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National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release.

RECRUITING, RETAINING AND COMPENSATING A NEW GENERATION FOR SERVICE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA, PA, JULY 6, 2007: The National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management today called on the Catholic Church to strategize effective means for recruiting the best and the brightest for service to the Catholic Church. During its annual membership meeting held at the Wharton School in Philadelphia more than 100 senior level executives from the secular world and the Church met to focus strategically on ways the Church could identify, recruit, sustain and compensate the very best of a new generation for service and leadership in the Church.

In a keynote address, Mr. Thomas Tierney, Chair, Bridgespan Group and lecturer at Harvard Business School, asserted that the Catholic Church, like all nonprofits, “must respond to the critical leadership deficit in the nonprofit sector.” He maintained that “Talent is even more important than capital or strategy.” And for the Catholic Church that relies overwhelmingly on volunteers and increasingly on lay ministers in a time of declining ordained ministers, “volunteerism and commitment only get you so far.” He added, “Recruitment needs to be seen as a ‘core competence’: Church leaders must show courage and foresight and invest in growing their own talent and developing the next generation of senior management in the Church.”

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Mr. Fay Vincent, Former Commissioner of Major League Baseball, in a luncheon address offered ten maxims for effective leadership and urged bishops and Catholic executives present to commit to restoring ethics, credibility and trust in the Church, observing: “If the Church doesn’t police itself, then that is an invitation for government and legal agencies to get involved.”

The Leadership Roundtable awarded their Best Practices award to St Vincent de Paul of Baltimore a nonprofit social services agency for implementing Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector. A second award went to the University of Notre Dame for inspiring students in a vocation of serving others through public service and Church ministry during the college years and after graduation.

Leadership Roundtable Executive Director, Kerry A. Robinson celebrated the constructive and positive dialogue that occurred during the meeting that brought together over 100 senior level executives from the business, finance, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors with 12 bishops and other senior Church leaders: “By focusing the Catholic Church on matters of personnel, the Leadership Roundtable is offering practical assistance and support to Catholic parishes, dioceses and nonprofits who are committed to attracting the best and brightest to service within the Church.”

For further information on the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management visit www.nlrcm.org or call Michael Costello at 202-223-8962.