

## INTRODUCTION

FATHER J. MICHAEL JONCAS

2016 McMANUS AWARD RECIPIENT

It is indeed my honor and delight to introduce tonight's recipient of the 2016 Frederick R. McManus Award. This is always a difficult task when you will be introducing a man who needs no introduction. For Michael Joncas is well known to many of us as a colleague, mentor, and friend.

He is known to us as a brilliant scholar who holds a BA in English from St. Thomas College, a Masters in Liturgy from the University of Notre Dame (*summa cum laude*), a licentiate and doctorate from San Anselmo in Rome (*summa cum laude*). He has served as a professor at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN) where the students honored him with the Distinguished Educator Award. He currently serves as an artist in residence there and as a Fellow of their Center for Catholic Studies. He has also taught popular summer course at St. John's School of Theology (Collegeville) and at Notre Dame (where I was privileged to be his student). He has taught undergrads, graduate students, seminarians, clergy, and lay leaders about Liturgy –its rich traditions, its historic texts, its practices, and its musical heritage.

He is known to us as the author of the books which line our shelves and as the writer of countless articles in the world's most distinguished journals.

He is known to us --and to the world-- as a prolific composer who has penned more than twenty collections of liturgical music, and whose compositions are used by countless parishes in the United States and abroad. His rich and accessible music has emblazoned Sacred Scripture into the hearts and minds of believers, young and old alike.

He is known to us as devoted priest who has served the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis since 1980 and whose deep love of Scripture inspires his passionate preaching, his graceful presiding, and his memorable music.

He is known to us as a kind and generous man who willingly comes to our dioceses to teach, to offer a keynote at a conference, to give a concert for charity, or to chat about music with a local committee or on a popular blog.

And now, because of all that he has so humbly accomplished, and because of decades of dedication to liturgical formation, he will always be known to us as the recipient of the Federation's highest honor, the Frederick R. McManus Award! Ladies and gentlemen, Fr. Jan Michael Joncas.