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 70th Annual
Christopher Awards
MAY 23, 2019  320 PARK AVENUE  NEW YORK CITY

RECEPTION 6 p.m.
AWARDS CEREMONY 7 p.m.

WELCOME
Father Edward M. Dougherty, M.M.
The Christophers, Board of Directors

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   Paula Faris

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Tony Aiello
Christopher Leadership Award
Frank Siller
Chairman/CEO, Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation

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

Photos: Paul Schneck
Welcome 2019

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

Stories that highlight the power of community and common purpose, and get us in touch with “the better angels of our nature.”

Those are the kinds of stories we highlight at the Christopher Awards, and tonight’s winners add to that tradition.

The TV/Cable category brings us ABC News 20/20: One Way Out: Thailand Cave Rescue, which dives into the teamwork and courage it took to save the lives of 12 boys and their soccer coach trapped in a network of flooded caves last summer; Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story dramatizes the incident in which a compassionate school bookkeeper convinced an armed, mentally ill young man to surrender peacefully after he threatened to kill all the students; The Homeless Chorus Speaks chronicles the work of two San Diego musicians, who formed a chorus made up of homeless people, giving them a sense of fellowship and hope; The Mayo Clinic details the partnership between the Mayo family and the Sisters of St. Francis in 1883 that led to the creation of an institution world-renowned for medicine, compassion, and spirituality; and Mike Rowe travels throughout the U.S. to reward volunteers who are shaping their communities in positive ways in Returning the Favor: Season Two.

In the Feature Film category, Ben is Back highlights a mother’s commitment to saving her son from opioid addiction when he returns home from rehab, only to face unexpected temptations and threats; Instant Family comedically explores the joys and heartaches faced by a couple who take in three foster children as they slowly bond and come to love each other; as Christians are persecuted in Rome, Saints Luke and Paul struggle to live out the Gospel of Jesus in ways that model forgiveness and love in Paul, Apostle of Christ; and Won’t You Be My Neighbor? documents the enduring lessons of kindness and respect that former Christopher Award winner Fred Rogers embodied and passed on to children through his PBS series “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”

The Books for Adults category honors Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved, in which 35-year-old Kate Bowler comes to a new understanding of the ways that God can be found in life’s brokenness after receiving a diagnosis of incurable cancer; David W. Blight’s Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom explores the life of the escaped slave whose writings and orations turned him into a champion of human liberty; Jennifer Fulwiler learns to embrace the chaos and joy of raising six kids, pursuing career goals, and accepting help from the people God puts in her life in One Beautiful Dream; in The Strange Case of Dr. Couney, Dawn Raffel reveals the unknown story of the man who set up incubators at sideshows in the early 1900s and saved thousands of premature babies; and in The Sun Does Shine, Anthony Ray Hinton chronicles the racism that sent him to death row for a murder he didn’t commit, the spiritual transformation that led him to become a force for good for his fellow inmates, and how he was finally exonerated.

In the Books for Young People category, Eraser enters the world of talking school supplies, where Eraser feels unappreciated until she realizes her critical role in creating second chances; The World is Awake follows a brother and sister who come to appreciate God’s blessings in the beauty of creation and simple wonders of the world; inspired by author Jessica Kensky’s experiences after the Boston Marathon bombing, Rescue and Jessica explores the friendship that forms between a double amputee and the service dog who reignites her joy for life; in The Ostrich and Other Lost Things, Olivia wishes she could fix her brother Jacob’s autism, but some unusual adventures lead her to see him and their relationship in a different light; To the Moon revisits the story of Apollo 8 and the teamwork it took to send a crewed spaceship around the moon for the first time; and Tight follows a comic book-loving sixth grader who looks to his heroes to help him do what is right after a classmate proves to be a bad influence.

In addition, our Christopher Leadership Award winner – Frank Siller – is profiled on a separate page of this program book.

If you need an antidote to modern-day cynicism, any of our winning projects will do the job. So thanks to all our winning creators for serving as lights in the darkness.

Photo: Previous Award winners, Ernie Anastos & Ken Burns with Tony Rossi of The Christophers.
Our Presenters

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)

Father Edward M. Dougherty, M.M.
The Christophers, Board of Directors

Paula Faris
ABC News Anchor, Correspondent/Host, “Journeys of Faith” podcast

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.
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:

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David and Caroline Rahill
Mary Ellen Robinson
Tony Rossi
Yaneza Santos
Maureen Zuk
...and all of our Donors, Friends and Advertisers

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Preschool and up
Eraser
(Two Lions/Amazon Publishing)
by Anna Kang,
illustrated by Christopher Weyant

Kindergarten and up
The World is Awake:
A Celebration of Everyday Blessings
(Zonderkidz/Harper Collins)
by Linsey Davis with Joseph Bottum,
illustrated by Lucy Fleming

Ages 6 and up
Rescue and Jessica:
A Life-Changing Friendship
(Candlewick Press)
by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes,
illustrated by Scott Magoon

Ages 8 and up
The Ostrich and Other Lost Things
(Philomel Books/Penguin Young Readers Group)
by Beth Hautala

Ages 10 and up
To the Moon!
The True Story of the American Heroes on the Apollo 8 Spaceship
(Philomel Books/Penguin Young Readers Group)
By Jeffrey Kluger
with Ruby Shamir
Young Adult
Tight
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers Group)
by Torrey Maldonado
FEATURE FILMS

Ben is Back
(Lionsgate/LD Entertainment/Roadside Attractions)
Director/Screenwriter: Peter Hedges
Producers: Nina Jacobson, Brad Simpson, Teddy Schwarzman, Peter Hedges
Co-Producers: Dianne Dreyer, Joseph Reidy, Margaret Chernin
Executive Producers: Daniel Steinman, Micah Green, Dan Friedkin, Ben Stillman, Michael Heimler, Jane Evans, Mickey Liddell, Pete Shilaimon

Won’t You Be My Neighbor?
(Focus Features)
Director: Morgan Neville
Producers: Caryn Capotosto, Nicholas Ma, Morgan Neville

Paul, Apostle of Christ
(AFFIRM Films/Sony Pictures)
Director: Andrew Hyatt
Screenwriter: Andrew Hyatt
Story by: Andrew Hyatt, T.J. Berden
Producers: T.J. Berden, David Zelon
Executive Producers: Jim Caviezel, Eric Groth, Tony Hyler, Rick Jackson, Harrison Powell

Instant Family
(Paramount Pictures)
Director: Sean Anders
Screenwriters: Sean Anders, John Morris
Producers: Mark Wahlberg, Stephen Levinson, Sean Anders, John Morris, Marc Evans
Executive Producer: Helen Pollak
ABC News 20/20: One Way Out: Thailand Cave Rescue
(ABC News)
Producers: Gail Deutsch, Marc Dorian, Ed Lopez, Andrew Paparella, Kim Powers, Joe Rhee, Jeff Schneider
Field Producers: Chris Kilmer, Tami Sheheri, Susan Welsh
Senior Producers: Colleen Halpin, Janice Johnston, Matthew Lombardi, Muriel Pearson
Correspondent: Matt Gutman
Executive Producer: Terri Lichstein
Senior Executive Producer: David Sloan

Faith Under Fire: The Antoinette Tuff Story
(Lifetime)
Director: Vondie Curtis-Hall
Writers: Laura Harrington, Stephen Kay
Based on the book “Prepared For a Purpose” by: Antoinette Tuff
Producer: Larry Rapaport
Co-Producer: David Manzanares
Executive Producers: T.D. Jakes, Derrick Williams, Craig Baumgarten, Toni Braxton, Judith Verno

The Homeless Chorus Speaks
(PBS)
Director/Producer: Susan Polis Schutz

The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science
(PBS)
Directors: Ken Burns, Erik Ewers, Christopher Loren Ewers
Writers: David Blistein, Ken Burns
Producer: Julie Coffman
Co-Producers: Erik Ewers, Christopher Loren Ewers
Producer for WETA: Jim Corbley
Executive Producer: Ken Burns

Returning the Favor: Season 2
(Facebook Watch)
Field Producers: Sarah Yourgrau, Steven Sims, Brent Lerash
Senior Producer: Lucien DeLaBruere
Supervising Producer: Calvin Collins
Co-Executive Producer: Jenna Levine
Executive Producers: Michael Rourke, Christopher Spry, Jacob Huddleston, Mike Rowe, Mary Sullivan
“While we have time, let us do good.” Frank Siller heard that quote, attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, quite often when he was growing up. Decades later, those words got him through the worst tragedy of his life and motivated him to become a force for good for those enduring their own brand of horrific loss and suffering.

It’s a mission that began with Frank’s brother Stephen 18 years ago. On Sept. 11, 2001, firefighter Stephen Siller got the call that a plane had hit the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Stationed in Brooklyn, he drove the truck to the Battery Tunnel to get into Manhattan, only to find the tunnel shut down for security reasons. So Stephen strapped 60 pounds of gear to his back and ran through the tunnel to join rescue efforts at the Trade Center. The husband and father of five was killed when the Towers collapsed.

Stephen’s six siblings were determined to not only keep his memory alive, but to do it in a way that would help others. In 2002, they created the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, initially as a New York City-based charity run that retraced Stephen’s steps on 9/11. But under the leadership of Chairman/CEO Frank Siller, Stephen’s brother, the Foundation has grown into a national force for good.

They build specially adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured members of the military who have lost arms and legs, pay off mortgages for families of first responders who have been killed in the line of duty, pay off mortgages for Gold Star families whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, and support a variety of community programs around the United States. Since its inception, the Foundation has raised over $125 million dollars, with 95 cents of every dollar going to programs.

As one example: Firefighter Brad Clark from Mechanicsville, VA, was killed on the road while working an accident scene. Tunnel to Towers paid off Lt. Clark’s mortgage so his wife and daughter could live in their home free from financial worry. One woman told Richmond.com, “[Frank Siller] came to Mechanicsville and did this without any solicitation or anything. He showed up to help this community after this tragedy.”

That is the kind of life-changing work done by Frank Siller and the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation. That is why we are happy to honor Frank with our 2019 Christopher Leadership Award.

Previous winners include Captain Scotty Smiley, the U.S. Army’s first blind active-duty officer, and Patti Ann McDonald, widow of heroic NYPD Detective Steven McDonald.
The Christopher Awards 70th Anniversary!

70 years of celebrating media that affirm the highest values of the human spirit!
2019 Christophers’ High School Poster Contest Winners

1st Place: Logan Hoyt
Croswell-Lexington High School
Croswell, MI
Planting Flowers

2nd Place: Oksana Specht
The Christian Academy
Brookhaven, PA
Mission trips to Kenya

3rd Place: Grace Choi
Northern Valley Regional HS
Old Tappan, NJ
Make a difference around the world

Pursue your passions, LOVE YOUR FAMILY, and say goodbye to guilt—pipe dream or possibility?

Hilarious, highly relatable, and brutally honest, Jennifer Fulwiler’s story will spark clarity and comfort your own tug-of-war between all that is good and beautiful about family life and the incredible sacrifice it entails. Parenthood, personal ambitions, family planning, and faith—it’s complicated. Let this book be your invitation to the unexpected yet beautiful dream of saying yes to them all, with God’s help.

Jennifer Fulwiler is a writer, a speaker, and the host of The Jennifer Fulwiler Show, airing daily on SiriusXM channel 129. She lives with her husband and six children in Austin, Texas. You can connect with her at JenniferFulwiler.com
Congratulations to David W. Blight

and thank you to The Christopher Awards for honoring Frederick Douglass, Prophet of Freedom

Random House congratulates 2019 Christopher Award winner Kate Bowler

"A fascinating historical footnote, compassionately told."
—npr.org

Penguin Random House congratulates Dawn Raffel, winner of a 2019 Christopher Award

"Fascinating, mysterious and compelling... written with great style and the energy of a can’t-put-down thriller."
—The Chicago Tribune

Available now wherever books are sold

Congratulations on your Christopher Award in the Books for Young People category!
Congratulations to Kate Bowler

Christopher Award Winner & Author of Everything Happens for a Reason
From your colleagues at Duke Divinity School

Proud to Support The Christophers
Congratulations to the Honorees!

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Candlewick Press congratulates JESSICA KENSKY, PATRICK DOWNES, and SCOTT MAGOON

Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship
A 2019 Christopher Award winner
Books for Young People category
★ “An inspiring tale of compassion and perseverance.”
—Booklist (starred review)

The Christophers
God is My Light
You’re my light in the darkness
You’re my guide through the storm
My hope for new beginnings
You help keep me from harm.
Close to You, all good is possible
Better days filled with hope.
With strength from You, I’ve a future
Love sent from You helps me cope.

*It’s better to light one candle
than to curse the darkness*
www.christophers.org
212-759-4050

You’re my light in the darkness
You’re my guide through the storm
My hope for new beginnings
You help keep me from harm.
Close to You, all good is possible
Better days filled with hope.
With strength from You, I’ve a future
Love sent from You helps me cope.
Be with me now, Lord
Let your love light the way. Amen
Annie O’Neill Summers

Congratulations...

Frank Siller and all of the winners on their 2019 Christopher Awards

Thank you for sharing the faith and resilience that got you through life’s challenges, to bring great help to others in need!

The Catholic Channel is delighted to congratulate Jennifer Fulwiler, host of The Jen Fulwiler Show, as she receives a Christopher Award for her book One Beautiful Dream: The Rollicking Tale of Family Chaos, Personal Passions, and Saying Yes to Them Both.
The Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers joyfully congratulate The Christophers on the 70th anniversary of the Christopher Awards.

CATHOLIC NEW YORK

Congratulations each of the 2019 CHRISTOPHER AWARD Winners and Honorees and Thanks THE CHRISTOPHERS for 70 Years of Affirming the Highest Values of the Human Spirit.
Rev. Monsignor Peter G. Finn

*Congratulates*

Frank Siller

and all of the winners of the
2019 Christopher Awards

*Thank you for sharing your talents and compassion, to improve the lives of others, thereby shining God’s light in our world!*

---

**FATHER JOHN CATOIR**
(Former Director of The Christophers)

*Congratulates*

Frank Siller

and all of the winners of the
2019 Christopher Awards

*Thank you for using your inner strength to overcome obstacles, and show others that, with a positive focus, God’s joy prevails!*

www.messengerofjoy.com

---

2019 Christophers’ Video Contest

**Place Winner Spotlight**

Brandon Gosselin
Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL
Major: Business Administration

“One Person Can Make A Difference: Never Give Up”

Nine days after graduating high school as Valedictorian and recognized as one of the top 10 basketball players in the state of Oklahoma for class B, Brandon Gosselin was in a severe ATV accident that resulted in a traumatic brain injury. Nine days after his accident, he woke up to a 3rd grade mental capacity and hardly having the ability to walk. By the grace of God — and with intense rehab — Brandon has gone above and beyond what his family, friends, and doctors thought he could ever do, returning to full mental capacity.

To view Brandon’s inspiring video, & those of the other contest winners, please visit https://www.christophers.org/2019winners-video-contest

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THE CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Congratulates*

Frank Siller

and the 2019 Christopher Award Winners

Thank you for your examples of Faith, Courage, Enthusiasm... and positive leadership!

The Christophers
Christopher Awards • Leadership Courses • News Notes • 3 Minutes a Day books • Christopher Closeup Radio & Podcasts • Youth Contests • and more...
www.christophers.org 212-759-4050

“It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”
2019 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!

“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.”

“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

2019 Christophers’ Prison Outreach Testimonial

“Hope for Prisoners

Lord, may I always remember That no matter the day and whatever hardship I face You are with me, instructing 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 keep in fear and 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 companions. Amen.”

The Christophers

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

The Christophers

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For more info, please visit www.christophers.org

“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 7:00 am Eastern.”

“It’s Better to Light One Candle than to Curse the Darkness”

For more info, please visit www.christophers.org

The Christophers

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For FREE samples of our inspiring News Notes, contact us today!”
Our goal is to help you pursue yours. It’s that simple.

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Senior Financial Advisor
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kevin_halpin@ml.com

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New York, NY 10019
fa.ml.com/kevin_halpin

May the spirit of
Frank and Blanche Seaver
continue to spread the great works of The Christophers.

With sincere gratitude for helping us to continue Father Keller’s mission of lighting candles of God’s hope in our world,

The Christophers
“It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”
Christopher credo

THE CHRISTOPHERS
Over 70 Years of Making a Difference

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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

THE CHRISTOPHER AWARDS
celebrating 70 years

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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
5 Hanover Square, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10004
Tel 212 759 4050 Fax 212 838 5073
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Special thanks to our host for the evening
Mutual of America

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.
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Founder of The Christophers