

Honoree 'humbled' to receive law society award

Marie Milie Jones is Duquesne University board chairwoman

Pittsburgh Catholic Staff Report

Attorney Marie Milie Jones on Oct. 11 received the St. Thomas More Society's St. Thomas More Award, the highest honor given by the association of Catholic lawyers.

The presentation followed the group's annual Red Mass at Duquesne University.

"I am humbled to be among the impressive list of prior awardees," she said. "The principles followed by St. Thomas More of doing what is right and just provide inspiration in the practice of law and in life. I shall look on this award as a reminder of those valued goals."

The award, presented each year by the society and approved by the diocesan bishop, is given in conjunction with the traditional Red Mass, in which attorneys, judges and others in the legal profession

seek guidance and blessings for the coming year.

The observance traces to early England and has been offered locally since 1959.

Earlier this year, Jones became a founding partner at JonesPassodelis in the Gulf Tower in Downtown Pittsburgh, where she focuses on civil rights and employment, commercial litigation and professional liability issues.

She also serves as chairwoman of the board of directors of Duquesne University and a member of the board of regents at St. Vincent Seminary.

The St. Thomas More Award in part cited her work on the two boards and her involvement in many professional activities and organizations.

"I serve proudly as chairman at Duquesne, given my strong belief and commitment in what the university stands for and has accomplished," Jones said.

She also spoke with pride of the recent formation of her own law firm after 25 years in practice. She



PHOTO BY CHUCK AUSTIN

Bishop David Zubik with attorney Marie Milie Jones, winner of the 2011 St. Thomas More Award.

earlier worked at the firm of Meyer, Darragh, Buckler, Bebenek & Eck.

The daughter of Robert and Josephine Milie, formerly of Greensburg and now of Cranberry, she attended Greensburg Central Catholic High School and Duquesne University and Law School, where she graduated in 1987.

She and her husband, Cameron, live in Cranberry and belong to St. Kilian Parish.

Jones has also won many other honors.

She was presented with the Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania's 2010 Susan B. Anthony Award and has been in-

ducted into the Duquesne University Century Club of Distinguished Alumni.

She is listed in Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, was designated a Leading Lady by Oakland Catholic High School and named 2002 Woman of the Year by the Duquesne University Women's Law Division.

She reflected on the importance of the St. Thomas More Award and its meaning to members of the law profession today:

"St. Thomas More lived his values of religious fervor and commitment to what he believed. He did what he thought was right even if that was not popular or easy.

"My experience as a student, and now in board service at Duquesne, where the focus is on education for the mind, the heart and the spirit, and a philosophy often spoken by Bishop Zubik of doing the right thing for the right reason, are critical themes in life but of real significance to me as a Catholic lawyer."

Accepting the award, she said, "was a true honor for me."