

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2012

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**COACH FRANK ALLOCCO INDUCTED INTO SPORTS FAITH INTERNATIONAL'S
SPORTS FAITH HALL OF FAME AS 2012 COACH OF THE YEAR**

**AWARD PRESENTED BY CHICAGO BEARS' PATRICK MCCASKEY AND
DE LA SALLE'S BOB LADOUCEUR AMID SPORTS LEGENDS AND LEADERS**

Frank Allocco, Head Basketball Coach at **De La Salle High School** in Concord, California, has received **Sports Faith International's** highest honor, and was inducted into its **Sports Faith Hall of Fame** as **2012 Coach of the Year**. Each year, this award is presented to an outstanding coach who is an exemplary role model. The ceremony took place on February 26, 2012, at the Chicago Bears' Halas Hall as part of the **Fifth Annual Sports Faith Hall of Fame Celebration**.

Other 2012 inductees include: **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 USAF Thunderbird; **Darrell Miller**, **Major League Baseball** Vice President and former **California Angel**; and **Fighting Illini Chaplain Msgr. Gregory K. Ketcham**, who also serves as **Chaplain of the St. John's Newman Center**.

"It is an honor to be inducted into the Sports Faith International Hall of Fame," said Coach Allocco, who is in his 15th year as head coach at the school, which is sponsored by the De La Salle Christian Brothers and whose motto is "Les Hommes de Foi" ("Men of Faith"). "I am humbled by this award and appreciate the recognition by a group that is passionate about our Catholic faith. However, I believe that in any great teaching, parenting, or coaching endeavor, it is never about the mentor, it is always about the students. I am grateful for the thousands of children that I have coached in CYO, high school, and in my Excel Basketball Camps. They have enriched my life and continue to be my greatest teachers."

NFL Hall of Famer Dave "The Ghost" Casper, Sports Faith International 2009 Inductee and a member of the advisory board member, nominated Allocco, a former football and basketball player at Notre Dame, for the award, and attended the ceremony. **Bob Ladouceur**, De La Salle High School's Head Football Coach and a **2010 Sports Faith Hall of Fame Inductee**, introduced Allocco and spoke to his qualifications for the award. Ladouceur, who is himself a legend in the world of high school sports, had this to say on behalf of his colleague: "I believe that he is more deserving than I was when selected. First, his coaching record is impeccable. He has won three State Championships competing in California's highest division, and he has done it with teams that are undersized and athletically challenged. This fact speaks volumes about the level of determination, discipline, heart, and knowledge Frank instills in these young men. He is the very best coach I have witnessed at getting the most out of his players' potential. But this is secondary to what makes Frank so deserving of this award. Frank is a very devout Catholic who is active in youth sports and community service. He sees his coaching career as a vocation, a means to an end. He uses basketball as a vehicle to teach kids to see the bigger picture. That is, he teaches these students to be servants to their fellow man. From his court drills to his chapel services, he instills in his players all the intangibles that go into being an authentic teammate. These intangibles serve his students well beyond their high school days. This is evidenced by how many of his players become teachers and

coaches themselves. They start, while playing for him, by coaching and refereeing in his summer camps and in the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) leagues, where Frank volunteers his time organizing and administrating.”

According to Sports Faith International’s Chairman, the **Chicago Bears’ Patrick McCaskey**, “Frank Allocco is an extraordinary example of an outstanding role model in the world of sports: successful in the win/loss column, and vigilant in the athletic and personal development of players entrusted to his care.” Allocco, a graduate of the **University of Notre Dame, Class of 1976**, was highly recommended by **Jack McDonough**, President of **Diablo East Catholic Youth Organization**, **Brother Robert J. Wickman, F.S.C.**, Principal of De La Salle High School, **Mark DeMarco**, President of De La Salle High School, and **Bill Ford**, the **CYO Director of the Diocese of Oakland, California**.

Other inductees were: Five-letter, All Conference distance runner **Martha Evans** of **Benedictine University, Atchison, Kansas**, as the **College Athlete of the Year**; Third straight, Indiana State Champion, undefeated **Lafayette Central Catholic Varsity Football Team**, as **Male Team of the Year**; Ohio State Champion, All Ohio Academic, **Mount Notre Dame Girls Varsity Volleyball Team**, as **Female Team of the Year**; Illinois All-State, record -breaking quarterback from **Aurora Christian, Anthony Maddie**, as **Athlete of the Year**. **George Shimko**, founder of the **George Shimko Basketball School** received the **Light of Christ Award** and **Sean McGovern** of **Monsignor Donovan High School in New Jersey** received the **Virtue of St. Paul Award for Outstanding Virtue**.

Event Sponsors included **Relevant Radio, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Catholic Financial Life, Frank J. Casella-Pictures People Listen To, Catholic Athletes for Christ, Impressions Count, The Silo, Varsity Catholic, Saint Raphael the Archangel, Holy Name Society, Sports Leader, and Prayers for Life**. The Pre-Game Event, hosted at Carmel Catholic High School was offered in conjunction with the **Sports Leader** and 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 athletics performance at all levels, by people who are known for outstanding dedication to sports and their faith. Past inductees include **George “Papa Bear” Halas**, founder of the **NFL and the Chicago Bears**, **Wellington Mara**, founder of the **NFL New York Giants**, **Bill Bidwill**, owner of the **Arizona Cardinals**, **Art Rooney**, founder of the **Pittsburgh Steelers**, and pitching ace **Jamie Moyer**.

Sports Faith International is a 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.

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