



FAITHFUL STEWARDS

**Paulette Meuth and Gil & Marcia Jochem are
Resurrection's 2021 Bruté Award Recipients**



Gil and Marcia Jochem



Paulette Meuth

NOVEMBER 2021 - What kind of givers are we? Bishop Joseph Siegel posed this question during his homily at the 2021 Induction Ceremony for the Bruté Society.

Some people are self-concerned givers, who give with the hope of getting something in return. Others are duty givers, who feel obliged to give and do so reluctantly.

Paulette Meuth and Gil and Marcia Jochem are what the Bishop calls thanks givers, those who "give freely from the heart out of love."

"The gifts of this group are the only ones that really have any lasting meaning because these people want to give," the Bishop explained.

Paulette, Gil, and Marcia, who have blessed this parish with many gifts in their lifetimes, are Resurrection's 2021 Bruté Award recipients.

Paulette teared up when she talked about receiving this award.

"I don't know what I did (to earn it)," Paulette said. "I don't think of myself as someone who deserves an award."

Paulette's family has been part of Resurrection Parish since its inception. Her family hosted spot shoots to help raise money to build the church, and they helped clear the land so the cornerstone could be laid in November of 1954. Paulette was in grade school at the time.

Over the years, Paulette has helped the parish in many different ways. She has worked socials and dinners, served as treasurer of the Ladies Club and helped as a school volunteer, while also volunteering as a Eucharistic minister. Currently Paulette keeps a weekly Holy Hour and serves as an usher/greeter. She also volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul, where she regularly makes visits and calls to the homebound in our community. It is not uncommon for her to make soup or pick up a meal for someone in need.

"I help wherever I'm needed," Paulette said.

Paulette lives her life with a simple goal: do the small things well.

"The little things are what count," Paulette said. "I was reading 'The Word Among Us' recently, and it talked about how the Kingdom of God is in the little things. When you smile at someone, you're bringing the Kingdom of God to others."

Paulette encourages other parishioners to find their own small ways of bringing the Kingdom of God to those around them. She also encourages all families to find ways of becoming involved in parish life

"I think if you aren't involved, you don't feel like you're a part of the parish," Paulette explained.

For Gil and Marcia Jochem, serving the parish is their way of saying thank you.

"Resurrection Parish is very special to us," Marcia said. "We were married in this church, our children were baptized here and attended school here. It is only natural that we want to be involved in the church community that has given us so many blessings. Our parents were very involved in our parishes growing up, St. Wendel for me and St. Theresa for Gil. Our parents were great role models for us to give back and share our time, talent, and treasures."

Gil and Marcia, who own Thyme in the Kitchen, are generous in sharing their resources with others. In the midst of the pandemic, the couple provided a meal for the entire parish and school staff to show their appreciation and to make people smile during difficult times.

The Jochems also are quick to volunteer their time and expertise to various parish initiatives, whether that be organizing fundraisers, assisting with the parish hiring committee, serving on the finance council, or serving on the committee that introduced the Rise initiative. Marcia also helped launch the Strength Finders program, which aims to help parishioners discover how to use their talents to help their parish and serve God.

"Working with Karen Muensterman to develop and bring Strength Finders to our parish was so exciting," Marcia said. "I enjoy seeing people get involved and grow as individuals. Being on the Rise Committee to help increase parishioner involvement was a recent highlight for us. We feel everyone wants to be involved, but sometimes they think they are too busy or are too shy about their talents. God gave us all different talents, and He amazes us every day with how well the talented people of Resurrection work for each other."

As for the award itself, Gil and Marcia had the same thought as Paulette.

"Our first thought when we found out we were being honored was, why us?" Marcia said. "There are so many people involved at our parish. I told Fr. Jerry I thought he made a mistake. But my second thought was that my parents were among the first people to be inducted into the Bruté Society, and it was an honor for them, and it is for us as well!"

As he wrapped up his homily during the Bruté Society Induction Mass, Bishop Siegel reminded us that when we think of the Church, we often think of the buildings, the brick-and-mortar structures. But our parishes are truly made of the living stones, like our honorees, who make up the Temple of God here on Earth.

"As we induct new members into the Bruté Society today, we recognize these men and women from around our diocese who, with God's grace, have shown themselves as the heartfelt and sincere givers the Lord calls us all to be," the Bishop said. "Our inductees, each in their own way, have strived to express their love for the Lord our God through worship and prayer; through loving their neighbor by laying down their lives in service to others; by generously supporting the ministries of their parish and the diocese; by witnessing to Christ in their homes, their neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and community."

Thank you to Paulette, Gil, and Marcia for being wonderful "thanks givers" here at Resurrection!



Photos provided by Tim Lilley, Diocese of Evansville