

**STATEMENT OF SCSS
PRESIDENT DR. STEPHEN M. KRASON
UPON PRESENTATION OF ONE OF THE 2010 POPE PIUS XI
AWARDS TO DR. MARK LOWERY**

Dr. Mark Lowery is the second recipient of this year's Pope Pius XI Award for Contributions toward the Building Up of a True Catholic Social Science. Due to ongoing health problems, Mark is unable to be with us at this conference to receive the Award in person, and it will be sent to him afterwards along with a book geared especially for his interests.

Mark is Professor of Theology at the University of Dallas and Chairman of the Theology Department there. He teaches an array of theology courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, especially in the area of moral theology, at his university, in both its Theology Department and Institute of Religious and Pastoral Studies. Mark has been an SCSS member for many years. Most here know him for his highly successful tenure as Editor-in-Chief of the SCSS's journal *The Catholic Social Science Review*, during which he brought the journal to a new level of achievement and regularized its workings to the point that the editors after him are able to step easily into the helm. His work on the journal is no small reason why the SCSS wishes to honor him. He also previously served on the SCSS's Board of Directors. He is a well-published scholar as well, with many of his writings in moral theology concerned with social questions and Catholic social teaching. In addition to his book on moral theology, *Living the Good Life*, he has published in such important journals and periodicals as *Communio*, *The Jurist*, *Irish Theological Quarterly*, *Faith and Reason*, *This Rock*, *The Social Justice Review*, *The New Oxford Review*, *Envoy* (a periodical he has been especially prodigious in publishing in), and *The Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, in addition to the *CSSR*. He also contributed articles to the SCSS's *Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought*, *Social Science*, and *Social Policy*, published in 2007.

So he has brought his witness to the truth of the Church to both scholarly and popular audiences via his writing. Also, he has delivered many scholarly papers, often concerning Catholic social teaching, at many organizations' scholarly conferences, and has been an especially active participant at SCSS conferences over the years. He has also been extremely active in giving talks on a more popular level to an array of lay audiences. So, he has been an important practitioner of what Pope John Paul II called "the new evangelization." In 2006, he hosted a highly successful SCSS annual (fall) national meeting-conference at his

University of Dallas, the only one of our national meeting-conferences to be held west of the Mississippi River.

Dr. Lowery describes well the spirit that has animated his work and how he has personally met the challenge of the new evangelization. He says: “Two key elements are at the heart of my vocation as scholar and teacher: First, a commitment to the Christian intellectual tradition, seen and understood through the lens of the Roman Catholic Church. I am thoroughly committed to teachings of the Catholic Magisterium, and I am proud of my *mandatum*. Second, [I have] a commitment to taking the questions of modernity and postmodernity seriously. The truth claims of the Christian tradition, properly understood, are capable of both a serious engagement with those questions, and an intellectually responsible answer to them.”

In recognizing Dr. Lowery this evening, we acknowledge his work in building up Catholic social teaching in all four of these realms: scholarship, teaching, making Catholic social teaching and the moral theology of which it is a part better known and understood to general lay audiences, and his considerable contributions to the SCSS as an important scholarly and professional organization defending and promoting the social teaching. I should not fail to add that Mark has carried out all of this activity while he and his wife Madeleine have raised nine children. We pray that in spite of his current health problems, God will give him many more years of such vigorous witness to Catholic truth.