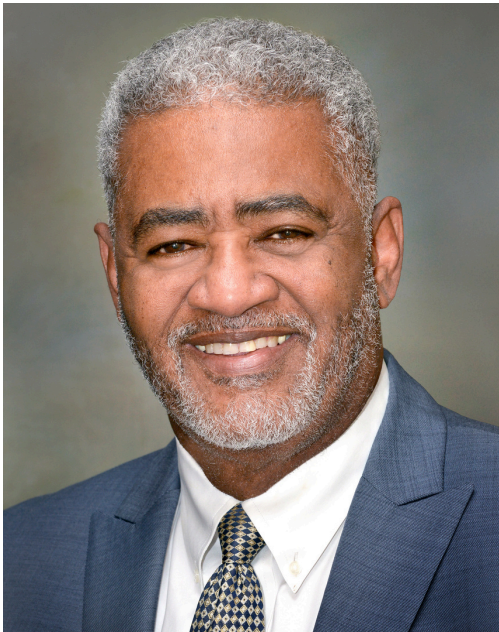


Ignatian Award for Community Service

The Ignatian Awards, founded by the Alumni Association's Awards Committee, honor the accomplishments of Le Moyne College alumni and friends, embodying the principles of St. Ignatius and the essence of Jesuit education. The Ignatian Award for Community Service is bestowed for exceptional outreach to the community, presented during Reunion and/or Golden Reunion Weekend.

2025 Recipient - Jesse A. Watley '75



Jesse A. Watley '75 has dedicated his life to service, faith and the empowerment of his community. A proud New Orleans native, Jesse graduated from Le Moyne College in 1975 with a degree in industrial and labor relations. His professional journey began with a distinguished 30-year career at BellSouth Corporation, after which he shifted his focus to ministry and community leadership.

Ordained as a permanent deacon on May 11, 1996, Jesse has served in numerous capacities within the Archdiocese of New Orleans, including assignments at St. Louis Cathedral, the former parish of St. Simon Peter, and as temporary parish administrator of St. Augustine Parish. He also served as assistant director of the Permanent Diaconate Office and as a liturgical master of ceremonies, ensuring the beauty and reverence of liturgical celebrations throughout the archdiocese.

From 2007 to 2015, Jesse served as executive director of Pastoral Services for the archdiocese, providing leadership and pastoral support across parish communities. From 2013 to 2018, he served two terms as a consultant to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Subcommittee on African-American Affairs, a subcommittee of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. Since 2015, he has served as executive director of the Corpus Christi-Epiphany Community Resource Center, where he has helped advance programs dedicated to economic opportunity, civic engagement, health and wellness, youth development and community growth. Established in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the center stands as a testament to resilience and hope for the residents of New Orleans.

Jesse's ministry continues through his role as a deacon at Blessed Francis Seelos Catholic Church and as an archdiocesan faith speaker, offering reflections on Eucharistic theology to parishes and schools. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Catholic Community Foundation and has long been involved with the Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

Jesse's lifelong dedication to service, social justice and the spiritual enrichment of others reflects the values of his Jesuit education and a deep commitment to building compassionate, faith-filled communities.

2025 Recipient - Colleen (Feely) Manfred '80



Colleen (Feely) Manfred '80 has dedicated her life to service, leadership and advancing opportunities for young people, guided by the principles of her Jesuit education at Le Moyne College. Her career and volunteer work are sterling examples of her commitment to the transformative power of education and the well-being of others.

After earning a degree in business administration, Colleen began a career with General Electric in its technical marketing program, eventually holding marketing positions in various GE divisions.

For most of her adult life, Colleen has been involved in volunteer and service activities. She continues to work as a college counselor at Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem. Cristo Rey New York serves first-generation and low-income families with a unique corporate work study program, which has resulted in 100 percent college placement and an impressive college graduation record. Colleen has been instrumental in securing outstanding college placements and in developing paid summer internship opportunities for students, the most important being the caddy programs run by the Evans Scholars Foundation. Colleen also serves as a director of the Evans School Foundation.

Colleen served three terms on Le Moyne's board of trustees and has also devoted her time and talents to Regis High School, the School of the Holy Child, the Life Way Network, the American Red Cross and local nursing homes.

Committed to making Jesuit education accessible, Colleen and her husband, Rob, established the Manfred Catholic High Schools Endowed Scholarship Fund at Le Moyne. This fund supports students from Cristo Rey and other Jesuit and Catholic high schools, helping them pursue their educational goals.

Colleen's work reflects her unwavering belief in the power of education to shape lives, and she is always guided by the Jesuit values of service, community and social responsibility.

Previous Recipients

Year	Recipient
1994	Brendan Walsh '64
1995	Michael S. Roth, M.D. '69
1996	Elizabeth A. Salvagno '85
1997	Barbara Hafner Caveny '62
1998	Kathleen Gleason Curtin '62
1999	Elaine Ballard Crough '63
2001	Marie "Pidge" Green James '66
2002	Kathleen Kennedy Dwyer '57
2003	Peter Cappuccilli Jr. '73
2004	Virginia De Lucia Donohue '69 Charles R. Nojaim '54
2005	James J. Dwyer '55
2006	The Rev. Robert S. Jones '56 Dr. Tisha Gallanter '91
2007	James J. Murphy '67 Donna Marie Werner '82
2008	Joyce Thomasmeyer '68
2010	M. Jim Burke '60 Paul Nojaim '85

Previous Recipients

Year	Recipient
2011	Charles Michaud '66 Mary Beth Dunn '86
2012	Edward Long '67 and Patricia Long '67
2013	Dr. Richard Buchta '63
2014	Sister M. Agnelle Ching '69
2015	Ellen Finigan Fralick '65 Eileen Normile Weir '90
2016	Paul W. Tonnesen '86
2017	Carl M. Oropallo '62
2018	John A. Miterko '68 Denise (Missigman) Quinn '78
2019	Thomas H. Glisson, Sr. '69 and Margaret (Carney) Glisson '69 Cecilia (Bresadola) Sindoni '89
2020	Dennis A. Petruzzi '70 and Susan (Montano) Petruzzi '70 Thérèse Wiley Dancks '85
2021	Maureen (Dunn) McBride '71 Sam Monachino '81 and Cheryl (Somers) Monachino '81
2022	Christine (Makhuli) Cotton '87
2023	Cornelius Lewis '73 Beth Scanlon '78
2024	Michael Massiah '79