

Pro Fidelitate et Virtute Award

It is a special privilege and honor for the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE to bestow upon

*Rev. Brian Thomas Becket Mullady, O.P.
the annual award, Pro Fidelitate et Virtute.*

"Better to illuminate than merely to shine, to deliver to others contemplated truths than merely to contemplate."

— St. Thomas Aquinas

Rev. Brian Thomas Becket Mullady, O.P., was born on October 16, 1946, in Syracuse, New York. His father was an Air Force officer and his mother was a Methodist convert who brought his father back to the Faith. Young Brian's interest in the priesthood was nurtured by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, the military chaplains he encountered and books on the Jesuit martyrs. During his time in public school, he was introduced to St. Thomas Aquinas for whom he developed a great devotion.

During his college days at the University of Santa Barbara, his religious vocation was reawakened by the realization that this godless age needed someone to bring God to them and by the sterling example of the Franciscans at Mission Santa Barbara and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In 1966, he entered the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) because of his devotion to the Angelic Doctor, later saying that "The Order's ideal fit me like a glove."

Father Mullady made his solemn profession in 1970, and was ordained 50 years ago on June 16, 1972, at the Cathedral in Oakland, California. He received his BA degree in Philosophy and MA in Theology from St. Albert's College in Oakland and a licentiate and doctorate in Sacred Theology (both *summa cum laude*) from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Urbe. He wrote his Doctoral Thesis on: *The Meaning of the Term "Moral" in St. Thomas Aquinas*.

Father served as an Associate Pastor in a parish for a short time, but his heart, gifts and intellect were devoted in the ensuing decades to imparting the Faith at the high school level, in universities, at seminaries and in Rome at the *Angelicum*. He taught and continues to teach in diverse areas such as systematic theology, philosophy, moral theology, Great Books, patristics, ecclesiology and the Theology of the Body. For the ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK, Father has done over 140 television and radio programs, reaching millions of people around the world. He has been a prolific author and writer, with at least 14 published books, numerous articles for periodicals, and regular columns for *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* and the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE's magazine *Religious Life*.

Since 2005, Father has been the theological advisor for the IRL and has taught at the IRL's summer school for religious, the *Vita Consecrata* Institute, since 2006. He has been a great friend to both active and contemplative religious communities, and to those whom he has inspired and formed through classes and retreats. He has been an untiring traveler, conducting parish missions throughout the country.

For all his many accomplishments, Father Mullady is a simple man, who rather than bringing attention to himself directs our hearts to Our Lord and Our Lady. Known both for his orthodoxy and clarity of thought, he was commended on his 25th anniversary with these words: "It is hard to think of a priest more dedicated than Father Mullady. It is hard to think of a priest better endowed for the work of the priesthood than Father Mullady. It once was customary among some Jews, when they came upon a man blessed with extraordinary gifts, to launch into a prayer of praise to God who had so highly favored that man.... On this special occasion, I feel impelled to make that prayer: 'Blessed are you, O Lord, Who grants of Your wisdom and of Your glory to flesh and blood.'"

It is then, with deep respect and great esteem, that the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE bestows its 2022 *Pro Fidelitate et Virtute* Award upon Rev. Brian Mullady, O.P.

Most Rev. Bob Lombardo, C.F.R.
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago
IRL Interim President