



# Cathlete News

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

Summer 2015

## CAC Featured at Major Catholic Sports Conferences in U.S. and Rome



CAC President/Founder Ray McKenna greets Pope Francis in Rome in May 2015. (Photograph courtesy of L'Osservatore Romano)

Earlier this year, Catholic Athletes for Christ made several presentations at two major Catholic sports conferences in the United States and Italy.

In May, CAC President and Founder Ray McKenna was invited by the Vatican Pontifical Council for the Laity to speak at its International Seminar "Coaches: Educating People". The title of McKenna's presentation was "[Training the Coach and Coaching the Trainer](#)". Also attending the two-day event in Rome representing CAC were Linda Del Rio, CAC Board Member and NFL Outreach

Coordinator, and Darrell Miller, former Major League Baseball player and currently MLB vice president of youth and facility development.

Del Rio made a presentation on the second day of the Vatican seminar titled, "[Rising to the Call Takes Character and Virtue](#)". In her presentation, Del Rio spoke on the need for a framework for coaches that exhibits effective coaching techniques, spirituality, and moral development. "As St. Therese demonstrated, it's in the little details, a small kind jester of kindness and compassion in a fierce competition is huge in they eye of the beholder," Del Rio said. "Let us globally answer this call of character and virtue in sport and work together united in Christ."

In April, McKenna and CAC were featured at the 41st Conference on Value Inquiry: Sports and Values, hosted by Neumann University's Institute for Sport, Spirituality, and Character Development located just outside of Philadelphia, Pa. At that conference, McKenna spoke on [Sports, Values, and Societal Change](#).

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## CAC Hosts Catholic Baseball Camp in Northern Virginia on July 24



On July 24, more than 80 boys and girls from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area participated in CAC's Catholic Baseball Camp at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, Va. The day included Mass, talks/Q&A, and baseball instruction from current and former professional and collegiate baseball players.

Washington Nationals pitcher Craig Stammen spoke to the campers after Mass

about how his faith has influenced his life and his baseball career. Baseball instruction was led by Stammen, Tom Carroll (Cincinnati Reds), Jim Hannan (Washington Senators, Detroit Tigers, Milwaukee Brewers), Billy Emerson and Jeff Nolan (Paul VI High School), and members of the DC Padres priest/seminarian baseball team, led by Father Andrew Fisher (Arlington Diocese Liaison to CAC). CAC presented one camper who best exhibited love of God and love of Baseball with the Mike Sweeney, Sr. Courage Award.

"Today's camp exceeded our expectations," said CAC President/Founder Ray McKenna. "The turnout was incredible and we received nothing but positive feedback from campers and parents and requests to do this again next year. We are especially grateful to all of our camp instructors for their hard work on the field and to the Paul VI High School community for their hospitality."



Washington Nationals pitcher Craig Stammen works on pitching skills with campers at CAC's Catholic Baseball Camp on July 24.

An example of the feedback received immediately following the camp:

*"My husband brought our son to the Catholic Athletes for Christ camp today. Both my husband and son were, and still are, very excited about the whole day. My son was nervous so my husband attended Mass with him and he said it was wonderful. The two of them were both impressed with Craig Stammen's talk after Mass. My son is still talking about working with Tom Carroll and Jim Hannan. They were also very impressed with the priests from the DC Padres. My son did not think the priests could do anything that fun and felt it was awesome that they could still play baseball. Thank you so much for coordinating this event. Please send a heartfelt thank you to all of those who helped with today's event. We look forward to attending next year!"*

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## CAC Adds Two Additional MLB Teams to Its Mass Ministry in 2015

For the start of the 2015 Major League Baseball (MLB) season, CAC was successful in adding two additional teams to its list for regularly schedule Catholic Masses at the stadiums.

The Miami Marlins and Houston Astros represented the 23rd and 24th Major League Baseball teams to have a regular Catholic Mass ministry at the stadium for players, coaches, and team officials.

"We are pleased to start the Mass ministry in Miami and return the Mass to Houston this season and have received positive responses from both teams in terms of attendance," said Ray McKenna, CAC President. "We continue to work hard at getting Mass in place for those remaining six MLB teams (Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, San Francisco, Seattle, and Toronto) so players and team executives across all of baseball can have the opportunity to receive Christ and grow in their faith."



## 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:

Donate



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!

## CAC Unveils New Promotional Brochure

### GET INVOLVED

Since 2006, CAC has impacted thousands of Catholic athletes in all sports at all levels (grade school, middle and high school, college, amateur, and professional) by providing spiritual support and assistance on their personal paths to holiness, while also promoting a Catholic sports culture. CAC has become recognized internationally as the first name in Catholic sports ministry.

### How Can You Get Involved?

**Pray**  
This remains our No. 1 request! Only through the many prayers of CAC supporters and the blessings received has the organization been able to establish effective programs, overcome obstacles, impact athletes, and advance its mission. Please continue to pray for our apostolate.

**Donate**  
In order for CAC to support its current roster of athletes, reach out and attract new ones, promote a Catholic sports culture, and establish new programs, we need your financial support. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to CAC in order for us to further advance the ministry. Visit [www.catholicathletesforchrist.org](http://www.catholicathletesforchrist.org) donate for more information.

### Start a Cathletes™ Chapter Program

CAC's Cathletes™ chapter program is having a tremendous impact on teenage student-athletes across the nation. Please consider starting a Cathletes™ program at our local high school or parish. For more information, email us at [chapters@catholicathletesforchrist.org](mailto:chapters@catholicathletesforchrist.org).

**Volunteer**  
As CAC continues its expansion to new parishes, schools, and communities, we need more regional representation for events and programs. If you are interested in volunteering your time to assist CAC, please email us at [volunteers@catholicathletesforchrist.org](mailto:volunteers@catholicathletesforchrist.org) so we can work with you to match your time and talents with our program needs in your area.

### CONTACT US

Do you have a question or comment you would like to share with us?

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[www.catholicathletesforchrist.org](http://www.catholicathletesforchrist.org)

*The First Name in  
Catholic Sports Ministry*

In June, CAC released a new brochure to promote the organization, share its mission, and inform readers about its many programs and activities, including its Mass ministries for MLB and NFL, retreats, speakers bureau, service activities, and Cathletes™ chapter program.

To download a copy of the new tri-fold brochure, [click here](#).

**Use Amazon Smile to Help Support CAC!**

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](http://www.catholicathletesforchrist.org)). You can also go directly to the Amazon Smile site ([www.smile.amazon.com](http://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.

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## **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 St. 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.

More than 100 schools across the country, including diocesan high schools in Trenton (N.J.),



Springfield (Ill.), and Harrisburg (Pa.), have either established

CAC chapters or are in the final stages of launching the program for the upcoming new school year 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](mailto:dan@catholicathletesforchrist.org).

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## **CAC Launches New Apparel Store**

Earlier this year, through a partnership with Primo Designs of Springfield, Ill., CAC has launched an online apparel store for merchandise featuring its CAC and Cathletes™ program logos.

Initial items for sale include hats, polo shirts, t-shirts (long and short sleeve), dry-fit shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies, all in several colors. In addition, Cathletes™ chapter schools can order apparel in school colors and with bible verses on the back. Additional items will be made available in the near future.

You can visit the new CAC/Cathletes™ apparel store by visiting [www.cathlestore.org](http://www.cathlestore.org). There is also a direct link on CAC's web page ([www.catholicathletesforchrist.org](http://www.catholicathletesforchrist.org)).

A portion of apparel store sales will help support CAC's on-going and future apostolate work.

**All Products**  
All Products

**Products**  
Viewing 1 - 10 of 10 products.

Previous 1 Next View All

 \$20.00 Adjustable Hat	 \$35.00 Dri Fit Polo	 \$10.00 CAC t-shirt	 \$10.00 Cathlete T-shirt	 \$15.00 CAC Long sleeve shirt	 \$15.00 Cathlete Long sleeve shirt
 \$40.00 CAC Hoodie	 \$40.00 Cathlete Hoodie	 \$15.00 CAC Dri-Fit	 \$15.00 Cathlete Dri-fit t-shirt		

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## Catholic News Service Reports on CAC's MLB Ministry

CAC's Major League Baseball ministry program was featured on the Catholic News Service's print and video web sites following the 2015 "Men In Black" spring training tour in Arizona. Check out the four-minute video highlighting CAC's MLB ministry and its spring training tour:





## Stay Connected



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

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