

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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CATHOLIC PHILANTHROPISTS HONOR BISHOP TOD D. BROWN WITH EMINENT CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

ORANGE, Calif., (Feb 7, 2005) – The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange received the prestigious FADICA (the Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, Inc.) *Distinguished Catholic Leadership Award* of 2006. The award was presented at a gala dinner honoring Bishop Brown on January 26, 2006 during FADICA’s thirtieth anniversary meeting in Los Angeles.

“Bishop Brown was recognized because of the extraordinary courage and compassion he has shown as the shepherd of the Diocese of Orange,” said Dr. Francis J. Butler, president of FADICA, a consortium of private charitable foundations and individual donors who share an interest in religious philanthropy.

“I accept this award on behalf of the Catholics of our Diocese and all those people who helped us during this crisis,” said Bishop Brown displaying the handsome figurine to the assembled crowd at the dinner. “I will always be grateful to them and especially to the Catholics of Orange County who suffered so much and who did not lose faith in our Diocese and our Church.”

The Distinguished Catholic Leadership Award was inaugurated by FADICA to enable its foundations and donors to give recognition to an individual who has best demonstrated outstanding initiative in contributing to the renewal and vitality of the Catholic Church. The award is not given every year, and the last recipient was Cardinal Edmund Szoka, President of the Governatorate of Vatican City and President of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, in 2000.

FADICA praised Bishop Brown for his plan to settle the civil suits against the Diocese of Orange, the 11th largest U.S. diocese in terms of Catholic population. In January of 2004, Bishop Brown and his auxiliary Bishops, Jaime Soto and Dominic Luong proclaimed *THE COVENANT WITH THE FAITHFUL* consisting of seven theses and launched a major campaign to begin the healing process of the victim survivors of sexual abuse and

the Catholics of the Diocese, FADICA stated in its citation of Bishop Brown. The Covenant also calls for a more transparent and collaborative Diocese among other reforms.

In January 2005, Bishop Brown agreed to pay \$100 million to 90 claimants who were suing the Diocese in sexual abuse cases. The Administrative Office of the Diocese was responsible for paying approximately \$50 million of the agreed upon \$100 million sexual abuse settlement, with the balance coming from insurers. No parish or schools funds were used for payment of the court settlement.

“Signs point to a strong rebound of the diocese during 2005 in terms of parishioner and clergy morale. Growth continues, and a new optimism is taking hold,” FADICA stated in its commendation. FADICA also pointed out that the Diocese has established two new parish communities in 2005.

FADICA further highlighted the fact that “Bishop Brown took the steps that he did with little encouragement from fellow bishops at the time, but since then, many other Catholic dioceses, recognizing that decisive action has positive pastoral consequences, have moved ahead to settle similar cases.”

“Decisive action to do the right and just thing has a healing quality about it, and can quickly revitalize faith communities,” said Dr. Butler. “Bishop Brown is one of the bishops who has recognized this and deserves the praise of all those who recognize effective church leadership when it is exercised.”

“I learned two things through all of this, and first is that frequent and transparent communication, not only with your advisors but with the people of the Diocese is essential and, second, that the Church is all of us,” said Bishop Brown in his acceptance remarks. “I have been committed to collaborative ecclesial leadership during all my years as a priest and bishop, but I had the experience of it at a very deep level during this crisis.”

“For his compassionate heart, commitment to truth, and for rekindling hope and faith within his flock,” the members of FADICA “praise Bishop Brown.”

Bishop Brown is a native of San Francisco and is a graduate of St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, the University of San Francisco, and the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained in 1963, appointed bishop of Boise, ID in 1988, and ten years later became Bishop of Orange. He is the former chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on the Laity and the Committee on Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs, and the current Chairman of the Bishop’s Subcommittee on Interreligious Affairs.

Past recipients of FADICA’s *Distinguished Catholic Leadership Award* also include Father Renato Probeta, SJ, working among the poor of Santiago, Chile, and Sister Joan Bland, SND, Founder of Education for Parish Service, among several others.

FADICA serves the continuing education and research needs of grant makers interested in the work of the Catholic Church.

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