



Conference of Major Superiors of Men

August 5, 2011

Media Release

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CMSM Awarded Centennial Medal by Catholic Charities USA

ORLANDO, FLORIDA (August 5, 2011). At a special luncheon during the 2011 Assembly of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) being held in Orlando, Florida, [Catholic Charities USA](#) (CCUSA) presented its Centennial Medal to [CMSM](#). Catholic Charities USA noted that their Centennial Medal was specially commissioned for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the social services organization in recognition of the contributions of individuals and organizations to the reduction of poverty in the United States and their commitment to the principles by which Catholic Charities USA conducts its work.

In conveying the award to CMSM, the Rev. Larry Snyder, President & CEO of Catholic Charities USA said that "we acknowledge that the history of CCUSA is rooted in communities of men and women religious who were the first to establish Catholic systems of social service, healthcare and education in the United States."

"In living up to its role as a prophetic witness for change in society, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men works ecumenically on efforts to reduce violence in society and to promote the human rights of all," he added.

Acknowledging the award, the Very Rev. Thomas Cassidy, SCJ, President of CMSM, said that "on behalf of the 241 members of CMSM, representing all forms of male religious life in the United States I gratefully accept this award. We take seriously the call of the Gospel as first revealed to the people of Israel, the need to take care of the widows and orphans, another way of saying the poor and marginalized in our society and around the world. We appreciate this award knowing it comes from Catholic Charities USA, an organization committed to assisting those most in need. This award reminds us of what we have done and strengthens our commitment as men religious to work harder on behalf of the poor."

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The **Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)** supports and offers resources for U.S. leaders of Catholic men's religious institutes. CMSM promotes dialogue and collaboration on issues of religious life as well as peace and justice issues with major groups in church and society. There are more than 19,000 religious priests and brothers in the United States.
