At the 70th annual Christopher Awards ceremony this past May, our 2019 Christopher Leadership Award was presented to Frank Siller, Chairman/CEO of the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, which financially supports catastrophically injured veterans, first responders, and Gold Star families. Inspired by their parents’ devotion to St. Francis of Assisi and his mantra, “While we have time, let us do good,” Frank and his siblings created the Foundation to honor their brother Stephen, a firefighter who was killed on 9/11 during rescue efforts at the World Trade Center.

On our “Christopher Closeup” radio show and podcast, host Tony Rossi has interviewed many notable people who are living out their faith in ways that help others. Featured guests include ABC News correspondent Paula Faris discussing her “Journeys of Faith” podcast – and actor Gary Sinise sharing his mission to bring hope and healing to our nation’s military veterans.
Helping the Poor & Imprisoned

Jim Collins is an excellent example of a Christopher Leadership Course graduate who continues to put faith into action in his life. Jim has worked with the poorest of the poor in Jamaica as a volunteer with the Missionaries of the Poor. He also helps to run retreats for prisoners through Residents Encounter Christ. Talking about his work with prisoners, Jim says, “The thing about these retreats is that you seem to go in focused on the idea that you’re bringing Christ to these people, and you realize when you go there that you’re taking Christ home with you to share with your community.”

WINNERS of the 31st Annual Video Contest for College students ... and the 29th Annual Poster Contest for High School Students:

The winner of our 31st annual video contest was Brandon Gosselin for his autobiographical film “One Person Can Make a Difference: Never Give Up,” which tells the story of his comeback from a traumatic brain injury. Gosselin’s story shows the tremendous struggle that accompanies brain injury and the determination, adaptation, and creative thinking needed on the part of all in society to chart a course of recovery for those who are suffering.

First prize in our 29th annual poster contest went to Logan Hoyt for his hand painted scene of a girl planting flowers, which so beautifully illustrates how each person can improve the world around them one act at a time.

Basic Leadership Training

This past May and June, Christopher leadership coordinator and instructor, Pam Hammond, presented training segments in public speaking and communication skills for religious education leaders in the Archdiocese of New York. Communications Skills is one part of the Archdiocese’s required Basic Leadership Training Course for all new Directors and Coordinators of Religious Education. Eighteen dedicated leaders participated in the Saturday workshops held at parishes in the Bronx and Middletown, NY.