



Cathlete News

E-Newsletter of Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC)
The First Name in Catholic Sports Ministry

Fall 2014

CAC Honors MLB's Darrell Miller at October Courage Award Reception



VIDEO -- Darrell Miller addresses an audience at CAC's 4th Annual Courage Awards Reception in Arlington, Va., on October 21.
(Video courtesy of Gellman Images)

Catholic Athletes for Christ (CAC) honored Major League Baseball's Darrell Miller with its 4th annual Courage Award at a reception attended by more than 100 on October 21 in Arlington, Va. The award recognizes superior Catholic evangelization in sports.

Miller played professionally with the California Angels as a catcher and outfielder from 1984-1988 and currently serves as the director of MLB's Urban Youth Academy. He has been a supporter of CAC since its inception in 2006, serving on the organization's Athlete Advisory Board and its speakers bureau.

"Darrell Miller, a convert to the Catholic faith, has been a tremendous advocate for faith in athletics, both on and off the playing field," CAC President Ray McKenna said. "Through his tireless effort in helping establish baseball's Urban Youth Academy for inner city children and his eagerness to speak about his Catholic faith to groups large and small, Darrel is a shining example of the 'new evangelization' in the world of sports."

In addition to the Courage Award presentation to Miller, CAC honored student-athletes from the Catholic high schools (Seton School, Bishop O'Connell H.S., Bishop Ireton H.S., St. John Paul the Great H.S., and Paul VI H.S.) and colleges (Christendom College and Marymount University) in the Arlington Diocese.

Previous CAC Courage Award recipients were Rick Eckstein, Washington Nationals' former hitting coach (2011), Kerry Fraser, former NHL referee (2012), and then-Deacon Chase Hilgenbrinck, former professional soccer player (2013).

CAC Now on Amazon Smile!

CAC is proud to announce that it is now part of the Amazon Smile network and can receive 0.5% of all Amazon.com sales made by purchasers who designate CAC as their charity of record. Those interested in supporting CAC through their Amazon purchases can enter the Amazon.com portal by clicking on the "Get Started" graphic below or by clicking on the Amazon Smile button on CAC's web site (www.catholicathletesforchrist.org). You can also go directly to the Amazon Smile site (www.smile.amazon.com) to designate CAC as your charity.



All products that are available on the regular Amazon site that you usually access are available on the Amazon Smile site. After signing in on the Amazon Smile website the first time, you will be asked to select a nonprofit group to receive a corporate contribution from Amazon in the amount of 0.5% of every purchase you make. Please select CAC by its full title (Catholic Athletes for Christ).

When you check out to make payment for each purchase, your final screen as well as your receipt will state that "Amazon will make a donation to Catholic Athletes for Christ." Also, whenever you sign in again on the Amazon Smile website, you will see reference to CAC in the upper left section of your computer screen.

Please consider making all future purchases from Amazon through the Amazon Smile program and designate Catholic Athletes for Christ as your selected non-profit organization to receive corporate contributions from Amazon.

CAC Addresses Vatican Council on Developments in Church's Theology of Sports



Attendees at the Pontifical Council for Culture's 2nd International Seminar on Sports, including CAC's Ray McKenna and Linda Del Rio (center back)

Catholic Athletes for Christ represented the United States in early September at the Pontifical Council for Culture's 2nd International Seminar on Sports at Vatican City and attend the Inter-religious Soccer Game for Peace at Rome's Olympic Stadium, which was encouraged by Pope Francis.

CAC was represented by Ray McKenna (president/founder), Linda Del Rio (board member/ NFL ministry coordinator), and Jim Delaney (board member/ vice president). Both McKenna and Del Rio spoke on separate panels related to "Overcoming the Throwaway Culture to Promote the Culture of Encounter and Fraternity" (for McKenna's presentation, [click here](#); for Del Rio's presentation, [click here](#)). In addition to CAC, two Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionaries attended the symposium.

Speaking before an international delegation of Catholic sports associations, McKenna discussed connecting sports to the Creator (God) and the evolving Theology of Sports



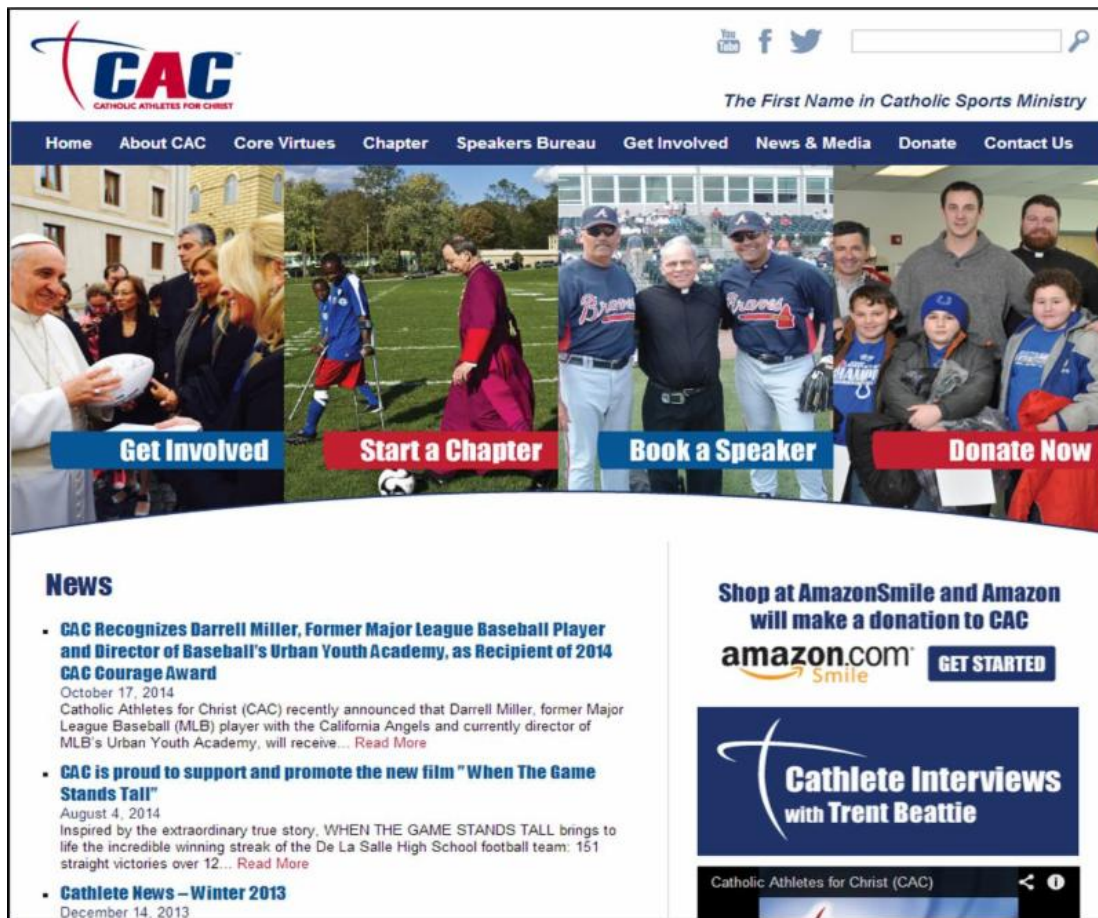
*CAC President Ray McKenna presents CAC's views to delegates attending the Pontifical Council for Culture's International Seminar on Sports in early September.
(Photo by Linda Del Rio)*

developing in the Church. He informed the delegates of the many developments in the United States by which CAC is leading to connect the Catholic Church's teachings and sacraments to the major sports leagues, players, coaches and Catholic schools in the United States.

Mr. McKenna emphasized that without God at its center, sports is but another form of idolatry. He further offered that "the Catholic church has always recognized the importance of sports in connection with the importance of the human person, who is made in the image and likeness of God." Further, he explained that Pope Francis' interest in sports and the family are interrelated and that each should be viewed in the context of each other and building the kingdom of God.

The Pontifical Council for Culture, in cooperation with the National Office of the Italian Bishops' Conference for Pastoral Care in the Areas of Leisure Time, Tourism, and Sports and the John Paul II Sports Foundation, invited delegates of international catholic sports associations to convene at the Pontifical Council for Culture. The entire program can be found by [clicking here](#).

CAC Unveils New and Improved Web Site!



In October, CAC unveiled its new and improved web site (www.catholicathletesforchrist.org) that provides up-to-date information on the organization's news and events. Please check out the new site and provide us with feedback!

CAC Raffle "An Afternoon with ESPN!" to Advance Cathletes Chapter Program



CAC is pleased to raffle off a unique sports experience, "An Afternoon at ESPN!" at the network's studios in Washington, D.C.

The raffle winner can take three friends with them to tour the ESPN studios in Washington, meet privately with one of the ESPN

directors, and attend a live taping of either "Around The Horn" or "Pardon The Interruption". Winner also receives ESPN show t-shirts. Any travel expenses are

the responsibility of the winner.

The winning ticket will be drawn on December 5, 2014, and the winner will be notified by email. The studio tour date is determined by you and the ESPN staff. Raffle proceeds will be used to advance CAC's Cathletes high school chapter program and other ministry programs.

To purchase tickets, select the number of tickets you wish to purchase in the pull-down box below and then click "Buy Now". You will be emailed your ticket numbers. For more information, contact kevin@catholicathletesforchrist.org.

CAC Raffle Tickets

1 Ticket \$5.00 USD ▼

Buy Now



CAC's Cathletes Chapter Program Continues to Expand Nationwide

Established in 2008, CAC's Cathletes™ middle and high school chapter program builds on the specific invitation and exhortation of Pope Saint John Paul II to evangelize the world of sports and encourage all Catholic athletes to share the reason for their joy (Jesus Christ) in all things.

Nearly 70 schools across the country, including all the diocesan high schools in Trenton (N.J.) and Springfield (Ill.) have either established CAC chapters

or are in the final stages of launching the program and other schools are contacting CAC each week to get more information on starting a chapter.



The Cathletes™ chapter program integrates informative and inspiring sports material with more important Catholic based teachings such as the Holy Scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It enlists the service of recognized and successful current and former professional athletes and coaches to explain the centrality of Catholicism and its teachings to their athletic successes and personal lives. The Cathletes™ curriculum derives its uniqueness by combining diverse and seeming unrelated items such as the musings of Yogi Berra and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI into a compelling series of lessons.

For more information on launching a Cathletes™ chapter program at your school, please contact Dan Duddy, CAC Cathletes™ chapter program coordinator at dan@catholicathletesforchrist.org.

Please Help Support CAC!

Since 2006, Catholic Athletes for Christ has been the first name in Catholic sports ministry, thanks to the overwhelming response to its programs and the financial generosity of its supporters.

This year, CAC continues to expand its presence in amateur and professional sports ministries as well as in middle and high schools across the country with its "Cathletes" chapter program. CAC needs your support, now more than ever, to make further expansion of these programs a reality.

**Please help CAC achieve its goals
by making a tax-deductible donation.**

To make a donation by credit card or bank transfer, please click the "Donate" button below:



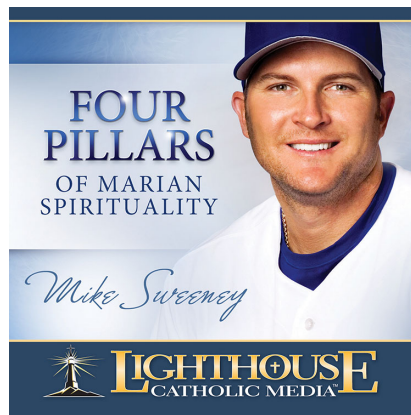
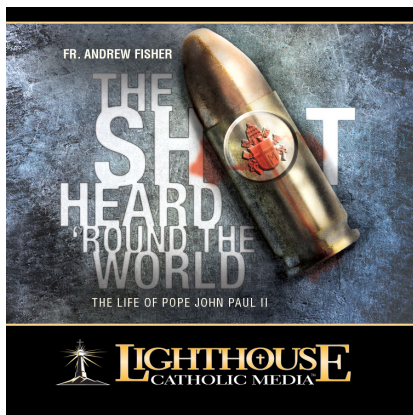
To donate by check, please mail a check payable to "Catholic Athletes for Christ" to Catholic Athletes for Christ, 3703 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Va. 22305.

CAC is a IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All contributions to CAC are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Thank you for your support!

Two New CAC Retreat Talks Available from Lighthouse Catholic Media

Two talks presented at CAC's 2013 baseball retreat are now available from Lighthouse Catholic Media:



THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD by Fr. Andrew Fisher - In this gripping presentation, Fr. Fisher narrates the assassination attempt of Saint John Paul the Great. "The Shot Heard 'Round the World" is the story of the suffering of Pope John Paul II, as well as Our Lady's intercession during this attempt on the Holy Father's life. To order a CD or MP3 of this talk, [click here](#).

FOUR PILLARS OF MARIAN SPIRITUALITY by Mike Sweeney - In a talk given at the CAC retreat, Sweeney gives a Marian perspective on sports and the Christian life by using what he had identified as the Four Pillars of Marian Spirituality. Sweeney, Chairman of CAC's Athlete Advisory Board, was a five-time Major League Baseball all-star and played for the Kansas City Royals, Seattle Mariners, Oakland Athletics, and Philadelphia Phillies. To order a CD or MP3 of this talk, [click here](#).

CAC Now Accepts Estate Gifts to Continue Its Work



Pittsburgh Pirates' Second Baseman Neil Walker with Fr. Bill Schwartz, CAC Pirates Chaplain

Please remember CAC when you are writing or updating your will or trust. CAC receives no money from the Catholic Church and is dependent solely on donations.

A bequest to CAC can be a gift of a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name CAC as a contingent beneficiary if someone named in your will/trust is not longer living at

the time of your passing. A bequest to CAC is easy to arrange and can be made by including the following words in your will:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to Catholic Athletes for Christ, 3703 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22305 (insert amount of money, percentage of estate, or describe property) to be used for its evangelical and ministry programs."

Any type of cash, securities, personal property, or real estate can be given through a bequest. CAC can also be named beneficiary of assets, which often pass outside a will, such as IRAs, pension plans, life insurance, or assets held in a trust.

A special thanks to Pittsburgh Pirates chaplain Fr. Bill Schwartz for including CAC in his will. *"I love everything CAC is about and my ability to help serve Catholic athletes. I encourage clergy and sports fans to consider helping CAC financially, whether through direct donations and/or through estate planning, so that CAC may continue its awesome ministry. If you have any questions please call me at 724.775.3060."*

For more information on tax-deductible estate gifts to CAC, contact Ray McKenna at ray@catholicathletesforchrist.org.

Stay Connected



3703 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22305 // 703.239.3070

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