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University of San Diego

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San Diego Priest Honored for Humanitarian Efforts *Msgr. Mikulanis Receives Bishop Buddy Award*

The Rev. Monsignor Dennis L. Mikulanis, S.T.D., was awarded the Bishop Charles Francis Buddy Award at the University of San Diego on Saturday, December 7. The award is presented each year by the USD Alumni Association in recognition of extraordinary contribution and commitment to humanitarian causes.

After the terrorist attacks in September, 2001, Mikulanis spearheaded a series of meetings that introduced the public to Islam's tenets and practices, a step that he says is vital to building a culture of understanding and peace. Earlier this year, Mikulanis became pastor of San Rafael Parish in Rancho Bernardo.

He is also a founding member of the Interreligious Council of San Diego and serves as the catholic chaplain for the police departments of San Diego and Chula Vista.

"Monsignor Mikulanis is an outstanding example of an alumnus who not only represents the leadership and ethics USD teaches but puts them into practice on a daily basis. The overwhelming positive response we received when we announced he was our 2002 Bishop Buddy Award honoree, is testament to his exceptional humanitarian contributions," said Jack Kelly, director of Alumni Relations at USD.

Mikulanis, a San Diego native, graduated from USD in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in history and philosophy. He was ordained in 1977 and returned to Rome for his doctoral studies. In 1986, Mikulanis was appointed director of the newly created Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. Bishop Robert Brom selected Mikulanis to serve as Vicar for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs for the diocese in 1990.

In addition to his work for the diocese, Msgr. Mikulanis has served as pastor for Holy Spirit Parish and St. Charles Parish.

The University of San Diego is an independent Catholic institution of higher learning overlooking San Diego's Mission Bay. Chartered in 1949, the school enrolls more than 7,000 students and is known for its commitment to teaching, the liberal arts, the formation of values and community involvement.

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