

# The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Gabriel Awards

## Celebrating 51 Years of Honoring Excellence in Media

***Blow, Gabriel, blow!  
Go on and blow,  
Gabriel, blow. I want to  
join your happy band  
and play all day  
in the promised land.  
Blow, Gabriel, blow.***

These lines, taken from Cole Porter's lyrics for the 1934 musical, *Anything Goes*, identify Gabriel as a messenger of God's Good News. In announcing the 2016 Gabriel Award Winners, the Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals recognizes contemporary messengers of God's Good News in our media culture.

With these awards –the 51<sup>st</sup> annual presentation- Gabriel's triumphant horn sounds once again to recognize the best in artistic, creative, and inspirational media presentations. It also trumpets this good news: the Catholic Academy Gabriel Awards continue to exert a positive effect on the radio, television and film industry.

### **History of Award**

The Catholic Broadcasters Association (CBA) created the Gabriel Awards in 1965, to "recognize outstanding artistic achievement in a television or radio program or series which entertains and enriches with a true vision of humanity and a true vision of life." Members hoped to influence the values broadcast into our homes.

In 1972 CBA became Unda-USA. In 2002 Unda-USA and Cine&Media merged to become the Catholic Academy. Like Gabriel, the Catholic Academy trumpets a call to commercial and religious broadcasters, producers, filmmakers, and social media producers to provide media that serve, enrich and challenge their communities and audience.



Entrants go through a highly selective process of preliminary screening and blue ribbon judging. Blue ribbon juries only present an award in a particular category when a level of excellence is achieved—in values, content, creativity, artistic quality, technical quality or impact.

### **Description of Award**

The award itself is a nine-inch silver angel mounted on a polished base of wood. Gabriel raises skyward a globe encircled by electrons to symbolize the communication of God's word to humanity. It is a salute to all those who strive for values-centered programming.

### **What Is the Catholic Academy?**

The Catholic Academy of Communication Professionals is a U.S. affiliate of SIGNIS, the

international Vatican-approved organization for communication. The Catholic Academy began as the Catholic Broadcasters Association (CBA) and reorganized as Unda-USA, with a broader range of professional membership, in 1972. The Catholic Academy was formed with the merger of Unda-USA and Cine&Media in October 2002.

We bring together men and women who are working to communicate gospel values through today's powerful electronic media. The Catholic Academy is a national network of broadcasters, communication directors, independent producers, syndicators, public relations, internet and other media professionals.

This national network provides professional support and access to a broad base of experience and resources. Each year at its General Assembly, Catholic Academy members come together with well-known industry professionals and Church leaders to discuss the impact and influence of media on Church and society. In addition to conducting the business of the Catholic Academy, the General Assembly provides opportunities for professional development, spiritual renewal and social contacts.

The 51<sup>st</sup> annual Gabriel Awards will be presented at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark on Thursday, June 2, 2016.

*For more information about the Gabriel Awards, contact:*

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