

News

Fr. Elmar Mauer: still inspiring youth (13/11/2007 - United States)



Fr. Elmar MAUER.

Each year, the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) Conference recognizes individuals for their exemplary commitment to Catholic youth with a "Spirit of TEC Award." In 2007, two bishops, five priests, one religious and 33 lay leaders from 21 dioceses received awards. Among the recipients this year was Fr. Elmar MAUER who has worked for many years as a TEC chaplain in the dioceses of Belleville, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri.

Born in Germany in 1934, Fr. Elmar came to the United States as a teenager to live with his uncle, the late Fr. Peter MINWEGEN, one of the German Oblates who founded the former Central Province of the United States. After learning English and the fine points of American baseball, Elmar entered the Oblate juniorate in Belleville. He was ordained a priest in 1964. Since then, he has been involved in various parish and preaching ministries and now serves as chaplain at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville.

The Teens Encounter Christ retreat is a three-day experience focusing on the centrality of the Paschal Mystery in the life of the Christian. Founded in 1965, the movement spread rapidly throughout much of the United States and Canada. When the first TEC retreats came to the Belleville and St. Louis dioceses, several Oblates volunteered their services since there is usually a priest on the team for each retreat (together with religious women and laity). Fr. Elmar has remained active in the retreats since the mid-70's.



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