

Jean Vanier and L'Arche Receive 2014 Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity

By Elizabeth Rankin, Kellogg Institute for International Studies

"In L'Arche communities, something extremely simple yet very powerful takes place. The so-called disabled and those with whom they live and work grow in awareness of their God-given value. This awareness encourages people to develop and share their talents and leads to authentic human development."

Rev. Robert Dowd, CSC, Director, Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, University of Notre Dame

L'Arche and its visionary founder Jean Vanier have received the 2014 Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity in recognition of the organization's groundbreaking work in service of the poor and vulnerable around the world.

The award was formally presented on October 23 during the Kellogg Institute for International Studies Conference on Human Dignity and Human Development at the University of Notre Dame's Rome Global Gateway in Italy.

In making the presentation, Faculty Fellow R. Scott Appleby, dean of Notre Dame's new Keough School of Global Affairs, cited L'Arche and Jean Vanier for promoting a deeper awareness of the inherent dignity of every human being, showing how human beings flourish when they are embraced and loved as they are, demonstrating that all human beings are capable in different and complementary ways, and establishing communities that value the capabilities of each member and bring out the best in all.

Jean Vanier, who was unable to travel to Rome, delivered remarks filmed at home in France.

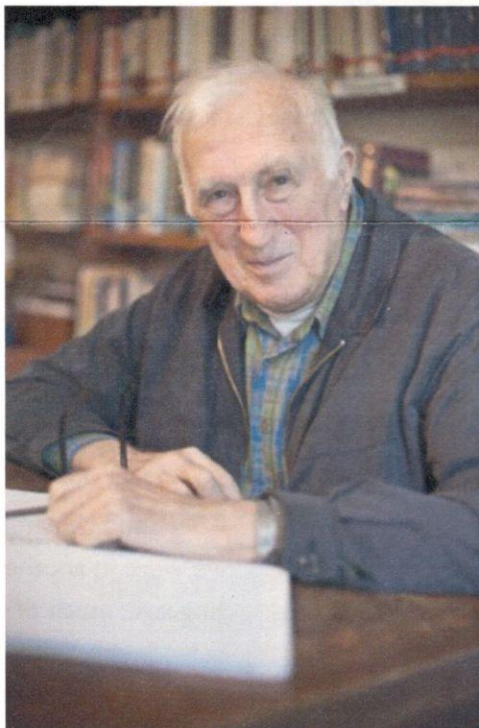
"The whole meaning of L'Arche is to reveal to people that under their disabilities, under their difficulties and violence, there is a you, your person, and you are beautiful," he said, explaining that what the organization

does in terms of programming pales next to this power to reveal the value of each person.

The Notre Dame Award for International Human Development and Solidarity recognizes substantial contributions to human development through research, practice, public service or philanthropy. It is presented annually by the Kellogg Institute's Ford Family Program Human Development Studies and Solidarity. Recipients are honored for standing in solidarity with those in deepest need, supporting them to become agents of their own change.

Past recipients of the Notre Dame Award include social entrepreneur

Jacqueline Novogratz, CEO and Founder of Acumen; development economist and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen; Partners In Health, whose cofounders Paul Farmer and Ophelia Dahl accepted the award on its behalf; and Patti and Ray Chambers, the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy for Malaria.



Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche
Photo from The Jean Vanier Association