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Catholic Church rewards Parsons

Highest honors await 'Sir Lou'

By JOHN STEWART
Staff Reporter

Mississauga's Lou Parsons has been bestowed with the highest honor which a lay member of the Catholic Church can receive from the Pope.

Parsons has been named a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory.

His wife Carol, and former Inland Publishing president Douglas Bassett will receive the Pro Ecclesia Cross, Emmett Cardinal Carter said in announcing the award to Parsons.

The Order of St. Gregory is awarded for

notable accomplishment to those who are "distinguished in personal character and reputation."

Cardinal Carter, who will perform the investiture service in Toronto in late September, said Mr. and Mrs. Parsons were honored for "exemplary care" of Archbishop Philip Pocock who died last year.

Cardinal Carter recommended the honor to Pope John Paul II and spoke to the Pontiff about Mr. and Mrs. Parsons during the Pope's visit last September.

Parsons said yesterday that receiving the honor is "almost dumbfounding."

Parsons, a Clarkson resident, is the former chairman of the Region of Peel, is chairman of GO Transit and is a prominent member of the Conservative Party who was Frank Miller's leadership campaign manager.

At a GO meeting last week, current Regional Chairman Frank Bean referred to the fact that Parsons may lose his GO job because of the new Liberal government. Bean said that members "may no longer have to salute him but we may have to curtsey."

Parsons says he will not insist on being referred to as Sir Lou. "Just plain Lou is fine," he says.



LOU PARSONS

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