

Baroness Caroline Cox accepts honor from Madonna University

Madonna University hosted a true humanitarian on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Baroness Caroline Cox graciously accepted the Crystal Madonna Award from Madonna University President, Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa.

By Barbara J. Gronet

The afternoon event began with the introduction of Baroness Cox by the Madonna University Director of International Relations, Dr. Jonathan Swift, who acted as the afternoon's Master of Ceremonies.

With the aid of a visual presentation, Lady Cox proceeded to inform those in attendance of the work she had done, bringing medical assistance to people who were in need. With a heartfelt "Dzien Dobry," she began her presentation with the work that she had done in Poland during the "Solidarity" years of 1983-89. She began there because of the link between the University and the Polish community.

She reminisced of the time she spent sharing her medical expertise and medical supplies that she delivered. She told of an incident where she and a driver were in the process of delivering medical supplies. At the time, fresh vegetables and fruits were extremely hard to come by and when making the delivery, the priests wishing to show their hospitality, invited them for tea. On the table were some of the most beautiful strawberries they had seen in a while. They each ate a minimal amount of the strawberries in an effort to assure that much would be left for the priests to enjoy after their departure. At the end of the afternoon, they proceeded to get back in their vehicle to continue their deliveries, and to her astonishment, there, between the seats, was a bag full of the remaining strawberries. "We both wept," describing the feelings felt by herself and the driver at the time, of how much they (the Polish people) were willing to give, often beyond what they had.

She continued speaking of the work that she had done in Russia and in the establishment of the Foster Care system in Russia. Her work with HART, an organization which she helped to organize, was and is the driving force behind her work - Doing for those who cannot. She expressed that there was still a lot of need in the world and that she felt that she was one that could fill that need.

Following brief remarks from Jennifer Paul, B.S.N., R.N.-B.C. of RN-AIM (Registered Nurses Association in Michigan, Region 7), Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, Ph.D. of the Piast Institute, Teresa L. Thompson, Dean of Nursing and Health at Madonna University, and Ernest I. Nolan, Vice President for Academic Administration at Madonna University, Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa, CSSF, Ph.D., President of Madonna University presented Lady Cox with a lovely crystal

Madonna and a lovely scarf in remembrance of the afternoon's activities.

Lady Cox also received the Key to the City of Livonia from Livonia Mayor Jack Kirksey and Livonia Council Vice President Terry A. Godfroid-Marecki.

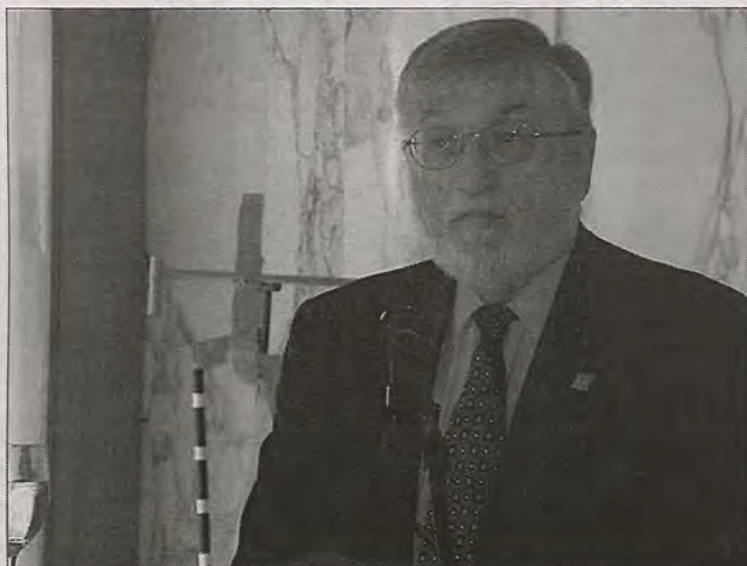
The luncheon was sponsored in part by the Piast Institute, Botsford Hospital, the Kappa Iota Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, and RN-AIM (Registered Nurses Association in Michigan, Region 7).



Robert Bielenda and Lori Palazollo had an opportunity to convey a few words of gratitude to Baroness Cox.



Madonna University President Sr. Rose Marie Kujawa presented a Crystal Madonna and a lovely "Madonna Blue" scarf to Baroness Cox at the conclusion of the afternoon.



Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski shared a few thoughts on the work of the Baroness. The Piast Institute, of which he is President, was a co-sponsor of the event.



Following the afternoon's program, Baroness Caroline Cox takes a moment to speak to local and international representatives.

Biography of Baroness Caroline Cox

Lady Cox, coming from a family of medical professionals, pursued a career in nursing and became the director of the Nursing Education Research Unit at England's famed Chelsea College. She went on to become the vice president of the Royal College of Nursing.

While recovering from a long bout with tuberculosis, Lady Cox set aside her nursing career to take on a position at the Council for Educational Standards in London. During this time, she campaigned to expose the decline of British educational standards and co-authored the widely acclaimed book "The Rape of Reason."

In 1982, Lady Cox was made a life peeress, and in 1985 was appointed to Britain's House of Lords, where she now serves as a deputy speaker.

In the 1980s, Lady Cox became patron of the charity organization, Medical Aid for Poland Fund. She helped dispatch more than 300 truckloads of medical supplies to Poland, and for her efforts, she was awarded that country's highest honor granted to a foreigner - the Commander Cross of the Order of Merit.

Lady Cox helped organize the first independent civil rights conference in the former Soviet Union in the early 1990s, and helped lead a fact-finding

visit to the country sponsored by Christian Solidarity International to investigate reports of the maltreatment and misdiagnosis of orphaned children. Because of her efforts, Western psychologists and specialists in adoption have been working with Russian professionals to help the children.

As a tireless campaigner for the neglected and oppressed, Lady Cox has become one of Britain's most outspoken proponents for human rights. In May of 1991, following her first trip to the beleaguered Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh, she began the vigorous task of helping provide humanitarian relief to the besieged enclave. Having personally committed herself to help ease the suffering and to avert a possible ethnic genocide, she has carried the plight of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh before the world community. Under the sponsorship of Christian Solidarity International, Lady Cox has conducted more than a dozen perilous humanitarian missions into the war-torn region and is credited with saving hundreds of lives by the food and medicines provided.

The Baroness Caroline Cox is fast becoming a living legend of this century, serving as a champion and defender of the innocent victims who suffer under intolerance and oppression.