

Putting His Faith Into Action



Parishioner Jon Trauth will receive the *Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang* award in a presentation after Mass on Sunday, June 5. The award is given to a person who exhibits Christ-like solidarity with the poor, care for the earth, and application of Catholic Social Teaching in cross cultural service or teaching ministry.

The award remembers the Sister of Notre Dame who was murdered in Anapu in the Amazon basin in Brazil in February, 2005. She was outspoken in her efforts on behalf of the poor and the environment. In 2010, in honor of the 5 year remembrance of her murder, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the Archdiocesan Offices of Mission, Catholic Social Action, Evangelization and Catechesis and Youth and Young Adult Ministry initiated the *Spirit of Sister Dorothy Stang Awards*.

Jon's life and ministry made him a natural fit for the award. His focus has always been on those who are often marginalized. He lived in Nicaragua for a semester in 2000. His master's thesis in theology at Xavier was on the issue of debt and its impact on the global society. An independently licensed clinical social worker, he now works with troubled youth and families. For several years, he's been involved with St. Leo parishioners who are refugees from genocide in Burundi. He began working with them during a summer internship and this led him to explore horticultural therapy, a way of facilitating healing for people who have experienced trauma through the process of growing things. Getting involved in gardening with the refugees was a natural for Jon who had always had his own garden and has been environmentally conscious.

Jon's deep faith, his choice of career, his natural interest in and care for those often at the margins, and his openness and presence with people from different cultures reflect his internalization of Catholic social teaching. This even reaches into his doctoral dissertation in counseling at UC which focuses on the Burundian refugee ministry at St. Leo's.

Jon has developed a deep relationship with the refugees. As one of them put it (via a translator) "*He is a good man. He works hard with us and knows about gardening. Working with him is good. We call him 'piripiri' (spice) because he often brings peppers. He is a nice man.*"

-Angela Anno