

Heritage Award for Bill and Mary Pokorny

“My chosen shall not labor in vain” Isaiah 65:23

Bill and Mary Pokorny came into my life on West Point TEC # 147A in November 1987. Their deep abiding faith and devotion to God has borne abundant fruit in their dedicated “outreach” to everyone they meet but in particular with TEC in bringing Cadets and Young Adults in the Military to a deepening relationship with Christ.

Their loving hospitality, care and concern have given them untold numbers of family members and numerous “God-Children”. Their unfailing leadership and guidance has resulted in the forming of many outstanding leaders of our next generation. These same qualities are generously shared with the TEC Conference in consultative and experiential roles and to other Church and Community groups.

Their lives model and witness Paschal Mystery – in their Dying, Rising, and Going Forth. As directors and mentors, they have sent forth literally hundreds of TECERS to take the GOOD NEWS to the far corners of the earth.

Bill and Mary truly deserve the recognition and reception of the Heritage award for their many contributions and dedicated stewardship to the TEC Movement.
Bill and Mary surely are chosen servants and their “labor has not been in vain”.

Dorothy Gereke

Bill and Mary are West Point Icons! I look back with joy and gratitude upon years of holy memories. So many cadets and officers, and Mount Saint Mary College students, and even seminarians from St. Joseph Seminary in the Archdiocese of New York were blessed and nurtured by the TEC experience. Bill and Mary were gentle shepherds who gathered team members and candidates together for TEC weekends and for follow – up TEC meetings held in the Chaplain’s office. Their strong faith and constant prayers was a model for all of us. Their home became another gathering place for this community of God’s Love and indeed it became a song we’ll sing forever.

**“Wherever you go, I shall go... Wherever you live, so shall I live.
We will be together forever and our love will be the gift of our lives.”**

In the spirit of love and gratitude to the entire TEC Community I join you in honoring this wonderful couple with the 2011 Heritage Award.

With love and hope, Sr. Connie Koch

Bill and Mary Pokorny have been a lifelong blessing in and for the TEC Movement and remain a lively grace in the lives of so many they have befriended and mentored through the TEC Movement, but also to us who are and remain friends on the path with them. They epitomize the Cursillo method of make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ. Their circle of Christian friends is awesome in praise and grace. They are the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, gracing our present lives.

God speed, Mike Lancaster

Bill and Mary Pokorny were such strong presence at West Point and the TEC Community was so very fortunate to have them as role models for the cadets and young adults. As a young married couple, Mike and I looked up to them as a couple because of their strong love for God and for each other. They were truly a power couple in every sense of the word and the West Point TEC Community was much stronger due to their leadership. They are most deserving of the Heritage Award and both Mike and I are honored to be able to share in just a tiny part of how they impacted not only us, but many, many cadets who are now mature men and women who we know were shaped by Bill and Mary.

Blessings, Mike and Sedona Montelongo

I can see the Catholic Chaplain's office at West Point right next to the massive dining facility in Washington hall on a TEC night when Cadets gathered in droves in this small office to cultivate their faith and to seek respite from the rigors of daily cadet life. Always in this scene are Bill and Mary leading the way with care, compassion, advice, insight, encouragement, and support. It was not infrequent that on most weekends at West Point, and certainly many other evenings their home would also be filled with cadets yearning to be themselves and in the loving, gentle, and guided presence of Bill and Mary, would find home. For many years, Bill and Mary were the lifeblood of one of the most active and vibrant TEC programs in the country. They led West Point TEC community with great integrity, responsibility, stewardship, and always from a place of servant leadership where they strived to reflect the loving presence of Jesus Christ. How wonderful and appropriate that these two loving witnesses to the transforming power of TEC would be recognized as TEC Heritage Award recipients.

God bless, Greg Hiebert