

# Good Neighbor

## 2010 Darien Citizen of the Year – Paul Brachle



Who me?" was his response when the committee told Paul Brachle that he was selected as the 2010 Darien Citizen of the Year. They had to hunt Paul down at Our Lady of Peace Church to make their announcement.

Paul Brachle has a lengthy list of accomplishments that would impress anyone. For all these reasons there is no doubt that Paul is an excellent and most deserving recipient of this award.

Deacon Paul and his wife of over 50 years, Marilyn, have lived in Darien since its beginning over 40 years ago. During those years Paul:

- Established the food pantry at Our Lady of Peace Church about 18 years ago. He has spent countless hours sorting, organizing and purchasing food items along with evaluating clients. The food pantry also helps provide gifts for the "Giving Tree" project at Christmas time.
- Since 1974 he has served as the spiritual director, a leader and presenter for the local chapter of the Cursillo Movement.

- Served as the vice-president of the Hinsbrook Homeowners Association and was an original board member of the Darien Swim and Racquet Club.
- Helped formulate the idea of the St. Thomas Hospice (now owned by Hinsdale Hospital)
- Assisted Boy and Girl Scouts in earning their religious medals.
- Ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church on September 14, 1985.
- Worked from 1977 to 1987 on the bi-annual financial drive at Benet Academy.
- Participated in leading religious education classes, pre-marital counseling and helped establish small faith groups in this area.
- Visits home-bound people and three nursing homes to see what he can do to help.

- Assists at mass, baptisms, weddings, wakes and funerals. He rejoices with individuals and grieves with those in need.

Some quotes from nomination letters include:

*"If we all thought so kindly of one another, it would be a better world."*

*"He personifies the qualities that set a person apart from the ordinary citizenry and places him in a separate category of the extraordinarily generous and compassionate."*

*"Many of his corporal and spiritual works of mercy are performed without recognition and many citizens have benefited without ever knowing his name."*

*"He is an extraordinary person who embodies the best qualities of a neighbor, citizen, volunteer, Christian, father, spouse and role model. I can't think of anyone who is more deserving of this award."*

**Congratulations  
Paul Brachle  
on your  
deserving honor!**



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## A church for all the ages

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Worship times: Saturday Evening @ 5:00pm;  
Sunday @ 9:00am;  
Bible Classes: Sundays @ 10:30am;  
Sunday School on Sundays @ 10:15am year round

Preschool: 2 year old "Mom & Tot" class;  
3 year old "Tots" class; 4 year old "Tots" class; afternoon kindergarten.  
Please call 630-964-6022.



**St. John Lutheran Church**  
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