

Award Descriptions for Appreciation Dinner 2025

“These things we pray for, good Lord, give us your grace to labor for.” –St. Thomas More

The following awards will be presented by Bishop Burbidge at the Twenty-Second Annual Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

The Volunteer of the Year Award:

“For Outstanding Volunteer Service”

The Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries invites each parish, Catholic high school, and campus ministry in attendance at the dinner to honor an outstanding volunteer who labors at the service of youth or young adults. Do you know someone who has: served young people at your parish or school joyfully and faithfully? served with little regard for recognition or personal gain? been an invaluable part of your mission to serve young people? At the dinner, all those recognized as outstanding volunteers in youth, campus, or young adult ministry will receive an award with their name and the name of the parish, Catholic high school, or campus ministry that, is honoring them engraved on it.

The Excellence in Youth Ministry Award:

“Traveling Companion of Young People”

This award is presented to a Director of Youth Ministry or volunteer who is actively involved with Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Arlington and has shown a strong dedication to accompanying young people in their pilgrimage of Christian discipleship. This person is a practicing Catholic, demonstrates an ongoing commitment and availability to young people as they grow in faith, sets a good example in their community, excels at working with young people, and encourages them in their Catholic faith.

The *Ex Corde* Award:

“Sharing the Heart of Christ with University Students”

The *Ex Corde* (“From the Heart”) Award is given to someone who has demonstrated exemplary service or support to College Campus Ministry, giving their time, their energy, indeed, even a piece of their very own heart, in order to share the love of Christ with university students.

The Excellence in Young Adult Ministry Award:

“Traveling Companion of Young Adults”

This award is presented to a Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry or volunteer who is actively involved with Young Adult Ministry in the Diocese of Arlington and has shown a strong dedication in ministering to young adults in their community. This person is a practicing Catholic, demonstrates an ongoing commitment and availability to young adults as they continue to grow in their faith, sets a good example in their community, and encourages them to seek a personal relationship with Christ above all else.

The More Award:

“For a Lifetime of Commitment to Young People”

The More Award is a lifetime achievement award which aims to recognize individuals who have committed themselves to young people in a way that demonstrates the abundance and longevity of God’s love. This love, as reflected in the Arlington Diocesan Patron, St. Thomas More, chooses service over self-promotion and a steadfast defense of the faith entrusted to us. Appropriately enough, the very name of our patron saint points to a giving which goes beyond the typical expectations — and so, we have chosen to call this “The More Award.”

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I nominate someone for an award?

- Volunteer of the Year Award:
 - Complete the attached Volunteer of the Year Award Submission Form, use the QR code to the right, or use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/LMWkvLMA4W>
- Major Awards:
 - Complete the attached Major Award Nomination Form, use the QR code to the right, or use this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/EVk3BBPQoU>.
- Deadlines:
 - **All award submissions & nominations are due by Friday, October 31, 2025.**
All materials requested should be submitted to the Office of Youth, Campus, and Young Adult Ministries (OYCYAM) by this date. Submissions and nominations may be submitted by filling out the forms online.
 - The OYCYAM will promptly acknowledge receipt of all nomination materials.



What are the criteria for Volunteer of the Year Award submissions?

- The individual must be a volunteer at the parish, Catholic high school, or campus ministry that nominates him/her. Paid staff members are not eligible for this recognition but could be considered for other awards.
- Teachers in Catholic schools who volunteer with young people beyond their normal teaching duties and who are not compensated for their time are also eligible.
- Parishes/Catholic high schools/campus ministries can honor a previous awardee.
- Parishes/Catholic high schools/campus ministries can nominate someone for the award who will not be at the Appreciation Dinner. You can arrange to pick up the award after the dinner with someone from the OYCYAM.
- For the sake of time at the dinner, we would encourage each parish, Catholic high school, and campus ministry to submit only one name for this award. You can, however, submit more than one name if they serve in different ministries (e.g., youth ministry, young adult ministry at the same parish).
- The OYCYAM will not release the names for any of the awards until the night of the Appreciation Dinner on December 9th. You could make the award(s) a surprise if you wish.

What are the costs associated with the awards and the Dinner?

- Volunteer of the Year Award submissions are \$30.00 each. This covers the plaque.
- Other award nominations, since they are not guaranteed, are free.
- The cost per attendee at the Dinner is \$15.00, including Volunteer of the Year awardees.
- Confirmed major awardees are complimentary, as are a maximum of 7 of their immediate family (e.g., wife, husband, children, parents).
- Other guests of the awardees are not complimentary, but many parishes choose to cover their cost.
- Your parish will be billed for all costs associated with the Dinner in the weeks following the event. There is no need to pay anything up front.

How do I RSVP for myself, my award nominee(s), and my other guests?

- You will receive more information by mail in October.

Can accommodations be made for an attendee with physical or cognitive disabilities?

We would like to ensure that all feel welcome at the Appreciation Dinner. If any of your attendees have physical or cognitive disabilities, please contact us so that we may discuss individual accessibility needs.

Other questions? Call (703) 841-2559 or e-mail trinity.yansick@arlingtondiocese.org.
<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth-ministry/appreciation-mass-and-dinner/>