

THE 2000
PACEM IN TERRIS
PEACE AND FREEDOM
AWARD

is presented to

Msgr. George G. Higgins

by

The Diocese of Davenport, Iowa

Saint Ambrose University

Augustana College

Churches United of the Quad City Area

The Stanley Foundation

Monsignor Higgins:

In recognition of more than 50 years of
dedicated service to the cause of justice

Untiring support of the rights of workers
to form and maintain labor unions

Advocating a just wage and
safe workplace for laborers

Championing human and civil rights

Participating in countless organizations
promoting social justice

Sharing your expertise on the
social teachings of the Church

We honor you as one who truly embodies
the words of Pope John xxiii as a
“spark of light, a center of love, a vivifying leaven”
for laborers and all people
of good will throughout the world.

Given this third day of December, 2000
in Davenport, Iowa, U.S.A.



photo courtesy of The Catholic University of America

Increasingly, our economy is sending the message that it values accumulated wealth over honest work.

Working citizens need a raise not only in dollars, but in dignity. Wages are stagnating; jobs are disappearing, and benefit packages dwindling. In order to stay even, workingwomen and men are working longer hours than before. They are taking second jobs, and even some third jobs. As they spend more time at work, they are spending less time with their families, their children, their neighbors, their churches and synagogues and community organizations.

When profitable companies downsize, dedicated employees are told that their years of conscientious service do not count for much.

When their wages stagnate while their health companies prosper, working people are told that their efforts and skills are not valued. When health care and pensions are cut back, working people are told that no one cares what happens when they get sick or old.

A vibrant labor movement plays an indiscernible part in creating and maintaining the social contract that offers workers a measure of dignity, security, and citizenship.

— Msgr. George G. Higgins
2000 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient

*Excerpts from the National Catholic Reporter
Sept. 15, 2000*