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Faith and film

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An internationally respected film reviewer will receive an award from the University of Dayton for her work in using mass media to communicate Gospel values.

The University's Institute for Pastoral Initiatives will award the Daniel J. Kane Religious Communications Award on March 6 to Sr. Rose Pacatte, F.S.P., for her outstanding lifetime contribution to the communications ministry of the Catholic Church through film and media studies. The award will be presented during the opening dinner of the annual Virtual Learning

Community for Faith Formation's Diocesan Partners Convocation.

"Sister Rose is prolific writer, lecturer and movie critic, whose approach to film truly exemplifies the spirit of the Kane award," said Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski, M.H.S.H., director of the institute. "Her reviews help moviegoers see the messages and lessons of the Gospel in mainstream movies and find God's grace in everything from children's cartoons to adult dramas."

Pacatte, director of the Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, Calif., is a regular columnist and film reviewer for a number of Catholic magazines and journals including: St. Anthony Messenger, National Catholic Reporter and U.S. Catholic. She is a film critic and host for the online programs "The INNdustry with Sr. Rose" and "Sister Rose Goes to the Movies."

Pacatte has a master's degree in media studies from the University of London, U.K., and a certificate in Pastoral Communications from the University of Dayton. *The New York Times* profiled her in 2013.

Her ties to the University extend more than 25 years. Pacatte has been an instructor for the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives, has helped to design media courses for the VLCFF.

She continues to share her expertise via the Internet as a speaker to Zukowski's Chaminade Scholars Program and helps arrange for Catholic actors, directors and producers to speak to classes about religion and film from Hollywood.

She is currently working on a book about a Dayton native, actor Martin Sheen.

The Kane award is named for Daniel J. Kane, the former communication director for the archdiocese of Cincinnati. In the 20-year history of the award, recipients have included film producers, the Archbishop of Cincinnati and the press coordinator for the Vatican.

The VLCFF is an online program open to anyone, offering adult religious education and faith formation training. It serves Catholics eager to grow in their faith and those serving in pastoral leadership roles in the Church. The VLCFF has more than 50 diocese partners in the U.S. It reaches into 182 Catholic dioceses and more than 40 countries, Zukowski said.

The VLCFF offers more than 114 online courses — 92 in English and 22 in Spanish — on topics such as Catholic doctrine, church history, communication, ecclesiology, liturgy, sacraments, prayer, Marianist studies, morality, scripture, social justice and world religions. The program also offers certificates in five areas: catechesis, adult faith formation, lay ecclesial ministry, digital catechesis and media education. The VLCFF enrolled more than 5,000 students in 2013.

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