



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2025

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Marek Family honored with Houston Spirit of Francis Award

HOUSTON, TEXAS — [Catholic Extension Society](https://www.catholicextension.org) honored the Marek family of Marek Family of Companies, one of the largest interior specialty contractors in the Southwest, with its eighth annual Houston [Spirit of Francis Award](#). The award recognizes an individual or group who has made a significant impact on the mission of the Catholic Church in America through service or philanthropy. The Marek family, who started from humble beginnings, was honored for their service and dedication to the Catholic church within the Houston community.

The Marek family received the award at a benefit dinner on Feb. 27 in Houston, where other notables such as Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Rev. Msgr. Chester L. Borski of St. Faustina Catholic Church, Mrs. Raye G. White, the 2022 Catholic Extension Society Houston Spirit of Francis Award recipient, Trini Mendenhall, the 2023 Houston Spirit of Francis Award recipient, and Sister Jane Meyer, O.P., the 2024 Houston Spirit of Francis Award recipient, were in attendance.

Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension Society, awarded the Marek family, saying, "Through it all, the Marek family stayed convinced that God was up to something and that their lives were important and sacred. The Spirit of Francis Award simply highlights the longstanding commitment and dedication of the American family bringing Catholic principles of social justice, and awarding the Marek family is extremely timely."

"Catholic Extension's work in rural parishes and building up faith communities has never been more vital to the preservation of our nation," said Stan Marek, chairman and CEO of Marek Family of Companies. "On behalf of the Marek family, thank you, Catholic Extension, for this award. We will cherish it. And thank you for your enduring legacy of helping the least of our brethren."

The Marek family immigrated from Czechoslovakia and settled around Praha, Texas, raising cotton and other crops to support their family. They lived the American dream, but during the Great Depression, they lost everything, experiencing four years of homelessness. However, they never lost their faith. The difficult years forged a strong culture in the Marek family and their business. What started in the plowed fields of the Great Depression and the experience of the World War, developed a desire to create a company to help others learn a trade and realize their American Dream. The Marek culture, which leads with the Golden Rule, is more than words—it's evident in actions.

Rev. Msgr. Chester L. Borski of St. Faustina Catholic Church, spoke on the Marek family, saying, "The Marek family's Catholic Faith always played a crucial role in the family business and how they participated in their larger community, with concern for the poor and philanthropy."

He added, "They never forgot where they came from. The values they learned growing up in an immigrant family included the importance of belonging to a Catholic community of faith."

In the spirit of celebrating humble beginnings, Catholic Extension Society recognized the potential of a great leader many years ago. Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, who was raised in San Angelo, Texas, will be installed as the ninth Archbishop of Galveston-Houston on March 25, 2025, following Cardinal DiNardo's retirement. Catholic Extension Society helped build Bishop Vasquez's hometown parish in and helped fund his seminarian education.

Since its founding in 1905, Catholic Extension Society has built and repaired over 1,400 church structures in all 15 dioceses in Texas. Catholic Extension Society currently provides support to the dioceses of Amarillo, Beaumont, Brownsville, El Paso, Laredo, Lubbock, San Angelo and Tyler.

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About Catholic Extension: Founded in 1905, Catholic Extension Society works in solidarity with people to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of America. For more information visit www.catholicextension.org; follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/catholicextension or on X (Formerly Twitter) at [@CathExtension](https://twitter.com/CathExtension).