

*The Catholic Spirit – June, 2009*

## **Sister Peterworth Recognized for Work with ABLE Families in Mingo County**

**KERMIT**—Ursuline Sister Janet M. Peterworth, director of ABLE (Affirming, Believing, Learning, Empowering) Families in Kermit, Mingo County, was presented The American Institute for Public Service’s Jefferson Award by Gov. Joe Manchin at a luncheon at the University of Charleston June 3.

Sister Peterworth was one of five men and women from around the state chosen for the award, which recognizes private individuals performing extraordinary public service in local communities.

Sister Peterworth was honored in the category “Greatest Public Service Benefiting the Disadvantaged” for her work over the last 15 years at ABLE Families.

“I accepted this award not for myself, but for the great staff that ABLE Families has,” Sister Peterworth said. “These are the people who are out there doing the day-to-day, important work. I am their cheerleader, their coach, their fundraiser and sometimes their benevolent dictator—just ask them. This award is a great honor for all of us.”

The Jefferson Award is annually awarded throughout the U.S. and, in West Virginia, is organized by WCHS-TV, WVAH-TV and several corporate sponsors.

ABLE Families is a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph. The organization works to assist families living in poverty in southern West Virginia.

The organization is also dedicated to empowering families in the rural Tug Valley area of northern Mingo County, helping people living in poverty gain more control of their lives. Officials of the organization said ABLE Families focuses on women and children because they suffer most severely the effects of poverty.

ABLE Families’ mission is “to confront the systemic causes of poverty by supporting low-income families as they make positive changes in their lives.”