

# KAREN RAYMOND-ROBBEN PERSEVERANCE AND SPIRIT AWARD

*“Perseverance and spirit have done  
wonders in all ages.”*

-General George Washington



This award recognizes **one high school youth** who embraces challenge and uses **his/her** God-given talents to reach beyond **personal** limitations to make a difference in the lives of others.

Karen Raymond-Robben **served as** the first female President of the Belleville Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization (**CYO**) **from 1978 to 1979**. Her determination to ‘boldly go where no woman had gone before’ continued throughout her life and her **“never give-up attitude”** was most notable throughout her 8 year battle against ovarian cancer. Karen lost that battle in October of 2005, but her unceasing faith was an inspiration and it helped bring peace to all who were lucky enough to know and love her. It is our hope to keep her spirit alive by honoring another young person who possesses those same qualities of perseverance and leadership.

Karen was a life-long member of St. Dominic’s Parish in Breese. She was a youth leader in her parish, the diocese, her high school and in the **Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)** program. Throughout her illness, she stayed close to her God, choosing to bring comfort to others by serving as a hospice volunteer, rather than focusing on her own trials. She continued teaching special education classes at Central High School in **Breese** advocating for the needs of her students and helping **these special education students** make the transition from high school into the adult working community. Karen saw each day as a gift from God and believed in making the most of those days.

This award **recipient** will be chosen by a committee of Karen’s family and friends. Selection will be based on the completion of the application form and **accompanying letter(s)** of support. The recipient of this award will be announced at **the Awards Banquet of the annual Diocesan Youth Conference which takes place on Saturday evening, March 28, 2009. Recipient will receive a special Award Plaque.**

Judging criteria will cover the following components:

- demonstrated leadership
- dedication to reaching out to those in need
- ability to look beyond one’s personal challenges
- ability to inspire others to reach out to those in need
- demonstrated desire to live life as a gift from God

Please return the completed application form **no later than March 1, 2009, to:**

**Office of Youth Ministry  
2620 Lebanon Avenue  
Belleville IL 62221-3299**





**5. Provide any additional** comments/information you wish to share about this young leader to justify their selection for this Award.

Up to three letters of support may accompany this application. **At least ONE letter is required.**

Name of Person Completing this Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information for Person Completing Form (to include address, phone and e-mail):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION AND A MINIMUM OF ONE (1) LETTER OF REFERENCE TO THE OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2009.***