

THE BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

THE JOY OF TRADITION AWARD

JUNE 28, 2020



THE JOY OF TRADITION AWARD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT THE BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL TO RECOGNIZE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY THEIR LIFE AND PARTICIPATION IN OUR PARISH THE JOY THAT OUR CATHOLIC FAITH BRINGS. IT IS A TESTIMONY TO THEIR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR FAITH, AND FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM IN PROMOTING THE SACRED TRADITIONS IN LITURGY, MINISTRY, AND SERVICE TO OUR PARISH.

AMY LONG

Amy Long was baptized and married at the Basilica and has been an active member of our parish since 2010, with her husband Robert and her sons, Cooper and Cade. Amy is the ideal example of one who serves with a “happy heart” and sets a great model for all of us to learn from. She always serves joyfully with a smile and is an excellent trainer, mentor, worker, and partner in any position she serves in. Amy serves the Basilica as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Sacristan, and she accepted the call to coordinate all EMHC and Sacristans including recruitment, training and scheduling. She is eager to learn and improve our practices to support a reverent offering of the Mass. Some challenges of coordinating our EMHC and sacristans Amy has handled include: Masses in Varallo Parish Hall during two renovations; the institution of an altar rail; providing for those with gluten allergies; adjusting for a varying number of clergy present at each Mass; and instituting health and safety procedures given by the Bishop. Amy always cheerfully adapts and helps her teams conform to our changing needs. Recently when we started offering the Extraordinary Form of the Mass every Sunday, she was happy to learn the requirements to train Sacristans on how to set the altar for this traditional form of the Mass. Amy exemplifies the Joy of Tradition that we hope to live at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, and for this reason she has been chosen one of the 2020 recipients of this award.



WILY VELASQUEZ

Wily Velasquez is originally from San Marcos, San Miguel, Ixtaguacan from the village of El Triunfo, Guatemala. He and his wife Maritza have lived in Chattanooga for 14 years, with their two children Anyuly and Daniel. He coordinates several Hispanic ministries in our parish: the St. Andrew School of Evangelization, the lectors, and the ushers. Wily is also an active member of our Knights of Columbus Council 610. Every First Friday, he prepares the altar for the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and stays all night to worship and care for the areas of the church. When help is needed for cleaning, he is always the first one to come help. He opens our doors to visitors with a smile and is often the last volunteer to lock up the church at the close of our special events. Wily has been chosen this year to receive the Joy of Tradition Award for being an example of joyful spirituality and steadfast commitment for our Saints Peter and Paul community.



In Christ Jesus,

Rev. J. David Carter, JCL, Pastor and Rector