in service to the parish and civic community. The vicariate has witnessed her leadership in bringing together various racial, cultural and language groups to build the MOSES organization. Her gift as a moral voice in the community organizing effort has put a face on the Catholic Church’s concern for the everyday struggle of the urban community.

Mary Chisholm of St. Mary Queen of Creation Parish, New Baltimore (Blue Water Vicariate), who has served as a champion of outreach to the poor, hungry and bereaved in the Blue Water Vicariate, located in the Port Huron-Belle River area. In her building of bridges between various cultures, ethnic groups and races, she has served in leadership positions in Christian service, on the parish council, and in the vicariate.

Emily A. Diaz-Torres of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Ray (North Macomb Vicariate), who is the chairperson and a founding member of the North Macomb Vicariate’s Cultural Diversity Team. Her particular ministry of empowering others is evidenced in her coordinating translation services for people in schools, hospitals and emergency situations. She assists the Church’s justice mandate by extending her gifts to the archdiocese’s program of “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us.”

Lily R. Gblewwo of St. Alfred Parish, Taylor (Downriver Vicariate), who has volunteered daily for over 20 years for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and been involved in a variety of activities, including conducting evaluations, doing secretarial work, and acting as a meeting representative. In addition, she has served in numerous ways at the parish and done liturgical and catechetical work.

Jacqueline Grohman of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington (Farmington/Southfield Vicariate), who despite caring for an invalid child for 42 years, found time to reach out to the homeless of the Cass Corridor with warm clothes and donations. Closer to home, she volunteers at the South Oakland Shelter for the homeless, while continuing her longstanding support of a pregnancy center and membership in the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Michael McCulloch of the National Shrine of the Little Flower Parish, Royal Oak (Catholic Social Services of Oakland County), who brings his 22 years of experience as a lawyer to Catholic Social Services of Oakland County’s Hispanic Outreach Program. He helps Hispanic immigrants with cases involving issues such as tenant/landlord disputes, contracts, and domestic violence.

Janet L. Moss of Sacred Heart Parish, Detroit (Renaissance Vicariate), who provides leadership in building bridges to cross racial and social divides. She is the president of the Detroit Pastoral Alliance Board of Directors and co-leader of their Anti-Racism Team. In addition, she extends her leadership gifts into the civic community as the liaison between parishes and the Detroit Chapter of the NAACP Community Affairs Committee.

Gary Parent of St. Anastasia Parish, Troy (Birmingham/Bloomfield/Troy Vicariate), who has distinguished himself by his dedication to witnessing the Church’s concern for those undergoing economic challenges and spiritual trials. His bridge building ministries include the Focus: HOPE Walk, the St. Aloysius Warming Center for the homeless, and family relief efforts for victims of Katrina. In addition, he coordinates the youth of the parish for nursing home visits.

Richard D. Peplinski of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Monroe (Monroe Vicariate), who has served for 16 years as the president of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference in his parish, assisting those in need of food, heating bills, clothes and medical relief. His voice of commitment to justice is heard in his numerous parish leadership positions.

Javier Zarazua of St. Michael Parish, Pontiac (Pontiac Area Vicariate), who works tirelessly to bring the Hispanic/Latino and Anglo communities together in three parishes that are clustering in Pontiac. He develops cross-cultural programs that recognize the common values of family, church and community.

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***Media Representatives are invited to cover this event. Call Fr. Clarence Williams at 313-237-4695 for details.