

# ROOFERS IN THE NEWS

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

## BISHOP'S AWARD Presented to Chicago Roofers

**A** workers' rights victory involving union roofers in Chicago, IL, received wide acclaim, and those involved in the fight were awarded a Bishop's Award by the Evangelical Catholic Diocese of the Northwest. The diocese held a dinner and awards ceremony in November recognizing Local 11 and other groups and individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary efforts towards workers' and human rights. The 2009 Saint Joseph the Worker Award was presented to Local 11, Chicago, IL, for their campaign against Matthews Roofing and other roofing contractors who cheated workers out of earned wages.

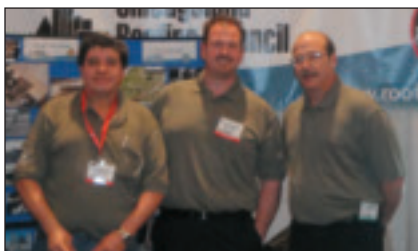
Gerardo Morales, Local 11 trustee and superintendent of Marshall Roofing, was instrumental in leading the fight against these unfair labor practices. He organized roofers working for Matthews Roofing, a non-signatory contractor cheating its mainly Hispanic workforce out of overtime and regular pay hours. The workers came forward and together, with the help of Local 11, filed a lawsuit against their employer. This movement led to outreach to other Hispanic workers who were being swindled while taking work as day laborers.



*Accepting the Saint Joseph the Worker Award on behalf of Local 11, left to right: Local 11 organizer Ruben Barbosa, International President Emeritus John Martini, Local 11 Business Agent Gary Menzel, Bishop James Alan Wilkowski, Local 11 President Rich Mathis and newly organized Local 11 members Horacio Herrera and Epimenio Lopez.*



*Local 11 trustee and superintendent of Marshall Roofing Gerardo Morales and his wife, Marth, are joined by newly organized Local 11 roofers Horacio Herrera, Epimenio Lopez and Jesus Guevara.*



*From left, Local 11 Organizer Ruben Barbosa, Business Agent Mitch Terhaar and Trustee Jim Querio man the very popular Local 11 booth at CRCA's annual trade show.*

## Local 11 Represented at CRCA Trade Show

The Chicago Roofing Contractors Association (CRCA) held its 27th annual trade show January 21 & 22. The show featured an exhibition hall with nearly 150 exhibitors, five educational seminars and the annual CRCA Roofing Industry Update. The Local 11 Chicagoland Roofers/JATC booth drew lots of traffic this year, as it has every year since the trade show's inception.

This year's theme of "A View from the Top – What's On Your Roof?" focused on the energy conservation and green roof movement which dictates technology advances as our industry goes "green." Roofers Local 11 representatives made it clear that union roofers are trained to meet the most up-to-date standards of green roofing.



## Midwest Roofers Gather at MRCA Trade Show

The Midwest Roofing Contractors Association (MRCA) drew hundreds of contractors and roofing industry professionals to Kansas City, MO, last October. The annual convention and tradeshow featured in-depth presentations on a variety of relevant topics such as photovoltaics, self-adhered systems, employment law updates and effective safety and health programs. Many signatory contractors and employees from the Local 20, Kansas City, area attended the show.

MRCA is widely known as an organization advocating, promoting and supporting professionalism in the roofing industry. Its Technical and Research Committee is renowned as a powerful watchdog for quality roofing systems, ensuring consumers' interests are protected.



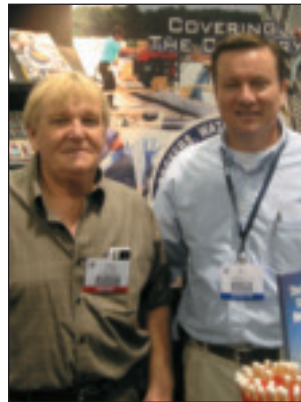
*International Vice President Jim Hadel gives Local 20, Kansas City, KS, Apprenticeship Instructor Walter Smith a warm welcome to the trade show.*



*International Vice President Jim Hadel (left) visits with Mark Mills, a 30-year member of Local 20 employed by Kansas City Quality Roofing Company.*



*Larry Hillig, Scott Gilliland and Forrest Hillig, employees of Western Roofing in Kansas City, talk with International Vice President Jim Hadel about the old days when Jim was Local 20 Business Manager.*



*Local 20 Kansas City member Jerry Cummins (left), employed by the Drury Roofing and Sheet Metal Company in Cape Girardeau, MO, gives International Vice President Dan O'Donnell an update on activities in the Kansas City area.*



*Twenty-three-year member of Local 23, Ken Hoy (left), superintendent for Slatile Roofing and Sheet Metal Company in South Bend, IN, is welcomed to MRCA's 60th annual convention by International Vice President Don O'Blenis.*



*Local 20 bilingual Apprenticeship Instructor Blas Ledezma (center) updates International Vice President Jim Hadel (left) and International Vice President Don O'Blenis on apprenticeship activities in the Kansas City area.*



*The shirt says it all! Retiring Local 20 Business Manager Galen Beem (left) is congratulated by International Vice President Dan O'Donnell. Brother Beem, a member of Local 20 for thirty years, officially retired on November 1st. His shirt reads, "Goodbye Tension. Hello Pension."*





## Salt Lake City Business Manager Answers Call to Serve

**A**s a teenager growing up in Chihuahua, Mexico, Moises Ruiz Jr. knew of his grandfather's great love for the Roman Catholic Church. He remembers feeling a nudge when his grandfather died, leaving behind a wish that one of his own would join the clergy.

In January the Local 91, Salt Lake City, UT, business manager—a 57-year-old father of five, grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of one—was ordained along with 20 other Utah men. His ordination was not to the priesthood, as his grandfather had envisioned, but to the diaconate, a calling as old as the Christian church but revived only in recent decades in the Catholic Church.

Deacons straddle the line between layperson and clergy. They have three main roles: to pray, to assist at worship and to serve the people, particularly the poor, sick and isolated. Their role has become increasingly important in today's Catholic Church as the number of priests continues to decline. Salt Lake City's diocese was among the first to restore the diaconate, ordaining 14 men in 1976. Since then, 66 more have been ordained.

Brother Ruiz says his path to the diaconate grew "little by little." He immigrated to the U.S. 33 years ago, earned his high-school-equivalency diploma and went to community college to study construction—a path that led him to the Roofers Union in the early 80s. But he always felt the need to expand his role in the community and honor his faith.

He underwent the four-year training program for deacons, during which he gathered with the other trainees every Saturday for seven-hour classes ranging from scripture study to moral theology. The group had



*Scott Sommerdorf/The Salt Lake Tribune*

*Local 91 Business Manager Moises Ruiz was ordained into the diaconate of the Salt Lake City diocese in January. He will serve the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where he hopes to assist the fast-growing population of Mexican and Latin American immigrants.*

annual retreats with the bishop, and each met frequently with a spiritual director. During the third year of the program, they served in parishes.

Now, as a deacon, Ruiz looks forward to helping people with problems and wants to volunteer as a translator in hospitals. He says that during the formation program he especially enjoyed visiting jails and prisons, where many immigrants long for friendship. "A lot of people," Ruiz says, "are looking for meaning."

He and the other new deacons will free up priests for duties only priests can do: consecrate the Holy Eucharist at Mass, anoint the sick and confer the sacrament of reconciliation—helping the priests go further on fewer. This allows more people in need to receive services of the Church. Deacons preach at Masses and conduct communion; teach faith and prepare couples for marriage; and perform baptisms as well as preside at funerals and weddings.

It's a life of service that Brother Ruiz is eager to take on, and one that will have a lasting positive impact on his community.