



Faithful to Their Callings

Franciscan University honored alumni from many eras at the 29th Annual Alumni Awards Banquet and Ceremony on October 6, 2017. What each had in common, along with their *alma mater*, was a strong sense of calling that led to their career or ministry choices and success.

Rocco Ambrosio '09, co-founder of Alabaster Films and recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, said he realized his "desire to pursue filmmaking could be and was being used by God" during his time at Franciscan. "My goal is to portray that which is true in a beautiful way. That is my calling as an artist."

Dr. Frank Petrola '67 said he "knew from the start that this valley has done so much for me and given me so much that I wanted to repay it," which he did for 39 years by practicing family medicine in Steubenville and by helping found the free Ohio Valley Health Clinic, and still does as Jefferson County health commissioner. Petrola received the Father Dan Egan Award for his faithful service to both his patients and the Steubenville community.

Father Jeffrey Kirby '99, MA '01 said his time at Franciscan proved instrumental in discerning the priesthood and that it "helped me see that if I had that call, it would be worth the sacrifice." Now the pastor of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in South Carolina and author of many books on the faith, Father Kirby received the Bishop John King Mussio Award for his dedication to advancing the teaching mission of the Church.

The Alumni Citizenship Award went to Stephen Wallace '06 who found greater career fulfillment when he left his



Tim Delaney, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations, with Stephen Wallace '06, Dr. Frank Petrola '67, Rosemary Anderson '04, Rocco Ambrosio '09, and Fr. Sean Sheridan, TOR, president. Fr. Jeffrey Kirby '99, MA '01 also was honored, receiving his award on October 27.

D.C. law firm to be executive director of the Gabriel Network, a nonprofit that gives long-term support to women in difficult circumstances who choose life for their babies.

Rosemary Anderson '04 received the Dr. John J. Carrigg Award for her commitment to Catholic education as the principal of the now-thriving Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Classical School in Denver.

Franciscan University President Father Sean O. Sheridan, TOR, presented the awards and gave final remarks, telling the honorees, "We educate, we evangelize, we send forth joyful disciples: You are that third component—the joyful disciples who are out there in the world today really making a difference, and so I thank you for all that you are doing." ■