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Madonna University Receives LEED Gold Award

Life-size Crucifix Blessed and Sculpture Unveiled at the Edge of the Pond

LIVONIA, MICH. – More than 200 guests were on hand to witness the presentation of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Award to Madonna University President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa, in recognition of the school's Franciscan Center for Science and Media. The award was presented by Kenn Rickman, president of the U.S. Green Building Council Detroit Chapter Board.

“Madonna University is one of only 6,300 buildings in the nation to be LEED certified,” said Rickman. “This is quite an accomplishment and an honor.”

Sister Rose Marie, and Andrea Nodge, vice president for advancement, presented framed, LEED Gold certificates to Jeff Hausman of SmithGroup, the architect; Mary Kane Butkovich of Clark Construction, the contractor; and Chuck Bisel of Focus Facility, the owners representative; and to the leaders of campus teams who helped make the “green” building a reality.



Kenn Rickman, U. S. Green Building Council Detroit Chapter Board President, presents Madonna University President Sister Rose Marie Kujawa with the LEED Gold Award plaque for the Franciscan Center.



The crucifix is unveiled in Cardinals Square at Madonna University.

The blessing of a life-size crucifix, now hanging on the wall in Cardinals Square, outside the Franciscan Center, was given by Fr. William Murphy, Madonna trustee and retired pastor of Our Lady of Refuge Parish in Orchard Lake.

To the oohs and aahs of the crowd, Doug Semivan, Royal Oak artist and chair of Madonna's art department, unveiled his sculpture *Edge of the Channel*, which stands just east of the Franciscan Center. To help with the reveal, Semivan, called upon artist Rob Zahorsky, the master fabricator who brought the sculpture to life in half-inch aluminum. “I am extremely grateful to Sr. Rose Marie for her support in this effort and to Robert for his superb craftsmanship,” said Semivan. “It represents how wisdom, knowledge and intuition interact to define each of our life experiences or journeys.” He encouraged

those gathered to walk around the *Edge of the Channel* and experience it from all sides. “You’ll see that it is a completely different piece from moment to moment as the light, shadows and shapes interact with one another.”

LEED is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The Franciscan Center, the first LEED-certified building in Livonia, includes an array of environmentally-friendly and energy-efficient features, such as motion-detecting lights and natural lighting, waterless urinals and low-flush toilets, recycled and environmentally-friendly materials, and storm water diversion. Open for classes in the fall of 2009, the Franciscan Center houses state-of-the-art science labs and all-digital video and film studios and production suites.

Academic excellence has been the hallmark of a Madonna University (www.madonna.edu) education for nearly 75 years. In addition to the main campus, conveniently located at I-96 and Levan Road in Livonia, Madonna offers academic programs in Macomb, Orchard Lake, Southwest Detroit, St. Clair, Gaylord and online. Michigan’s most affordable, independent, Catholic, liberal arts university offers more than 75 undergraduate and 32 graduate programs in the colleges of arts and humanities, science and mathematics, social sciences, education, and nursing and health, as well as the School of Business and the Graduate School.



Robert Zahorsky (left) and Doug Semivan reveal the Edge of the Channel sculpture, situated at the edge of St. Francis Pond at Madonna University.