



Sister Rose Marie Kujawa gives Baroness Caroline Cox the Crystal Madonna award for her global humanitarianism.

# Britain's Baroness Cox honored at Madonna

"I am a nurse and a social scientist by intention and a Baroness by astonishment," said Baroness Caroline Cox to a crowd of 70 plus friends, alumni and faculty at Madonna University, recently.

Baroness Cox is vice president of the Royal College of Nursing, former deputy speaker of Britain's House of Lords, and a 2008 candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I don't actually like politics," said the Baroness. "I do appreciate being able to speak in parliament on behalf of the forgotten people, who cannot speak for themselves."

For years she has supported humanitarian and disability causes. As the chief executive of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), Cox provides aid to those who are, or have been recently suffering oppression and persecution.

After the brunch, Cox, a patron of the Medical Aid for Poland, shared stories of her work in Poland during the dark days of martial law in the 1980s. She told of riding on the 32-ton trucks delivering medical supplies to hospitals that had nothing. She asked to go along on these missions because she feels very strongly about seeing for herself the people for whom she is advocating and providing aid.

She recalled a delivery in which the truck driver discovered two stacks of blank paper and told her that if they were caught with it they'd be imprisoned. Why? "In a totalitarian government, paper is dangerous, because you can write ideas on it," Cox told the audience. "Never let us take our freedom for granted."

Another poignant moment

for Cox came in the war-torn streets of Poland, where people would sometimes die waiting in line for food. There on a wall were these words written by a 12-year-old boy, "I believe in the sun, even when I can't see it. I believe in love, even when I can't feel it."

Baroness Cox was given the Crystal Madonna award for her global humanitarianism, from Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, Madonna University president. Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and Councilwoman Terry Godfroid-Marecki presented the Baroness with a key to the city.

The event was sponsored by Madonna University, Botsford Hospital, the PIAST Institute and the Kappa Iota Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, nursing honor society, and the Registered Nurses Association in Michigan.