



# James J. Young Ministry Award

## Desirée Marciani



With graduate degrees and experience in both education and business, Desirée Marciani in 2000 chose to devote her life full-time to caring for hurting and healing families. In that year she became the Associate Director of The Center for Family Ministry for the Diocese of Joliet, where she cares for divorced and widowed individuals, and trains parish staff and volunteers to offer divorce and bereavement related ministries.

Desirée has co-authored the booklet "Returned to Peace: The Spiritual Benefits of Annulment," now in its second printing. She has also co-developed and presented a seven-session program on relationships entitled Relationship Enlightenment, and co-presented Smart Steps, a six-session program from the Stepfamily

Association of America.

Desirée is an annulment field advocate for the Diocese of Joliet and has worked for 11 years in divorce and bereavement ministry. She considers it an honor to help others through significant losses.

NACSDC congratulates Desirée Marciani, recipient of the 2006 James J. Young Ministry Award.

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## About the Award

The James J. Young Ministry Award is presented annually in tribute to and in memory of **Fr. James J. Young, CSP**, whose pioneering ministry to reconcile separated and divorced Catholics led to the foundation of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics in 1974.

The award serves as a recognition and affirmation of another's service that directly affected the beginning, development, or expansion of pastoral care to separated, divorced, and remarried Catholic families. It also recognizes that service can be expressed in a variety of ways such as: support group ministry; program development; transformational leadership; research; teaching; outreach at the parish, (arch)diocesan, regional, national, and international levels; movements; organizations; writing; and others.

The award strives to identify some critical contribution that directly benefitted the community of separated, divorced, and remarried Catholics and ministry to these families. While the original contribution may have been intended for a specific community, the award acknowledges that such service has impact for the larger community as well.

More details and a nomination form can be found in the latter pages of this program.