

THE 2016 ALLELUIA AWARD  
WAS PRESENTED TO DR. JUDY BULLOCK.  
WHAT FOLLOWS IS HER ACCEPTANCE SPEECH.

I am so honored to receive this award tonight, most especially since it comes from you, my colleagues, those with whom I have walked side by side in these years of liturgical ministry. I want to emphasize that I do not accept this honor as an individual but as one of you. We have worked together on many projects with zeal and enthusiasm, some with a sense of duty and determination. Although we have certainly shared some blood, sweat and tears, what I remember most is our shared joy.

In addition to these wonderful memories, I also had one of my most embarrassing moments at one of our banquets: Seattle, 1997. Some of you may remember it. As is the custom at our banquets, at the end of the evening, an invitation is given by the members of the Region to host next year's meeting. These invitations have been quite creative and always enjoyable. Nonetheless, for the members of the region providing the invitation, it can be stressful--- singing, dancing, and even providing some comic relief---performing in a manner, for many of us ---out of our comfort zone.

On this particular night in Seattle, the invitation was to come from my region, Region V. The next year's meeting was to be in Memphis at the Peabody Hotel. Our invitation would include giving out samples of barbecue and Mardi Gras beads, an Elvis impersonator, and the famous procession of the Peabody ducks that make their way each day from their rooftop home, down the elevator to the first floor lobby where they would swim in the fountain. We all had our parts to play in this invitation. Mine was to be a duck!

The McManus award that year was presented to John Page, for his courageous and magnificent work at ICEL. His response was filled with a great deal of emotion. We were all quite moved by it. At the conclusion of his remarks, with barely a pause, the signal was given to start the invitation. Fr. Bruce Cinquegrani in duck master regalia blew his whistle for the procession of the ducks. The music began and Deacon Ron Guidry and I, with large stuffed ducks on our heads, waddled in. Yes, I said waddled, right down the side aisle, onto the stage in front of the bishops of the archdiocese and members of the BCDW. You get the picture. The rest of the night is a blur, but for years my duck performance provided snickers from my colleagues and regular reminders of my big night.

On a more serious note:

I have never been as aware as I am tonight that we stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us. It is in our history, from the liturgy in the upper room, the gatherings around the tables in the homes of the early Christians, the altars and ambos in small village churches and magnificent cathedrals throughout the world that we draw our inspiration---not from where we are, but from what we celebrate and with whom we celebrate it.

In these very gatherings we have been supported, inspired, enlightened, and challenged by the stellar individuals that have graced our presence and provided our leadership. Although I have had many individuals that have influenced my work over the years, none has affected my ministry more than Mark Searle, my professor for Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame. For a lay woman who grew up in the pre-Vatican II Church, his course was life-changing. He began class with Revelation, the basis for studying the ritual dimensions of liturgy, as a way of paying attention to God's self-disclosure. From there he took us through a magnificent journey of discovery, presenting one scholar after the other, revealing the gifts of the ritual of the Church.

Searle emphasized the importance of the communal participation in the Liturgy as a "rehearsal of Christian attitudes." He introduced us to Romano Guardini's work and the importance of taking into account the Liturgical Act as a whole, bringing what is inside to come in line with what is outside. As Searle so gently reminded us, the real test of ritual is whether what we do on Sunday affects what we do the rest of the week.

It has been the communal "We, the Body of Christ celebrating with Christ our Head" and the importance of ritual as a rehearsal of who we are and how we are to live our lives that has over and over come to the forefront in my ministry.

Although we have sometimes been accused of having too much concern for right practice and rubrics, we know that what really guides us is not correct practice, but our belief that if we can help the people in our dioceses to celebrate Liturgy fully, actively, and perhaps, most especially, consciously, they will come to experience the transformative power of the Liturgy and have a deeper relationship with Christ.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to work with you doing what I love.

JHB/October 6, 2016