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Spreading the Gospel through Mass Media

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The University of Dayton will honor the Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk, retired archbishop of the archdiocese of Cincinnati, with the Daniel J. Kane Religious Communications Award at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in Kennedy Union west ballroom.

The University of Dayton’s Institute for Pastoral Initiatives presents the award for outstanding lifetime dedication to Gospel values using mass media. It is named after the former communication director for the archdiocese of Cincinnati.

"We recognize Archbishop Pilarczyk for his leadership within the Church, his creative openness and leadership for applying a variety of media to support the mission of the Church, and more than 30 years of affirmation of the University of Dayton’s communications ministry, particularly through the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives," said Sister Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., director of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives. "He encouraged our collaborative work with the Catholic Telecommunications Network of America and the archdiocese of Cincinnati in the 1980s, and the pioneering and expansion of our Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation initiative since 1997."

Pilarczyk has written many books, articles and newspaper columns that contribute to a solid Catholic pastoral perspective enabling the laity to deepen their beliefs and shape Catholic thinking today, according to Zukowski. His best-selling book is Twelve Tough Issues: What the Church Teaches – and Why, recently revised as Twelve Tough Issues – And More. A number of his publications are primary texts for the University's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation courses.

Pilarczyk served as archbishop of the archdiocese of Cincinnati from 1982 to 2009. He has a strong interest in education. From 1963 to 1974 he was on the faculty of the former St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati, the last six years as rector. While auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati from 1974 to 1982, he was director of educational services for the archdiocese.

Recipients of the Daniel J. Kane Religious Communications Award receive a sculpture and a donation made in their names to the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation program to cover the tuition for Asian students. It's a collaborative program that employs online facilitators to provide faith formation classes to learners who span the globe.

Sister Angela Ann Zukowski at 937-229-3126. This event is not open to the public, but media are welcome to attend and conduct interviews. The best time for interviews is from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.