

The Christopher Prayer

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

—attributed to St. Francis of Assisi



The Christophers
5 Hanover Sq., 22nd Fl.
New York, NY 10004
212-759-4050
Fax: 212-838-5073
www.christophers.org

The 69th Annual

Christopher Awards

Thursday, May 17, 2018



"It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

- Christopher motto -

*Celebrating films,
TV programs & books
that affirm the
highest values
of the human spirit.*



The 69th Annual *Christopher Awards*

MAY 17, 2018 320 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

RECEPTION 6 p.m.

AWARDS CEREMONY 7 p.m.

WELCOME

Father Jonathan Morris
The Christophers

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ernie Anastos
News Anchor/Producer WNYW-TV Fox 5, New York

CATEGORIES & PRESENTERS

Books for Adults	Tony Aiello
Books for Young People	Joan Bauer
Feature Films	Joan Bauer
TV & Cable Programs	Jeannie Gaffigan

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Elizabeth Vargas
Christopher Life Achievement Award
Ken Burns

Please join us at the After-Party immediately following the Awards presentation!

Photos: Paul Schneck

Welcome 2018

by **Tony Rossi**, Director of Communications
& Program Manager, The Christopher Awards



*"The world will be saved
by beauty."*

That's a famous Dostoevsky quote and part of the title of one of our Christopher Award winners. But it also reflects the power of stories to shape people in a positive way, stories like the ones we're honoring tonight.

In the TV/Cable category, *ABC News 20/20: Wonder Boy* follows the Newman family as they deal with their son's rare cranio-facial condition and their efforts to help

the world see his beautiful heart, mind, and soul; the mini-series *The Long Road Home* dramatizes the sacrifices and heroism of the U.S. Army's First Cavalry Division during a 2004 ambush in Iraq; in *The Middle* episode *The Christmas Miracle*, Frankie Heck's adult son Axl refuses to attend church with the family on Christmas Eve, causing her to confront her own lackluster faith; *The Music of Strangers* celebrates cellist Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, a group of musicians from the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Africa, who blend their musical cultures to build bridges in a divided world; and *POV: Swim Team* highlights young people with autism who gain confidence by channeling their energies into sports in an inclusive and encouraging environment.

The Feature Film category brings us *Darkest Hour*, which follows British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he rallies his unprepared nation to face an imminent Nazi invasion; a rebellious teen strives for independence from her critical mother and experiences moments of grace due to her Catholic education in *Lady Bird*; a brave donkey, lovable sheep, and wisecracking dove bring Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth in the animated Nativity story

The Star; and a 10-year-old boy with facial deformities teaches his classmates and community about acceptance and the power of kindness in *Wonder*.

In the Books for Adults category, historian David McCullough explores the ideals, values, and individuals that brought out the best in our country's citizens in *The American Spirit*; Holocaust survivor Dr. Edith Eva Eger recalls her journey to overcome survivor's guilt and become a psychologist who helps others deal with trauma in *The Choice*; radical forgiveness and reconciliation are on display in Andrew Collins' and Jameel McGee's *Convicted*, about the unlikely friendship between a crooked white police officer and the innocent African American man he sent to jail; in *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty*, Kate Hennessy profiles her grandmother, the Catholic social activist who strove to balance her commitment to serving the poor with that of being a good mother; *I'll Push You* chronicles the physical struggles and spiritual fruits of Patrick Gray's 500-mile pilgrimage through the mountains of northern Spain with his best friend, Justin Skeesuck, who is confined to a wheelchair; and in *Redeeming Ruth*, Meadow Rue Merrill shares her family's story of adopting an orphaned Ugandan baby with cerebral palsy and embracing the sacrificial joy of raising her.

In the Books for Young People category, a trip to the park prompts a little girl's discovery of the world's ordinary joys, leading her mom to a new perspective on life in *Through Your Eyes*; *Pocket Full of Colors* introduces readers to trail-blazing illustrator, designer, and animator Mary Blair, one of the first women ever hired by Walt Disney Studios; Harriet Tubman's bravery as a Union spy, nurse, suffragist, and leader of the Underground Railroad is highlighted in the poetic tribute *Before She Was Harriet*; in *Genevieve's War*, an American girl's vacation at her grandmother's farm in 1939 France tests her character and sense of personal responsibility when the Nazi occupation begins; *The Red Bandanna* explores the life of 9/11 hero Welles Crowther, who worked in the World Trade Center's South Tower and helped lead 18 people to safety before being killed himself; and in post-World War I Chicago, the friendship between two boys - one white, one African American - challenges the youngsters to practice courage and loyalty in the face of hatred in *Crossing the Line*.

In addition, our special Award winner - Ken Burns - is profiled on a separate page of this program book.

Beauty comes in many forms, as our winning projects demonstrate. We thank their creators for giving our spirits a needed boost.

Photo: Tony Rossi of The Christophers with Award-winning authors Marcy Cottrell Houle and Joseph Kim



Grace

Hope

Courage

Inclusion



Ernie Anastos
Anchor/Producer,
Fox 5, NY/2016 Life
Achievement Award
winner



Tony Aiello
Reporter, WCBS-TV,
New York



Joan Bauer
Author, Three-Time
Christopher Award
Winner (Books for
Young People)



Rev. Jonathan Morris
The Christophers



Elizabeth Vargas
2016 & 2018 winner,
ABC News 20/20 Anchor/
Correspondent/Writer

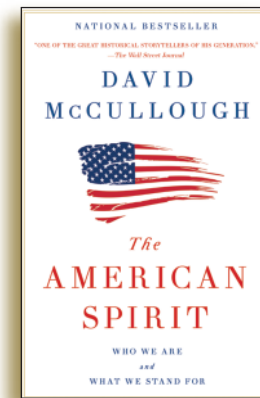


Jeannie Gaffigan
2016 winner,
writer/producer
"The Jim Gaffigan Show"

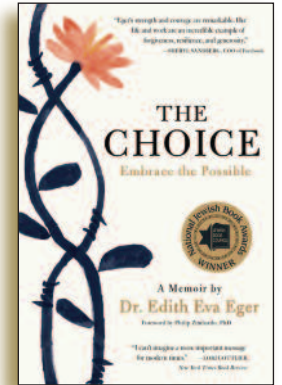
Father James Keller, a Maryknoll priest who believed that every individual has the power and responsibility to change the world for the better, founded The Christophers in 1945. He created the Christopher Awards in 1949 because he understood that the arts, media, and popular culture had the power to influence millions of people. When we're exposed to books, films and TV programs that shine a light on our struggles as well as virtues like faith, courage, hope and love, we're subtly nudged toward becoming better people.



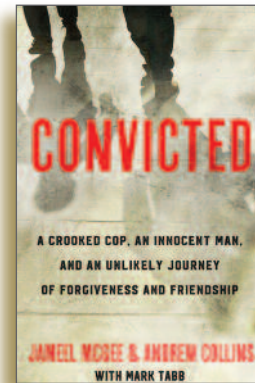
Books for Adults



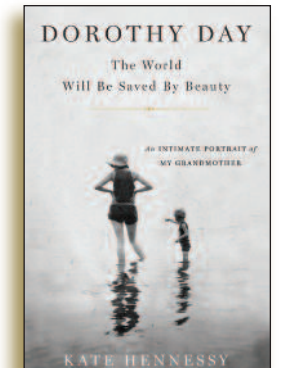
***The American Spirit:
Who We Are and What We Stand For***
(Simon & Schuster)
by David McCullough



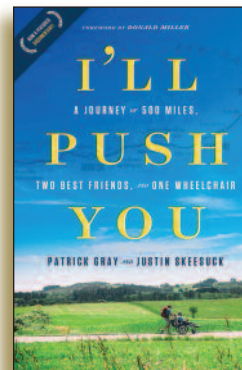
***The Choice:
Embrace the Possible***
(Scribner/Simon & Schuster)
by Dr. Edith Eva Eger



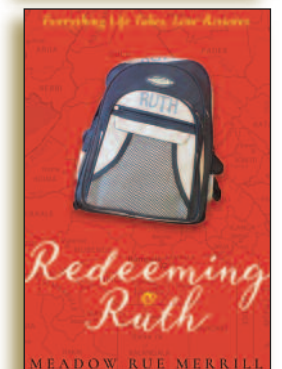
***Convicted:
A Crooked Cop, An Innocent
Man, and an Unlikely Journey of
Forgiveness and Friendship***
(Waterbrook/Penguin Random House)
by Jameel McGee and
Andrew Collins with
Mark Tabb



***Dorothy Day:
The World Will Be Saved by Beauty***
(Scribner/Simon & Schuster)
by Kate Hennessy



***I'll Push You:
A Journey of 500 Miles,
Two Best Friends,
and One Wheelchair***
(Tyndale House Publishers)
by Patrick Gray and
Justin Skeesuck



***Redeeming Ruth:
Everything Life Takes, Love Restores***
(Hendrickson Publishers)
by Meadow Rue Merrill

Our Sincere Thanks

The Christophers would like to thank all who aim to make a difference in our world, especially the winning directors, producers, writers, illustrators, photographers, distributors, publishers, publicists and the following people:

Diamond Donors

Monsignor Peter G. Finn
Janet E. Hunt
Francine O'Neill and Mark Jackson
John O'Neill
Maureen Zuk



And the following friends...

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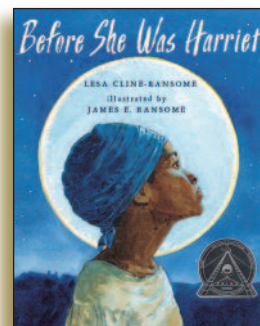
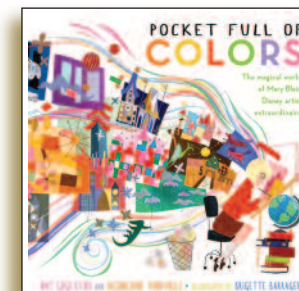
...and all of our Donors,
Friends and Advertisers

Books for Young People



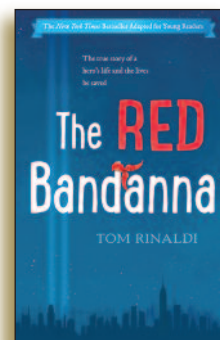
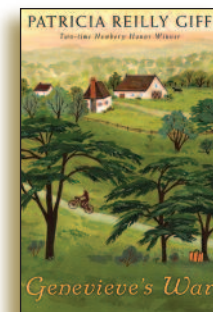
Preschool and up
*Through Your Eyes:
My Child's Gift to Me*
(Aladdin Books/Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing)
by Ainsley Earhardt, illustrated by Ji-Hyuk Kim

Kindergarten and up
Pocket Full of Colors
(Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon
& Schuster Children's Publishing)
**by Amy Guglielmo and Jacqueline Tourville,
illustrated by Brigitte Barrager**



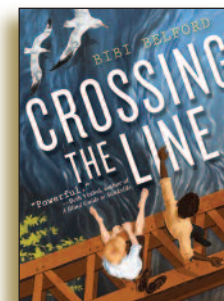
Ages 6 and up
Before She Was Harriet
(Holiday House Publishing)
**by Lesa Cline-Ransome,
illustrated by James E. Ransome**

Ages 8 and up
Genevieve's War
(Holiday House Publishing)
by Patricia Reilly Giff

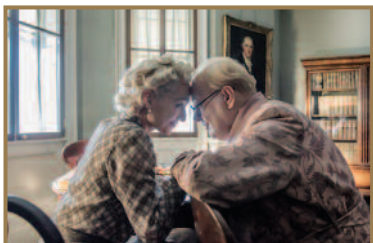


Ages 10 and up
The Red Bandanna
(Viking/Penguin Young Readers
Group)
By Tom Rinaldi

Young Adult
Crossing the Line
(Sky Pony Press/Skyhorse Publishing)
by Bibi Belford



FEATURE FILMS



Darkest Hour

(Focus Features/Working Title Films)

Director: Joe Wright

Screenwriter: Anthony McCarten

Producers: Tim Bevan, Lisa Bruce,
Eric Fellner, Anthony McCarten,
Douglas Urbanski

Executive Producers: James Biddle,
Liza Chasin, Lucas Webb

Lady Bird

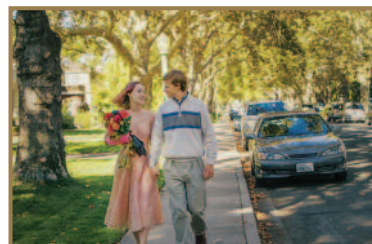
(A24 Films)

Writer/Director: Greta Gerwig

Producers: Eli Bush, Evelyn O'Neill,
Scott Rudin

Co-Producers: Jason Sack, Alex G. Scott

Executive Producer: Lila Yacoub



The Star

(AFFIRM Films/Sony Pictures Animation)

Director: Timothy Reckart

Screenwriter: Carlos Kotkin

Story by: Carlos Kotkin and Simon Moore

Producer: Jennifer Magee-Cook

Executive Producers: DeVon Franklin,
Brian Henson, Lisa Henson



Wonder

(Lionsgate)

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Screenwriters: Stephen Chbosky, Steven Conrad,
Jack Thorne

Based on the novel by: R.J. Palacio

Producers: David Hoberman, Todd Lieberman

Executive Producers: Jeff Skoll, Robert Kessel,
Michael Beugg, R.J. Palacio, Alexander Young

**ABC News 20/20:*****Wonder Boy***

(ABC News)

Producers: Sean Dooley,
Jennifer Joseph, Jeff Schneider
Field Producers: Sunny Antrim,
Susan Welsh, Michael Harris



Writers: Sean Dooley,
Jennifer Joseph, Elizabeth Vargas
Senior Producer: Terri Lichstein
Anchor/Correspondent:
Elizabeth Vargas
Senior Executive Producer:
David Sloan

The Long Road Home

(National Geographic Channel)

Directors: Phil Abraham, Mikael Salomon
Writers: Mikko Alanne, Alan DiFiore,
Lana Cho, Scott Gold, Amy Louise John-
son, Kelly Wiles

Based on the book by: Martha Raddatz
Co-Producer: Tony Lara
Co-Executive Producer: Mikael Salomon
Executive Producers: Phil Abraham,
Mikko Alanne, Benjamin Anderson, Jason
Clark, Edward McGurn, Mike Medavoy

***The Middle:
The Christmas Miracle***

(ABC)

Director: Lee Shallat Chemel
Writer: Ilana Wernick
Producer: Werner Walian
Consulting Producer: Korby Siamis
Co-Executive Producers: Ilana Wernick,
Rich Dahm
Executive Producers: DeAnn Heline,
Eileen Heisler, Tim Hobert, Jana Hunter,
Mitch Hunter, Roy Brown

***The Music of Strangers:
Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble***

(HBO)

Director: Morgan Neville
Producer: Caitrin Rogers
Co-Executive Producer:
Cristin Canterbury Bagnall
Executive Producers: Jeff Skoll,
Diane Weyermann, Laura Freid,
Julie Goldman, William Ackman,
Hyun-Sang Cho, Nancy Stephens,
Rick Rosenthal
Senior Producer for HBO:
Nancy Abraham
Executive Producer for HBO:
Sheila Nevins

***POV: Swim Team***

(PBS)

Director/Producer: Lara Stolman
Producer: Shanna Belott
Co-Producer: Ann Collins
Executive Producer: Craig Perry
Executive Producers for POV:
Justine Nagan, Chris White



Ken Burns

by Tony Rossi, The Christophers

Ken Burns has been making films for almost forty years. After the Academy Award-nominated and Christopher Award-winning *Brooklyn Bridge* in 1981, he went on to direct and produce some of the most acclaimed historical documentaries ever made, including six other Christopher Award winners: *The Statue of Liberty*, *The Civil War*, *Not For Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony*, *Jazz*, *Horatio's Drive: America's First Road Trip*, and *The War*.



Burns's passion for history has guided his filmmaking because, as he said in a 1990 interview with *American Heritage* magazine, "It is the great arrogance of the present to forget the intelligence of the past." That passion, coupled with immense talent, resonated with audiences many times over as they tuned into PBS in record numbers to learn more about the people, places, and events that defined America.

The 15-time Emmy Award winner once told The Christophers, "Too often in our country, we're reminded of how we're different...and we forget the things that bring us together. Our motto, the Latin motto, is 'E pluribus unum' – 'out of many, one.' There are too many people out there in the job of pluribus. I'm in the job of unum. I want to remind us why we can agree to cohere, why we can all sit around a table and share an American conversation."

In September 2017, PBS broadcast *The Vietnam War*, a ten-episode, eighteen-hour series Burns co-directed with Lynn Novick that helped prompt a national conversation about the most significant event in American history during the last half of the twentieth century. Future projects include films on the history of Country Music, Ernest Hemingway, Muhammad Ali, Benjamin Franklin, the American Revolution, the history of Crime and Punishment in America, Lyndon B. Johnson and Civil Rights, the history of Reconstruction, and Winston Churchill, among others.

One of the most admirable aspects of Burns's filmmaking is that he doesn't approach history as dry facts. Instead, it's about stories, human connections, and the emotions and experiences that bind us together by transcending time and place. And while he knows that America and its citizens have sometimes fallen short of their own ideals, his films ultimately convey a spirit of hope that we learn from our mistakes to become better as a people and a nation. For that reason, The Christophers are honored to present Ken Burns with our 2018 Christopher Life Achievement Award.

Previous winners include jazz legend Dave Brubeck, actor Carroll O'Connor, and historian David McCullough.

Testimonials

from Christopher Award winners

"I cannot think of a greater honor than receiving this Lifetime Achievement Award. The Christophers have long celebrated what is unique about each person and inspire us to contribute to the public good. In our work, we look to tell the larger arc of our country's history through the stories of individuals. By recognizing the actions of individuals I think we can better understand the issues of the past and the present, and hopefully do so in a way that is respectful of people's lives, even when we tackle topics that are often hard to understand. I'm inspired by The Christophers' work and encourage others to embrace their belief that everyone can make a difference."

- Ken Burns, seven-time Christopher Award winner and recipient of the 2018 Life Achievement Award

"To receive the Christopher Award for 'Hidden Figures' was an honor because the award's goal is to encourage women, men and children to pursue excellence in creative arenas that have the power to positively influence mass audiences. If one young girl decides to study math or engineering because of our film, then we, the filmmakers of 'Hidden Figures,' will have been worthy of the Christopher Award. And I will have made Sister Anne Richards, my eighth grade math teacher, very proud!"

- Donna Gigliotti, producer of 2017 Feature Film winner "Hidden Figures"

"Receiving the Christopher Award brought a new level of attention as well as a new audience to my book, both of which were invaluable. But it was the meaning behind the award, 'affirming the highest values of the human spirit,' which I consider to be the highest honor an author can achieve that makes this award singularly significant."

- Kathy Izard, author, "The Hundred Story Home"

"Receiving the Christopher Award for our first Here's Hank book, 'Bookmarks Are People Too,' was such a meaningful acknowledgment of our commitment to getting reluctant readers to pick up a book and laugh their way through it. We believe laughter is the perfect light switch to illuminate a child's path into literature. We were honored and grateful to have been chosen and will continue to support the belief that reading and education can lead us all from darkness to light."

- Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver, co-authors of "Here's Hank: Bookmarks Are People Too!"



2018 Christophers' High School Poster Contest Winners



1st Place:
Alysia Templeman
Ripon Christian High School
Ripon, CA
Planting a seed



2nd Place:
Devon Marie Kuster
Tuscarora High School
Frederick, MD
Hand signs for ASL
to demonstrate how to
say "you can make a
difference"

3rd Place:
Imari Earley
Carrollwood Day School
Tampa, FL
Outreach 360 in the
Dominican Republic



Thank you for inspiring us, Ken Burns.

Congratulations on your
Christopher Life Achievement Award

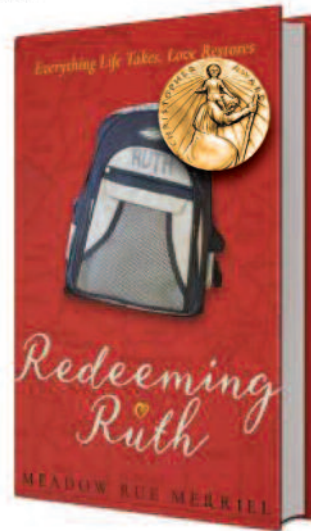
– Your PBS family



Congratulations to Meadow Rue Merrill Author of *Redeeming Ruth*

"Some stories warm your heart; others break it. *Redeeming Ruth* does both. She was the littlest, the last, and the least of all, but God used this exceptional child to change not only a family, but an entire community . . . I have the deepest admiration and respect for the Merrill family, and it's with great joy I recommend this book!"

—JONI EARECKSON TADA, CEO of Joni and Friends International Disability Center

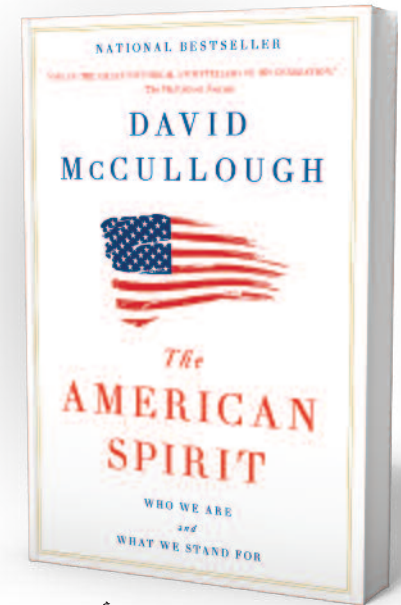


Congratulations
DAVID McCULLOUGH
Author of
The AMERICAN SPIRIT
Winner of a
2018 Christopher Award

DavidMcCullough.com



DavidMcCulloughBooks



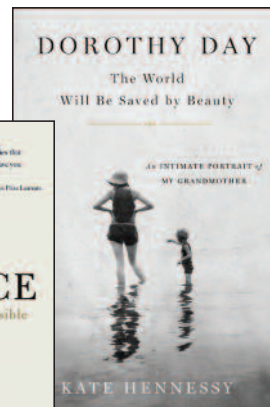
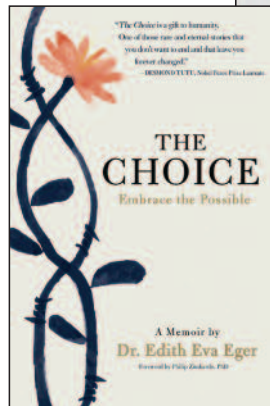
Congratulations to our 2018 Christopher Award Winners.

EDITH EVA EGER

Author of *The Choice: Embrace the Possible*

KATE HENNESSY

Author of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved by Beauty*



SimonandSchuster.com



Congratulations
TEAM wonder.
Take a bow!

- Your LIONSGATE Family



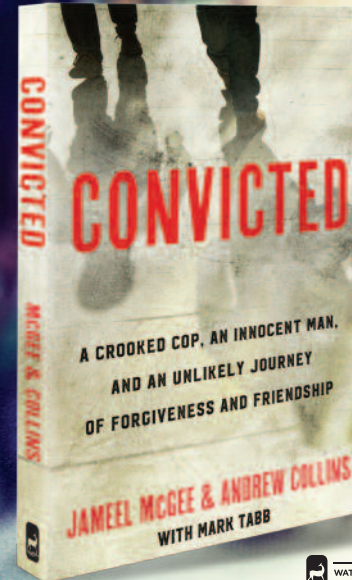
Annie O'Neill Summers

Congratulates...



Ken Burns
and all of the winners
on their **2018**
Christopher Awards

*Thank you for using your inner spark
of God's light to share positive messages
with all in our world!*



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TRUE STORY OF A CROOKED
WHITE COP, AN INNOCENT
BLACK MAN, AND THEIR
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RACIALLY DIVIDED NATION.**

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WWW.CONVICTEDBOOK.COM

**PBS proudly
congratulates
POV**

for winning a
Christopher Award
in TV & Cable
for "Swim Team."



Congratulations to
The Christophers
on the occasion of the
69th Annual Christopher Awards

*Keep lighting candles
of hope for us all!*



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"It's Better to Light One Candle than to Curse the Darkness"

Christopher Closeup Radio

Listen to "Christopher Closeup"
every Sunday on Sirius-XM's
The Catholic Channel (channel 129)
at 7:00 am and 11:30 am Eastern –
and on the Relevant Radio network
at 8:30 am Eastern/5:30 am Pacific.



For more info, please visit www.christophers.org

CATHOLIC NEW YORK

**Congratulates each of the
2018 CHRISTOPHER AWARD**

**Winners and Honorees
and Thanks**

**The Christophers
for Affirming
the Highest
Values of the
Human Spirit
for the 69th year.**



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Congratulates

Ken Burns

and all of the winners of the
2018 Christopher Awards



*Thank you for using your God-given gifts
to shine His light in the world and to encourage
the resilience of the human spirit!*

FATHER JOHN CATOIR

(Former Director of The Christophers)

Congratulates

Ken Burns

and all of the winners of the
2018 Christopher Awards

*Thank you for sharing your talents to shine
God's hope in the world; to foster understanding
among all people and to help unite us as one!*

www.messengerofjoy.com

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Congratulations to the Honorees!



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Martin A. Rego 212-763-0640
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2018 Christophers' Prison Outreach Testimonial



**"It's Better
to Light One
Candle Than
to Curse the
Darkness"**

"The Office of Prison Ministry for the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg would like to add their well wishes to those already received by the Christopher Awards on the joyous occasion of their 69th Anniversary!"

"For over ten years, The Christophers have been faithful and faith-filled in their support of our local prison ministry by donating literally tons of outstanding materials to be distributed freely to men, women and children incarcerated in our 2 prisons, 5 county jails, 3 juvenile detention centers, various work release centers and local shelters. Items such as Three Minutes a Day books, Christopher calendars, and those outstanding Christopher News Notes, have been a staple of our ministry."

"Anytime we have asked The Christophers for assistance, the answer is not only yes, but; what else can we do to help you? The Christophers believe in 'lighting a single candle to illuminate the darkness...' and, certainly, over these 69 years millions of candles have been lit!"

"The Christophers have done so much to send the blaze of the love and knowledge of Christ to countless inmates 'behind the wire.'"

- Deacon Peter Andre,
Office of Prison Ministry,
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Hope for Prisoners

Lord, may I always remember
That no matter the day
and whatever hardship I face
You are with me,
extending Your hand in love.

Help me to be open to Your guidance,
knowing that You want what's best for me,
only asking in return sorrow for my sins
and my willingness to do good.

As You love me, help me to
love myself and others.

Despite my challenges,
help me to focus on my blessings.

Despite my fears,
help me to pray to You in hope.

For, with You, ALL things are possible,
and only positive choices
will lead to true joy and peace.

Thank you, Lord, for helping me
to find the positive solutions I seek,
and the strength I need
to "grow" through my challenges
for as long as necessary.

Thank you for being my hope,
my salvation
and my constant companion.
Amen.



The Christophers

We provide literature and media that nurture faith, character, and hope in people of all ages.

**The God of
Second Chances**

**Living Joyfully in a
Stressed-Out World**

**Caregivers
Need Care, Too**

**Finding the
Courage Within**

For FREE samples of our
inspiring News Notes,
contact us today!

Christopher News Notes

Christopher News Notes

The Christophers www.christophers.org
212-759-4050

"It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"



**Fathers and Brothers
MARYKNOLL**
MaryknollSociety.org
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The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers joyfully
congratulate the Christophers on the
69th Annual Christopher Awards.

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*Special thanks to our host
for the evening*

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The Christophers, a nonprofit organization founded in 1945 by Maryknoll Father James Keller, uses broadcast and print media to spotlight individuals working to change the world for the better. In addition to producing the weekly radio program, "Christopher Closeup," The Christophers syndicate radio spots; publish inspirational News Notes; and distribute "Light One Candle," a syndicated weekly newspaper column. They also sponsor a Youth Awards program and Leadership course.

The Christophers

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Hope

Hope looks for the good in people
instead of harping on the worst.

Hope opens doors
where despair closes them.

Hope draws its power from a
deep trust in God and the basic
goodness of human nature.

Hope regards problems,
small or large, as opportunities.

Hope pushes ahead
when it would be easy to quit.

Hope "lights a candle" instead
of "cursing the darkness."

**By Father James Keller, M.M.
Founder of The Christophers**



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