

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 29, 2012

For Information Contact:

Patrick McCaskey: 847.739.5361

Angela Tomlinson: 847. 331.6994

atomlinson@sportsfaithinternational.com

**CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL'S COACH ANDY BITTO RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD BY SPORTS FAITH INTERNATIONAL - HAILED AS HOMETOWN HERO.
AWARD PRESENTED BY NFL HALL OF FAME'S DAVE "THE GHOST" CASPER**

Coach Andy Bitto of Carmel Catholic High School, in Mundelein, IL, was honored for his lifetime achievement as Coach and Athletic Director on February 26th 2012, and cited as a HOMETOWN HERO by Sports Faith International. The ceremony took place at Carmel Catholic High School as part of the festivities of Sports Faith International's Fifth Annual Sports Faith Hall of Fame.

Sports Legends in attendance at the Ceremony, included Tom Benson, Owner and President of the NFL New Orleans Saints; Mike McCoy, eleven year NFL veteran and University of Notre Dame Consensus All American; Dr. Audrey Zavodsky, record breaking professional race car driver, and honorary United State Air Force Thunderbird; Darrell Miller, Major League Baseball Vice President and former California Angel; and Fighting Illini Chaplain Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham. Four-time All-Pro, NFL Hall of Famer, Dave Casper, (Sports Faith International 2009 Inductee) who serves as an advisory board member to Sports Faith International, presented the award on its behalf.

Ten-plus athletes, two coaches, and three teams from across the country accepted High School and College All-Star awards for their passion, faith, excellence in ability and leadership on their teams.

“Coach Bitto’s outstanding and humble dedication to his players and the values they hold on and off the field is refreshing. His winning seasons and successful men on the team are a tribute to his faith and commitment.” Bitto, the tenth of twelve children, has coached at Carmel High School for 27 seasons. Under his leadership, the Carmel Varsity Football teams have amassed a 121-43 record, and made the playoffs in each of the last twelve years. The 2009 and 2010 teams were the ESCC Champions.

The Ceremony took place February 26, 2012 at Carmel Catholic High School, followed by a luncheon reception at the Deer Path Inn and an Induction Ceremony for the Professional Athletes and other 2012 Inductees at Chicago Bears Halas Hall in Lake Forest, IL. Event Sponsors included Relevant Radio, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Catholic Financial Life, and Pictures People Listen To, Catholic Athletes for Christ, Impressions Count, Silo’s Pizza, Varsity Catholic, and Prayers for Life. The Pre-Game Event, hosted at Carmel, was offered in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago and its celebration of the Year of the Teens and Young Adults.

Sports Faith International and the Sports Faith Hall of Fame: The Sports Faith Hall of Fame was created in 2008 by Sports Faith International to recognize world-class athletes at all levels, which are known for outstanding dedication to sports and their faith. Sports Faith International is media initiative dedicated to utilizing traditional and new media to showcase the connection between sports and faith in order to inspire and transform our culture... Programs for Catholic and mainstream media networks will feature some of the biggest names in the world of sports. Sports have been called a metaphor for life that can teach perseverance, discipline, loyalty, trust, dedication, and fair play. The shows will serve as a platform to discuss the many virtues and life lessons that can be learned from sports. It is part of BVM HELPING HANDS, a 501(c) 3, tax-exempt organization.