

## **FATHER THOMAS RANZINO**

### **UPON ACCEPTING THE 2018 ALLELUIA AWARD**

**I have been at work in the liturgy for 45 years. I love being a part of this great Federation and am so grateful for its existence. I first came to the Federation because I was from a small, rural diocese in the south, with very few diocesan resources with which to do this work. The Federation provided me with opportunities to learn and to collaborate with colleagues with whom I could work to support the principles of the CSL. Over these many years, I have been blessed by the liturgical acumen, encouragement and friendship of my own wonderful Region 5; I have been truly inspired by the creative work of the many liturgical leaders in Region 7; I learned how to acknowledge the incredible diversity and inclusion of people through the advocacy demonstrated by Region 11 and 12; I marveled at the tenacity of Regions 10 and 13 all the Southwest Liturgical Conference folks.**

**I have made great liturgical friends within the Federation: Fr. Robert Kennedy, Sr. Eleanor Bernstein , Mrs. Judy Bullock, Fr. Ken Hedrick—I have wanted to be like them. I have looked to you all as models of how to promote the liturgy and learned how to find my own voice. If the Federation did not exist, I and many others here would not have had the incentive to stay with this work.**

**The genius of the Bishops who called the Federation into being 49 years ago was their in -spirited conviction that the implementation of the Constitution was transcendent work which would profoundly change the Church we love. This work of the renewal and reform of the liturgy is going to happen not on a straight line, but with ups and downs, always being inspired by the Holy Spirit. This piece of the work we have received to hold for this time is what we will hand on to those who follow after.**

**Keeping our eye on our role as liturgists for the sake of the Church focuses our energies and evaluates our results. Thinking together and acting collaboratively with our Bishops will always produce our best work.**

**In many ways, I have found my place among you through Board work. Simple old Board work, for which many have an aversion; but it is the kind of work I have truly loved doing.**

**I accept this acknowledgment on behalf of all the board members with whom I have served. They are some of the best people I have ever met; some of the smartest assets the Federation possesses; and to a person, deeply unselfish for a greater cause--- a love of the liturgy of the Church. In addition, the privilege has been mine to work with the gifted Rita Thiron who gets how Boards best function and who brings out from us all our best work.**

**Board work is good work; it is challenging, hands-on work. Board work invites people from around the country to remember why the Federation exists, to enact the mission, to find the talent, to solve the problems, to serve the Church and bring those we serve to Christ. A strategic board has a view of looking ahead, an insight to look deeper and a competency to look beyond. This kind of strategic looking up, in and out by our current board, and all the boards to come, will ensure that the Federation will thrive. The Church deserves no less.**

**Thank you all so much and I love you.**