

Madonna University's Inaugural Gala

RAISES OVER \$360,000!



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UNIVERSITY SEES FIRST EVER VISIT FROM PAPAL NUNCIO

On October 2nd, 2008 the Ritz-Carlton Dearborn was home to Madonna University's Inaugural Gala.

Leaders of the Catholic Church, the Felician Community, Board of Trustee Members, Foundation Board Members, Honorary Degree Recipients, and Alumni, joined with President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF and Madonna University Administration to celebrate the completion of the quiet phase of Madonna's *Leading the Way* capital campaign.

The gala marked the launch of the campaign's public phase. "I am proud to say WE DID IT!" said an enthusiastic Dr. Walter Knysz, Jr., Foundation Board Chair, as he addressed the audience that evening.



In the presence of His Excellency, Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the United State of America, representing the Holy Father, Eminences Adam Cardinal Maida, and Edmund Cardinal Szoka, along with many members of the Felician Community, Madonna University Foundation Board hosted a *once in a life time* celebration.

Patrons of this unique evening were respected philanthropists Honorary Chairs Mr. and Mrs. Fran and Sally Sehn, who served as the gala's Title Sponsor. The celebration was led by National Award for Citizen Diplomacy Recipient, Chairman Mr. Tarik Daoud and his lovely wife Helen Daoud.



The Presidents' Reception was sponsored by Mr. Richard Walawender of Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone PLC. As immediate past president of the Madonna Board of Trustees, Mr. Walawender applauded Sister Rose Marie's deep dedication and commitment to Madonna. He asked guests to join with him in raising their glasses in a toast to the President. Guests were entertained by Alice Sauro Musicians, associates of the DSO.



Dressed in full regalia, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, led by Grand Master Mr. Walter Winkle, escorted honoured guests into the Presidential Ballroom. First to head the procession of special guests were Police Chief Robert Stevenson and Mayor Jack Kirksey of Livonia.

Reverend Monsignor Anthony Tocco, Pastor, St. Hugo of the Hills Church, began the program with a blessing.



Guests enjoyed hand selected wines from Eagle Eye Imports to accompany each course of dinner. Sommelier Mr. Jean-Jacques Fertal, President of Eagle Eye Imports, spoke to the audience about the speciality of each wine during dinner. The wines were compliments of Dr. Walter Knysz, Jr. and Mrs. Jan Knysz.

Councilman Mr. John Akouri, President & CEO of the Lebanese American Chamber of Commerce served as both Master of Ceremonies and Live Auctioneer for the celebration. Mr. Akouri did a great job and kept the audience engaged and informed throughout the evening.



Introduced during the festivities were distinguished sponsors Mr. Edsel B. Ford II and Mrs. Cynthia Ford, Dr. James Padilla and Mrs. Alice Padilla '88, and Dr. Mary Lyons, President of Lyons Tool and Engineering Inc.

Special invited guests included Consuls General, The Honourable Dr. Carlo Romeo of Italy and The Honourable Tamotsu Shinotsuka of Japan, as well as Honorary Consuls, The Honourable Dr. Najj Arwashan, of Syria; The Honourable Robert David of Grenada; The Honourable Edward Zelenak of The Slovak Republic; The Honourable Karl Pfister of Switzerland, and the Acting Honorary Consul of Lebanon, The Honourable Bachir Tawk.

Guests were impressed with the dedication of the Ritz-Carlton wait staff only to find out that they were being served by members of the *Singing Waiters* from New York City. "Stupendous, Marvellous, Outstanding, Bravo" were some of the words used by the audience to describe the musical talents of the 3 entertainers who unexpectedly broke in to their performance during dinner.



The fun continued when Mr. Akouri invited guest participation in the live auction. The fast paced and interactive bidding was complete within 15 minutes and raised \$30,400 in support for Madonna University. Special items featured included an E-Z-GO Freedom Golf Cart, donated by Mr. Lewis Campbell, Chairman, Textron, Inc; a Week at Everglades, FL Waterfront Cottage, donated by Mr. Tom Monaghan; a Peter Max Painting, courtesy of Park West Gallery; a stay at The Chateau Des Karantes, in the South of France, compliments of Dr. and Mrs. Walter, Jr. and Janet Knysz, and a Kicks, Sticks & Hits Entertainment Package which included a Night with The Radio City Rockettes, donated by Comerica Wealth & Institutional Management and tickets to the Red Wings & the Lions, donated by Cendrowski Corporate Advisors.



Successful bidders included Mr. Patrick Kerzic & Mrs. Stephanie Ghermack-Kerzic, Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Kathy Genthe, Dr. and Mrs. James and Alice Padilla, Mr. and Mrs. John and Margaret LaFramboise and Mr. and Mrs. Remo and Jo-Anne Mancini.



The Madonna University Media Department is to be congratulated for their outstanding educational video presentation, which included an introduction by Madonna Media Faculty member Mr. Christopher Coppola, via live webcam from Los Angeles. In his live remarks to the audience Mr. Coppola applauded Madonna for its role in inspiring students and introducing them to the broadcast and cinema industries. Everyone took pride in the dedication and accomplishments of Madonna University. The video was made possible through the sponsorships of Dr. and Mrs. William and Bridget Phillips, Phillips Service Industries, Inc., Cold Heading Foundation, and Mr. Lawrence A. Wisne.

The highlight of the celebration came when President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF invited Archbishop Pietro Sambì, to the stage to accept his Honorary Doctoral Degree of Humanities. As the Knights of Columbus stood guard, Dr. Michael Obloy, Chairman, Board of Trustees and Dr. Ernest Nolan, Vice President for Academic Administration, joined with the President in bestowing the Honorary Degree.

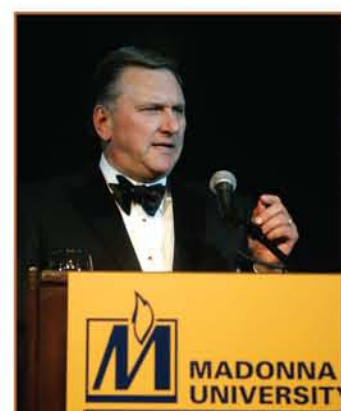


The Archbishop delivered a passionate address which was appreciated by the audience with a standing ovation. Guests of Mr. Anthony Soave, Soave Enterprises, hosted the Archbishops' table.



Chairman Mr. Tarik Daoud in his address to the audience indicated that it was his hope that everyone participating this evening "had come to know Madonna University better". Mr. Daoud was delighted to announce that this inaugural gala had raised over \$361,000 in support of Madonna University. The proceeds will be dedicated to the two newly announced Endowed Chairs; the Chair in Catholic Studies in honour of His Excellency Bishop John M. Quinn, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, and the Chair in Human Dignity and Caring, in honour of past president Sister Mary Francilene Van De Vyver, CSSF.

As he thanked everyone for their participation, Mr. Daoud invited guests to "Stand and join with me in lighting your individual Madonna candles as a symbol of support to Sister Rose Marie and Madonna University as they continue to Lead the Way."



Leading THE WAY

Foundation Board Chairman Dr. Walter Knysz, Jr. put the last touch to the evening with the major announcement that the quiet phase of our *Leading the Way* capital campaign had exceeded expectation and had raised a total of \$14,623,075.

In conclusion, Dr. Knysz asked Sister Mary Renetta Rumpz, CSSF, Provincial Minister, Felician Sisters of Livonia, as well as all of the Felician Sisters in the audience to stand and be recognized for their outstanding contribution, not only to the *Leading the Way* campaign but for their inspiration, dedication and continuing commitment to us as leaders of our Catholic faith.



A souvenir program, printed courtesy of Ms. Terry Niles '83, President, Budco-The Dialogue Company, was available as a keepsake of the gala.

Guests were treated to a special gift of wine, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Tarik and Helen Daoud as they left for the evening.



"I was very pleased, but not surprised, with the interest of so many dignitaries and outstanding community leaders who for the first time witnessed the progress and numerous achievements of Madonna University."
Dr. Tarik Daoud, Chair



"Having Cardinal Maida, Cardinal Szoka and the Apostolic Papal Nuncio gave the affair a unique element that cannot be duplicated. It was an event that made Jo and I very proud to be part of Madonna University."
Dr. Michael Obloy, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dress for Dinner
& Celebrate