

# Introduction of the Godfrey Diekmann, O.S.B. Award Recipient

**Bruce T. Morrill**

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In helping President Judith Kubicki present the Diekmann Award to Louis-Marie Chauvet today, I wish to report to you, my fellow Academy members, the similar honor I had this past June during the retirement convocation for Fr. Chauvet at the Institut Catholique de Paris. At that assembly I considered myself privileged to represent, in an unofficial way, us North American liturgical theologians who so admire and have benefitted from Fr. Chauvet's scholarship. Also making presentations that evening were Philippe Bordeyne, dean of the theological faculty at the Institut Catholique, Societas Liturgica colleague Patrick Pretot (liturgical studies director at the Institut Catholique), and Archbishop Joseph Doré of Strasbourg, former dean of theology at the Institut Catholique who treated us to some fascinating history of Fr. Chauvet's career.

Integral to that convocation was the presentation of a *festschrift* that I co-edited with Philippe Bordeyne and to which several of us Academy members contributed chapters. In response to Philippe's invitation that I co-edit a transatlantic *festschrift*, I had proposed a manageable sized, thematically focused book instead of the traditional mélange of dozens of essays solicited from colleagues of the honoree. The objective was to produce a first-ever companion to Chauvet's work that might function as a useful textbook in courses on contemporary sacramental-liturgical theology. We paired European and American authors (Catholic and Protestant, men and women) to address six themes crucial to Chauvet's work—fundamental theology, Scripture and

sacrament, ecclesiology, liturgy and ethics, symbol theory, and the use of social-scientific theories in our discipline—and were gratified by the cooperative and high-quality contributions that ensued. The book, *Sacraments: Revelation of the Humanity of God*, reached publication in French with les Editions du Cerf in time for the June presentation in Paris, while Liturgical Press released the English version in September. Liturgical Press director Peter Dwyer joins me on stage this morning in presenting to you, dear Louis-Marie, this copy of the book, with our esteem and affection.

And now President Judith Kubicki joins me in presenting the Diekmann Award, for which I shall proclaim the French text.

English translation:

Prodigious thinker,  
profiting from philosophy and the social sciences  
to construct a sacramental theology at once  
fundamental and practical, original and faithful,  
you show us how pastoral passion can be  
at the heart of liturgical theology  
at the highest academic level.

Dear Professor Louis-Marie Chauvet,  
The North American Academy of Liturgy  
joyfully confers on you  
The Godfrey Diekmann Award.

Baltimore, Maryland, USA  
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