



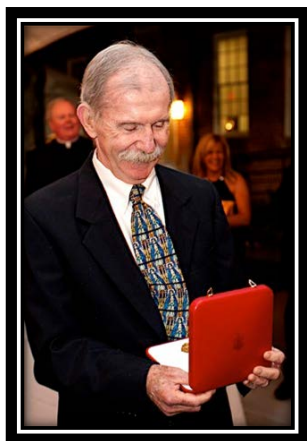
SOCIETY OF MARY ★ MARISTS IN THE U.S.

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BROTHER ROBERT HONORED WITH PAPAL AWARD

Marist Robert Sokolowski was honored at the Savannah Cathedral's Annual Heritage Gala held in November 2015. He had served at the Cathedral for 27 years prior to his retirement in May 2015. The December issue of the Cathedral's *Twin Spires* publication reported on the event: "The highlight of the evening was Bishop Hartmayer's presentation of the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* medal to Guest of Honor Brother Robert for his many years of distinguished service to the Church. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope." The *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (for the Church and the Pope), also known as the "Cross of Honor," was established in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII. Marist Paul Cabrita who attended the Gala noted: "This was the only time I've ever seen Bob speechless!" Congratulations, Brother Robert!



Centro Hispano Marista Graduation

Centro Hispano Marista, also known as the Marist Hispanic Center, held commencement ceremonies for 10 graduates of its Adult Education GED program December 15th in the Centennial Center of Marist School in Atlanta. Dr. Leticia Valencia, Director of the Centro Hispano Marista program, greeted graduates and guests. Father John Harhager, SM, president of Marist School, presented the welcoming address: *"All the hard work, the sacrifices, your commitment and dedication to your studies has finally paid off. The diplomas you receive today represent a turning point for you. Take advantage of what your graduation signifies and the opportunities presented to you."*

Centro Hispano Marista offers a program for Hispanic adults that opened with help from the Society of Mary at Marist School in August 2012. Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for young adults to obtain GED certification. This enables them to pursue higher education and obtain better jobs. More than 650 students enroll every year. Dedicated volunteers teach the GED classes.

Adapted from article in "The Georgia Bulletin" 1/7/16

