



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Edwin Schaffler, President

972. 661.9792

**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES REV. PHILIP S. POSTELL, S.J.
AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2010 CATHOLIC FOUNDATION AWARD**

*Longest-standing President of Jesuit Dallas will be recognized
at annual award dinner on Feb. 5, 2010*

DALLAS – The Catholic Foundation will recognize Rev. Philip S. Postell, S.J. with the 2010 Catholic Foundation Award for the lasting impact he has made on the Catholic community through his unwavering commitment and service to the students, faculty and staff of Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas. Having served as President of Jesuit Dallas since 1992, Postell is the longest-standing president to date and will be the 28th recipient to be honored with The Catholic Foundation Award.

Father Postell will be acknowledged at the annual Catholic Foundation Award Dinner on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010 at The Fairmont Dallas.

“Father Postell has touched so many lives, leaving a deep impression on our local Catholic community and Dallas as a whole,” said Edwin M. Schaffler, President and CEO of The Catholic Foundation. “His life is an illustration of his steadfast commitment to his faith and the families he serves through Jesuit, and the Foundation is humbled and honored to recognize him for his service.”

In addition to Father Postell’s award, The Catholic Foundation will present an annual scholarship award to a student and bestow a grant to a local organization at the dinner.

“You can tell a lot about an organization from the kind of awards it offers and the people it recognizes. And when I look at the giants of the Catholic Community recognized by the Catholic Foundation, I feel proud to be in their midst,” said Rev. Philip Postell, S.J., President, Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas.

Postell entered the Society of Jesus in 1956 after graduating from high school, and went on to earn degrees in theology and philosophy before being ordained in 1970. Later, he earned a doctorate in history from Saint Louis University. Postell began his career at Strake Jesuit College Preparatory in Houston. He then spent nine years at provincial headquarters recruiting young Jesuits, serving as a high school superintendent and mentoring young Jesuits in their progress thru the formation pipeline. Later, he served as president of his high school alma mater, New Orleans Jesuit.

Since Postell's arrival at Jesuit Dallas in 1992, the school has experienced tremendous growth and success. Enrollment has increased from 736 students to just over 1,000 students, the amount of need-based financial aid available to students has nearly tripled, and the success of three development campaigns under his leadership will benefit Jesuit Dallas students for generations to come.

The school's extracurricular programs now span a breadth of new activities for students, such as debate, drama and music. In addition, the number of sports has grown from 10 to 17, allowing two-thirds of students to participate on a school team.

Under Postell's leadership and guidance, the school's Community Service and Social Justice Program matured into the largest and most comprehensive in the state. Jesuit students serve nearly 90 agencies on a weekly basis and hundreds more through 56,000 student-volunteer hours per year.

"Anyone who has met Fr. Postell knows that he is a big part of why Jesuit has been so successful these past years. He is a wonderfully sociable man, and he truly engages the person in front of him. Students and parents alike enjoy being around him," said Paul Kolker, Jesuit '03 and former Catholic Foundation Scholar who is currently studying for the priesthood. "Underneath these more exterior gifts, however, lies a deep passion for education and the Faith. Fr. Postell is driven not simply to form good students but to form good men. That is the gift one finds at Jesuit: an education of the whole person. That is the gift Jesuit offers to the men who pass through these halls, and that is the gift Fr. Postell has offered to the students in his time here as President. May God always bless him."

For more information about the 2010 Catholic Foundation Award Dinner and tickets, please call The Catholic Foundation at 972.661.9792 or contact Linda Scheets, lscheets@catholicfoundation.com.

Chartered in 1955 by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen, The Catholic Foundation is a donor-focused community foundation that guides benefactors in compassionate charitable giving endeavors, utilizing extensive expertise to carry out the various philanthropic goals of its donors. The Foundation's planned giving programs connects donors directly with organizations they wish to support within the Diocese of Dallas and elsewhere, whether that is a home parish, Catholic school or a community-based charity. Thanks to the generosity of donors both past and present, The Foundation has provided approximately \$22 million to local organizations through hundreds of grants over the past 53 years, and donor-advised funds maintained at the Foundation have accounted for even more grants amounting to millions of dollars. For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, call 972.661.9792.

###