

**Assumption Parish
Westport, Connecticut
St. Augustine Medal of Service Recipient
2010**

Maria Onorato



Father Tom Thorne, Bishop William Lori and Maria Onorato

Maria Onorato, Esq. nominated for St. Augustine Medal of Service - 2010

Dear Parish Family of Assumption,

I am very happy to announce the nomination of Attorney Maria Onorato, wife of Attorney Fred Onorato and mother of James, Julia, Pamela & Kristen, for the St. Augustine Medal for Parish Service. On Saturday, October 30th, Bishop Lori will present Maria with the Medal during a prayer service at the Cathedral. Each year, the Bishop makes the presentation to an individual or couple from each of the 87 parish that make up the Diocese of Bridgeport (Fairfield County). Past recipients from Assumption are: Dolores Bacharach, Roland Doran, Ed Capasse, Esq., Frank Kelty, Mr. & Mrs. Charles French, and Mr. and Mrs. Jose Feliciano.

Maria is also a recipient of the Rev. Msgr. Jeremiah J. Duggan Parish Service Award. The St. Augustine Medal recipients (from 2004) and all recipients of Parish Service Awards (from 2008) are permanently displayed in the Vestibule of the Church. She provides, pro bono legal guidance to the parish and me. She has served and continues to serve as Vice Chair of our Parish Finance Council. Maria served as Co-chair of the Committee which purchased, designed and refurbished Roncalli House, our new Parish Religious Education Center. In doing so, Maria had to negotiate with the owner, and meet with the architect, Planning & Zoning, the Westport Fire Dept., the Diocesan Sacred Spaces and Buildings Committee, as well as our Parish and Finance Councils. Maria teamed up the Finance Council members and their respective spouses and served on the Committee to raise revenue in "Phase One Fundraising" for the new center. She also taught Religious Ed. from 2003 - 2005.

She has worked in close concert with Ed Capasse, Esq., Parish Trustee Emeritus and former legal advisor for our Parish and me and also Nancy Matthews, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport. She updated and edited our current leases with our two school tenants: Landmark Academy of Ridgefield and Pumpkin Pre School, meeting with the leadership of both Schools to negotiate their lease agreements. Our parish has been and continues to be served by her with distinction, great care and dedication. On behalf of the parish, I thank, praise and congratulate Maria and her beautiful family.

Father Tom, Pastor