SPORT at the Service of Humanity

A Regional Follow-Up Conference on Faith and Collegiate Sports

CONFERENCE REPORT
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INTRODUCTION

Background

In response to and in support of the Vatican’s first global conference on faith and sport sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture, the Office for Mission and Ministry at Villanova University offered to host a follow up conference for college/university administrators, athletic coaches and chaplains. Its initial proposal, presented in May of 2016, recommended that a representative group of 100-150 participants be gathered to:

- hear selected speakers from the October, 2016 Vatican Conference;
- discuss the Declaration of Principles and Guiding Values promulgated at the conference and
- explore creation of programs, educational materials and related resources to assist in promoting the “principles and values” on college campuses with student-athletes.

With assistance from Rev. Peter Donohue, President of Villanova University, Bishop Paul Tighe, Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture and Val Ackerman, Commissioner of the Big East Athletic Conference, the proposal was submitted and accepted. Now under the auspices of a Vatican Management Team, a small planning group based at Villanova University offered the following goals and objectives, which were approved:

- promote broader dissemination of the Vatican Declaration of Principles and the work of the 2016 conference;
- identify advocates for faith, spirituality and sports among those working in higher education;
- Provide a platform for building stronger relationships between athletic departments and campus ministry / chaplaincy personnel;
- encourage assessment of athletic department policies, procedures and practices through the lens of the Declaration and the broader goals of involvement, inclusion and inspiration;
- inspire participation in and adoption of the “Sport in the Service of Humanity Movement” as an organizing framework for collegiate sports at the institutional and conference levels and
- support and extend the work already being done in the field of faith, spirituality and sports at colleges and universities in the United States and beyond.

For details related to planning activities, the initial proposal, the final list of colleges and universities invited to participate and delegates in attendance, see Appendix I.
FORMAT AND CONTENT

From its inception, the conference was envisioned as an opportunity to facilitate structured conversation among those most responsible for athletic competition on college campuses and those most equipped to address spirituality and faith development of students.

Primary stakeholders, represented by Barbara Wall - Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University; Rev. Peter Donohue - President, Villanova University; Msgr. Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda - Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture; Michael Galligan-Stierle - President, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities and Mark Jackson - Director of Athletics, Villanova University were invited to offer contextual perspectives on the issue of faith and sports. Val Ackerman-Commissioner of the BIG EAST Conference, provided a more detailed vision for a holistic approach to collegiate athletics. Her address was followed by the Vatican’s promotional video for the “Declaration of Principles.” Small group discussion followed. See Item 1 below for summary comments.

Most Reverend Bishop Paul Tighe - Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture and Reverend Pat Kelly, SJ - Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, Seattle University addressed the overarching themes of Involvement, Inclusion and Inspiration in keynote addresses. Group discussion followed. At each discussion session, a set of suggested questions was provided and designated facilitators guided conversation. Note takers recorded and reported a summary of group discussion. See Items 2 and 3 for a summary.

For the full agenda of the conference, guiding questions and participating facilitators, see Appendix II.

Structured Discussions

Discussion groups were intentionally arranged to ensure that to the extent possible, men and women, conference classifications (NCAA - DI, DII, DIII, and NAIA) and faith affiliations (Christian and Catholic) were comingled. Three structured discussions took place among the 100 delegates assembled.

1. Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Respond to the Declaration of Principles

Response to the presentation of Val Ackerman and to the playing of the promotional video was very good. Overall receptivity to the Vatican Principles was positive as well. There was however, much discussion about the “reality” of today’s secular culture, the competitive environment of collegiate athletics and the occasional incongruity between the expressed values of the institution / athletic department and those articulated by the athletic conference / association to which an institution belongs.

Many in athletics indicated that presentations on mission and values, ethical behavior and codes of conduct were part of their regular experience. Well intended as these educational efforts were / are, there was also acknowledgement that such orientation did not always “carry the day” on the field, in recruiting or hiring decisions or with budgetary priorities. Even when this value proposition is a high priority, there are difficulties convincing student-athletes, parents, assistant coaches and the myriad of other constituencies associated with college sports that winning is not the only measure of success.

Some suggested that “more is always better” and the drive to “keep up with peers” are operative at every level of collegiate competition. Further, year round training, extensive travel schedules, increased media scrutiny and ever-present concerns over job security all make it difficult to ask coaching staff to do more. At the same time, the influence of television, especially the dramatic expansion of coverage of
even minor sports, has compounded the individual desire to “make the highlight reel” or the institutional desire to get more visibility for the athletic program or sport in any and every way.

Campus ministers were eager to learn more about the specific demands and individual needs of student-athletes. If not already engaged with their respective athletic departments, those gathered were universally open to exploring the ways in which they could be of service to athletics and to developing programs that could make the principles applicable / relevant to both staff and students involved with athletics.

The general sense was that the “principles” could be an attractive vehicle through which attention could be drawn to the more positive aspects of participation in sports. Most agreed that “respect” / “compassion, balance and joy” were familiar and accessible concepts; that “love” and “enlightenment” were not unfamiliar, but that some degree of “translation” might be necessary for today’s student-athlete and that the promotional video, while inspiring, had a societal / outward orientation that might not be fully appreciated by programs or teams with a strongly held internal focus.

With respect to a shared responsibility for “encouraging self-reflection and contemplation, promoting ‘enlightenment,’ and more specifically, a deeper appreciation by our students of their God-given talents and abilities,” several suggested that institutions “should not be afraid to be who they are,” even in the face of increasingly diverse student populations. Finding the right language – one that resonates with student-athletes and that can be used consistently by all team coaches is important, as is identifying student-athletes willing to help lead this effort. Others pointed to community service with a strong “learning component,” as an effective way to teach “self-reflection and contemplation.” Several coaches advocated a more frequent and direct approach. They incorporate moments for silence and reflection into every practice.

2. Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Involve and Include

- **Racial / Ethnic / Religious Diversity on Campus**

Several participants asked about “our obligation / capacity” to diversify what continues to a profession largely dominated by White men. In the same way, there was general acknowledgement that many private, religiously affiliated colleges and universities attract student populations that remain predominately White. At some, athletic teams represent “an oasis” — one of the few places where students of ethnic and racial diversity may even be over-represented, when compared to the larger institutional demographic. What are the implications for student-athletes, who are also members of under-represented groups? What impact do these realities have on the ability to recruit athletes, coaches, support personnel? This is not a new issue for those assembled or the NCAA for that matter.

Some puzzled over the degree to which our institutions continue to profess their faith traditions. Can we rightfully insist that they be made visible beyond the church / chapel; campus minister / chaplain; theology / religious studies curriculum? How does / will increasing religious diversity among the college-going population, including “nones” — those who profess no religious affiliation or who are agnostics / atheist — affect our institutions, our departments and programs?

Providing non-denominational Bible-Study or “generic” groups such as “Christians in Sport,” can provide opportunities to encourage reflection on faith and spirituality without advocating the particular faith tradition of the school.
To increase effectiveness, campus ministers and chaplains must find ways to demonstrate that meditation, spiritual reflection and faith formation can positively impact success and satisfaction.

Institutions of different collegiate divisions do have unique issues. In Division III, schools are “required to prove” that student-athletes are treated no differently than others. Schools that offer scholarships, frequently recruit student-athletes that cannot afford to attend otherwise. In such cases, student-athletes may represent a significantly different socio-economic profile than others among the student body. This “difference” may well be a significant psychological burden for student-athletes.

Consensus appeared to develop around the recommendation that colleges and universities, admission offices, athletic departments, campus ministries etc. be transparent and honest about the campus environment. One recommended taking an inter-departmental approach, developing relationships, using the expertise and resources of others to effectively address these issues.

Institutions should respect, encourage, and even facilitate a student’s desire to fulfill his or her “Sunday Obligation.” With respect to the institution’s faith tradition, we should not assume that students of other traditions will be offended by an invitation, or that they will NOT want to participate.

- Offering Sufficient Support

Knowing our student-athletes is essential. Spending sufficient time on non-sport specific relationships is key. Athletic directors and head coaches may or may not be able to commit sufficient time in this regard. Who does or can? Several suggested using travel time productively. Headphones and other electronic diversions are hard to resist. Even so, insist that conversation take place, especially on topics not related to the win or loss just experienced.

Academic support personnel, trainers and medical staff frequently develop good personal knowledge about the student-athletes they serve, as do student services and leadership development personnel. Provide a regularized way to collect and respond to their feedback.

Within established guidelines, athletic departments should be prepared to offer additional support to first year, out of sport, student-athletes. Being familiar with campus related support groups that might help connect the student more quickly to the school is essential. Several suggested linking student-athletes with local alumni for this purpose. In addition, not all student-athletes face the same challenges. High visibility teams and those destined for professional careers may have very different needs from teams and players that attract little attention.

Building a culture of sportsmanship, one that is consistent with the institutional mission and values takes time, resources and intentionality. A good culture is contagious. It provides foundational support.

The NCAA requires athletic departments to maintain student-athlete advisory committees. Many athletic departments now employ a full time “Student Development / Student Services / Leadership Development” coordinators. These are important resources for addressing the expressed needs of student-athletes. How is student-athlete input collected? Do student development / leadership programs reflect expressed needs? How many of our Student / Leadership Development programs include character development / spirituality / formation in faith? What opportunities can be created to promote the Vatican Principles through these programs?

Expressing care simply, clearly and at every opportunity is paramount.
• Establishing Reasonable Expectations for Student-Athletes

Departments must acknowledge that there are pros and cons to asking for more or for different kinds of involvement. Some student-athletes may find it difficult to do more than get to class and fulfill the requirements of their sports.

Creating a tightly-knit community among team members can represent an obstacle to building broader friendship circles or involvement in other activities. Clustering student-athletes by academic major, housing student-athletes with teammates and/or segregating them from students in other ways may have administrative benefits, but can contribute to increased isolation.

Setting an expectation that student-athletes are to be members of the broader community is important. Encouraging teams to support other teams, to be “fans” of the fans that support them can be an effective framework. Establishing a philosophy that student-athletes are leaders not only on the field, but in the classroom and on the campus can also be helpful. Addressing language and feelings such as “I’m only a - player” or “I’m only here to play -” should always be seen as an opportunity to confront and refocus perceptions and priorities.

• Practicing Involvement and Inclusion in Athletic Departments

Several schools noted their own tendencies to focus inwardly. Sports teams and attendant coaching staffs operate independently, often separately from trainers, academic support and student services personnel. Holding a regular common meeting to discuss student welfare was offered as a means to becoming more attentive to the needs of student-athletes, while practicing involvement and inclusion. Such meetings could also be used for shared professional development.

Maintaining an “open door” to others is not the same as actively inviting involvement. Asking other offices to rotate into regular meetings was offered as another way to practice involvement and inclusion. Be prepared to do more than “show and tell.” Asking for the community’s feedback and looking for ways to connect with constituencies (e.g., college faculty, Campus Ministry, Student Life, Public Safety) can have a variety of benefits.

• Using External Outreach as a Means for Involvement and Inclusion

Outreach by collegiate sports teams through direct community service is a well-established feature of many athletic departments. The real value in such activity is not so much in the doing, but in the learning – reflecting on the experience. What is the meaning of my service? How does it relate to my role as a student-athlete / representative of the school? How was I changed by the experience?

Many “single event” opportunities do not facilitate building relationships or understanding the plight of “the other” in a deeper way. Are there organizations with which a sports team or athletic department could affiliate on a long term basis? What are the corresponding benefits and liabilities?

Are there ways that community service by student-athletes could include focusing more intentionally on the Vatican Principles – the “joy of play” as well as “compassion, love and respect” for others, as opposed to “competition and skills?” Could “balance” and “enlightenment” be addressed with the youth served by this outreach? In what ways can advocacy for the marginalized be promoted?

Depending largely on the location of the campus, athletic departments could design a whole host of “Summer Camp” experiences for underserved populations.
3. Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Inspire and Enrich

- Inspiring through Sport

The pressure to succeed, whether self-imposed or coming externally from parents, teammates, coaches, administration, alumni and fans, often deflates the ability to find joy and inspiration in sport today. Many acknowledged that creating environments that allow coaches and student-athletes to be enriched by their experiences is difficult.

Many top performing athletes have been insulated from failure, may feel a sense of entitlement and have little experience with not getting what they want. Recently, it has become more common for student-athletes to “file complaints” against coaches for mistreatment or their institutions in pursuit of individual or group rights. Are there environmental dynamics that contribute to such outcomes?

“Being true to oneself” is often associated with “doing what’s best for me,” sometimes to the detriment of the team, department or institution. A “me (or us) against the world” mentality can develop easily in environments where criticism is easy and support is conditional.

Framing athletics beyond winning and losing is essential. Several references were made to Fr. Rob Hagan’s “post-game team meeting” advice (He urged that players not “let this loss define us,” and after winning the basketball championship, “Let’s not let this be the best thing that happens in our lives.”) as examples for “making the pivot” from sports to life. Reflection is key. Meaning is the goal. Stressing the positive, affirming off the court / field activity, building relationships that “get beyond the box score” help create a more positive culture and reframe success.

The source of one’s identity – whether student-athlete or coach – is another important variable. Is identity tied solely to performance (personal achievements, headlines, championships) or a greater good (being a good teammate, valuing the dignity of the opponent, teaching and learning life lessons)?

Coaches are most important determinant of the capacity to inspire and enrich. Are their recruiting messages consistent with the mission of the institution? Is it compatible with the Vatican Principles? Some student-athletes choose to play for a particular coach. Why? Are student-athletes attracted by the message “We’ll go the championship. – You’ll make it to the pros in our program.” or something else?

There can be no doubt that collegiate sports teams often provide the single most powerful source of inspiration on our campuses. They are a source of pride to current students and frequently keep them connected to the institution as Alumni. Managing expectations and encouraging supportive, affirming relationships between teams and supporters are difficult tasks. Communication is key. So also is setting high expectations for appropriate behavior by teammates, parents, fans and media.

- Encouraging “Virtuous Competition”

A number of groups cited examples of extraordinary coaches who emphasized respect and appreciation for opponents. The customary handshake before or after a match; helping a fallen opponent; prohibiting taunting by players / fans are all small examples of civility — the respect due the challenger. And what of correcting an obvious error on the part of a referee to your detriment? This is an act of courage that places a higher premium on integrity than on winning. In what other ways can coaches and players demonstrate a higher priority for virtuous competition?
Several noted that many leagues and conferences promote “core values.” The virtues of “integrity” and “respect” are frequently cited. What are the other commonalities? Are these statements active reference points or simply standard window dressing? What does the Vatican Declaration bring the conversations?

- **Getting into the Flow**

  Fr. Patrick Kelly spoke at length about FLOW. After suggesting that the complexity and hurried pace of life leads to compartmentalization, he suggested that we need to step back from our involvement so that we can appreciate the meaning of what we are doing. Flow involves “singular focus” — concentration and discipline. It requires “ego-less-ness.” Attaining these promotes “self-transcendence” or “being in the moment;” where effortlessness can be achieved and a different sense of time is experienced. FLOW frees one from self-centeredness and pride and encourages other-directedness. Trust and synergy are by-products of this state. How can coaches, administrators and campus ministers promote the language of and practices related to FLOW, within the context of the Vatican’s principles?

- **Including Sport and Coaching in the Curriculum**

  A number of schools offer courses such as “Sports and Spirituality.” These are usually open to undergraduate students, are taught by members of Theology/ Religious Studies faculty and may also involve participation by members of the athletic department. Some institutions offer academic programs in Sports Management, Sports Psychology, Physiology of Sport and Exercise or Kinetics. At these institutions, some members of the athletic department have faculty rank. The Vatican initiative and the Villanova conference brings into focus an opportunity for faith-related higher education to play a prophetic role in the study of sport and society, leisure and culture.

  If one career option for student-athletes and others for that matter, is to become a professional / college / high school / even a volunteer coach, offering academic programs that combine good coaching practice and ethical sports management skills with appropriate integration of spirituality and faith development could be a distinctive contribution by our institutions. Not to do so devalues, disrespects the important contribution made to our institutions by those involved in collegiate sports.

- **Professionalizing the Profession**

  The NCAA and other national sports organizations offer coaches a wide variety of opportunities for ongoing professional development. What are the departmental / institutional expectations for participation? There was some discussion about the benefits of attaching to coaching the same type of requirements that are common for teaching (e.g., academic preparation, certifications, continuing education units, establishing a universal code of ethics etc.). What are the implications?

  There were a number of conversations about evaluation criteria for coaching. Several provided examples of coaches who, by all measures, were excellent teachers and outstanding leaders, but who were let go for not winning enough. One participant wondered if the NCAA ought to consider involving itself with institutions that behave unethically toward members of its coaching staff.

- **Defining Sport More Broadly**

  Could other forms of “competition” at the collegiate level in the Arts, Sciences, Business, Engineering and Student Life benefit from application of these same Vatican principles?
OUTCOMES

In closing remarks, Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Barbara Wall recalled for participants the goals and objectives of the conference and encouraged participants to take the “next step,” returning to our respective campuses and taking action. Among steps to be taken could be:

- building stronger interdepartmental relationships among athletic departments and campus ministry / chaplaincy personnel to address many of the issues surfaced during our conversations;
- enlisting others to support and practice the values and virtues embedded in the Declaration of Principles as part of an overarching commitment to the formation of citizens for our country;
- assessing athletic department policies, procedures and practices through the lens of the Declaration and the broader goals of involvement, inclusion and inspiration.

Participants were directed to “A Proposal for Next Steps on College and University Campuses” in the registration folder, which identifies seven opportunities for consideration.

At the invitation of the Vatican Management Team, the Office for Mission and Ministry at Villanova University was commissioned to form a permanent working group to build upon the “Sport at the Service of Humanity” initiative at the collegiate level.

Among the themes to be given further consideration are:

- Promoting awareness of and commitment to the Vatican “Declaration of Principles” among colleges and universities, collegiate athletic conferences and related governing bodies in the United States;
- Building stronger relationships between athletic departments and campus ministry / chaplaincy personnel;
- Assuring that institutional mission are embedded in its athletic programs;
- Creating a positive culture in athletic programs with a focus on inclusion;
- Breaking down silos that may exist for student-athletes, so they can thrive as part of the larger campus community;
- Providing resources to nurture all parts of the student-athlete, including faith and spirituality;
- Supporting student-athletes in becoming their “whole selves,” with greater attention placed on balance in the student-athlete experience;
- Graduating student-athletes who are well prepared to thrive in all aspects of their lives.

Dr. Wall issued an open invitation to the delegates to remain in conversation with the Villanova Planning Committee and to indicate to us interest in being involved in the Working Committee.

For details related to outcomes and information related to the permanent working group, see Appendix III.
APPENDIX I – PLANNING

Villanova University Committee

- Edward Hastings – Assistant Professor of Theology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Christopher Janosik, Director of Planning and Research, Office for Mission and Ministry (Chair)
- Barbara Wall – Vice President for Mission and Ministry (Ex officio)
- David Walsh – Campus Minister for Athletics, Campus Ministry

Big East Conference Committee

- Valerie Ackerman – Commissioner
- Vincent Nicastro – Deputy Commissioner
- Briana Weiss – Director of Conference Operations

Vatican Management Team

- Nick Marrone – Marrone and Associates (CANADA)
- Philip Leopold, The Aspire Group (USA)

Development and implementation of the Villanova proposal was the primary responsibility of Hastings, Janosik and Walsh, who met almost weekly for the period of January – April, 2017. Coordination with co-sponsor, the Big East Conference, was achieved through regular conference calls between Wall / Janosik and Ackerman / Nicastro. Guidance from the Vatican Management Team was accomplished primarily through regular conference calls between Marrone / Janosik, with occasional participation by Leopold.

The most “laborious” element of the collaboration was development of a satisfactory “Memorandum of Understanding” between Villanova University and the Vatican, which included permission to use / adapt the Vatican’s “Sport in the Service of Humanity” logo and related branding materials developed by Carosello Lab (ITALY).

Villanova’s original proposal intended to focus only on the ten member Big East Conference. This plan was amended at the request of Bishop Paul Tighe (Exhibit A). In response, the Villanova planning team developed an original invitation list of 42 religiously-affiliated, colleges and universities in the United States. The list was later amended to include 72 institutions (EXHIBIT B). The presidents of these schools received an invitation signed by Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, president of Villanova University and Valerie Ackerman (EXHIBIT C1) and a nomination form (EXHIBIT C2). This correspondence included the “Declaration of Principles” (EXHIBIT C2), and the joint press release by the Vatican, Villanova University, and the Big East Conference (EXHIBIT C4). Registrations for the June conference eventually numbered 105 and represented 28 institutions of higher education (EXHIBIT D).
Sport at the Service of Humanity:
A Collegiate Follow Up to the Vatican Conference

A Vatican conference on “Sport at the Service of Humanity” took place in October, 2016. The values of inclusion, involvement and inspiration were central to its work. The conference was global in its reach and included a wide variety of international perspectives. Among those attending were representatives from the United Nations, International Olympic Committee, professional sports associations, non-profit agencies, marketing and public relations organizations, as well as athletes and advocates.

For our part, because all member schools in the Big East Conference can trace their roots to Christian / Catholic foundings, we have a unique opportunity, perhaps even a responsibility, to support the Vatican’s call to examining the ways in which sport, faith and culture interface. We seek to do this through the particular prism of collegiate athletics in North America.

Villanova University, in collaboration with the Big East Conference under the auspices of the Vatican Council for Culture proposes an opportunity to explore the culture of sport and the role of athletics at faith based colleges and universities. Presidents, athletic directors, representative coaches, chaplains and student athletes along with campus ministers and university mission officers will be invited to explore the implications of “Inclusion, Involvement and Inspiration” on our campuses and in our conferences, with an eye to future expansion of our conversation to the larger collegiate constituency. This first opportunity will be by invitation only.

The conference will take place at the Inn at Villanova University, its recently renovated conference center. Additional accommodations have been reserved at the nearby Radnor Hotel. These will be supplemented with low cost housing though the Office of Summer Conferences at Villanova.

The cost of the conference will be covered by participant registration fees with subsidy by Villanova University. Participants will arrange for their own housing accommodations at the Inn, Radnor Hotel or summer conference facilities at their own costs. All fees for speakers and invited guests will be waived.

Invited Institutions:

**NCAA – Division I**
Creighton University (NE), DePaul University (IL), Georgetown University (DC), Marquette University (WI), Providence College (RI), St. John’s University (NY), Seton Hall University (NJ), Villanova University (PA), Xavier University (OH)

Boston College (MA), Duquesne University (PA), Fordham University (NY), Gonzaga University (WA), LaSalle University (PA), St. Joseph University (PA), St. Mary’s College (CA), University of Dayton (OH), University of Notre Dame (IN)

Baylor University (TX), Bethune-Cookman University (FL), Brigham Young University (UT), Butler University (IN), Pepperdine University (CA)

**NCAA – Division II**
Barry University (FL), Lemoyne University (NY), Lewis University (IL), Neumann University (PA)

Benedict College (SC), Brandeis University (MA), King University (TN), Lenoir Rhyne University (NC)

**NCAA – Division III**
Catholic University (DC), DeSales University (PA), John Carroll University (OH), St. Thomas University (MN)

Calvin College (MI), Emory University (GA), Wheaton College (IL), Yeshiva University (NY)

**NAIA**
Carlow University (PA), Xavier University of Louisiana (LA), Siena Heights University (MI)
Invited Colleges and Universities – May, 2017

NCAA – Division I

Baylor University (TX)
Bethune-Cookman University (FL)
Boston College (MA)
Brigham Young University (UT)
Butler University (IN)
Creighton University (NE)
Davidson College (NC)
DePaul University (IL)
Duquesne University (PA)
Fairfield University (CT)
Fordham University (NY)
Georgetown University (DC)
Gonzaga University (WA)
LaSalle University (PA)
Loyola Marymount University (CA)
Loyola University Maryland
Marquette University (WI)
Oral Roberts University (OK)
Pepperdine University (CA)
Providence College (RI)
St. Bonaventure University (NY)
St. Francis University (PA)
St. John’s University (NY)
St. Joseph University (PA)
St. Louis University (MO)
St. Mary’s College (CA)
Santa Clara University (CA)
Seattle University (WA)
Seton Hall University (NJ)
Southern Methodist University (TX)
Texas Christian University (TX)
University of Central Florida
University of Dayton (OH)
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Notre Dame (IN)
University of the Pacific (CA)
University of Portland (OR)
University of San Diego (CA)
University of San Francisco (CA)
Villanova University (PA)
Valparaiso University (IN)
Wake Forest University (NC)
Xavier University (OH)

NCAA – Division II

Barry University (FL)
Benedict College (SC)
Brandeis University (MA)
Chaminade University (HI)
Christian Brothers University (TN)
Concordia College (MN)
King University (TN)
Lemoyne University (NY)
Lenoir Rhyne University (NC)
Lewis University (IL)
St. Edward’s University (TX)
St. Leo University (FL)
Stonehill College (MA)

NCAA – Division III

Calvin College (MI)
Catholic University (DC)
DeSales University (PA)
Emory University (GA)
George Fox University (OR)
John Carroll University (OH)
King’s College (PA)
Neumann University (PA)
St. Thomas University (MN)
St. Vincent College (PA)
University of Rochester (NY)
Wheaton College (IL)
Yeshiva University (NY)

NAIA

Carlow University (PA)
Xavier University of Louisiana (LA)
Siena Heights University (MI)

Bold type indicates sending participants
January 10, 2017

[First Name] [Last Name] [Religious Designation]
[Title]
[Institution]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

Dear President [Last Name]:

As you may be aware, an international conference on the subject of Sports at the Service of Humanity took place this past fall at the Vatican. The conference, which was conducted at the direction of Pope Francis and under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for Culture, explored “how sports and faith can harness their combined influence to serve the greater good.” With approval of the Vatican, Villanova University and the Big East Conference will host a follow-up regional conference for college/university administrators and athletic coaches to carry forward the work of Vatican’s inaugural gathering. The regional conference will be held at the Inn at Villanova University on June 7-8, 2017.

With this letter we are inviting selected colleges and universities from the NCAA Division I, II and III as well as the NAIA to discuss the intersection of faith and sports at the collegiate level and explore how we might place our own activities and resources more firmly at the “service of humanity.” Specifically, we plan to:

- Discuss the Declaration of Principles promulgated at the Vatican conference;
- Explore existing programs, educational materials and related resources available to assist in the implementation of these principles for our own campuses; and
- Consider what role athletic conferences and schools might play in assisting with this task for collegiate sports at large.

We hope you will support this endeavor by encouraging your athletic director, an influential coach interested in the spiritual development of student athletes, a team chaplain or campus minister to participate. Please discuss this opportunity with your colleagues and provide us with the names of those who will attend by February 15, 2017. We will follow up with them directly with registration materials and additional information. Of course, your own participation will be most welcome as well.

Sincerely,

Peter Donohue, OSA, PhD
President
Villanova University

Val Ackerman, JD
Commissioner
Big East Athletic Conference
A Regional Conference on Faith and Collegiate Sports

JUNE 7-8, 2017

Please consider sending a team of at least three representatives to the conference so that upon return to campus, the group will continue to work toward implementation of principles and values discussed.

The following representatives will attend the conference from ________________________:

(college / university)

President:
Email Address:

Athletic Director:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

Coach / Team:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

Chaplain / Team:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

Campus Minister:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

Mission Officer:
Mailing Address:
Email Address:

Please return this form by FEBRUARY 15, 2017 to: Dr. Christopher Janosik, Director of Planning and Research, Office for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085. Alternatively, you may scan this completed form and return it as an email attachment to christopher.janosik@villanova.edu.

Additional details concerning registration fees, accommodations and the conference schedule will be available shortly.
VATICAN-2016

SPORT at the Service of HUMANKIND

THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON FAITH & SPORT

VISION

To launch a movement that inspires every organization and participant in sport to live, think and act in accordance with the “Sport at the Service of Humanity Declaration of Principles”.

MISSION

To validate and endorse the “Sport at the Service of Humanity Declaration of Principles” – a set of guiding values that articulates how sport and faith can harness their combined influence to serve the greater good – and to develop partnerships to put the principles into action.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

PREAMBLE

We believe that:

- sport has the power to celebrate our common humanity, regardless of faith, race, culture, beliefs, gender and ability;
- sport can bring us together – to meet one another across borders and boundaries, to learn to compete as friends, to respect and trust one another even in opposition;
- sport has the power to teach positive values and enrich lives. Every one of us, who plays, organizes and supports sport, has the opportunity to be transformed by it and to transform others;
- sport challenges us to stretch ourselves further than we thought possible.
- sport can be distorted if we lose sight of the sheer joy it brings us.
- while we strive for excellence in sport, it is more important to aim for excellence as human beings.
- many people are deprived of sport through lack of opportunity, prejudice, or vested interest.
- we have a responsibility to help and share its benefits.
Therefore, guided by our common values, we jointly pledge to be inspired by and aspire to the following principles:

**Compassion**

Use the power of sport to help others.
Share the benefits of sport to empower those who are poor and disadvantaged.

**Respect**

Use sport to build trust and understanding.
Respect your opponents. Through sport understand them and their culture more deeply.
Condemn violence in sport – on and off the field of play.

**Love**

Sport is for all.
Do all you can to help everyone take part in sport.
Do all you can to enable everyone to compete on equal terms.

**Enlightenment**

Sport has the power to transform lives and build character.
Learn graciousness in victory and perspective in defeat.
Apply the values you learn in sport to help you excel in life.

**Balance**

Sport has the power to help us make the most of ourselves.
So play it in the knowledge that it can revitalize you physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.
At every stage of life, play for fun, for health, for friendship.

**Joy**

Sport, above all, is about enjoyment.
So enjoy it! And remember, there is more to sport than winning, but when you compete, be and do the best you can, always.

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*I ask that you live your sport as a gift from God, an opportunity not only to bring your talents to fruition, but also as a responsibility."

*POPE FRANCIS*
NEW YORK – The BIG EAST Conference and Villanova University announced today that Villanova will host a regional conference on “Sport at the Service of Humanity” on June 7-8, 2017 on Villanova’s campus in Villanova, Pennsylvania. The conference, which will be inclusive of all denominations, is the first to be sanctioned by the Vatican following its inaugural conference on faith and sports in Rome in October 2016.

The Sport at the Service of Humanity initiative was created by the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Culture and is built around the “declaration of principles”: joy, compassion, respect, enlightenment, love and balance. The inaugural conference, held at the Vatican on October 5-7, 2016, included two days of intensive discussion among religious leaders, athletes, business leaders, academicians, media representatives and other stakeholders, with a focus on how sport and faith can drive positive social change and foster inclusion, involvement and inspiration among people from diverse backgrounds.

The inaugural conference was organized with the special support of the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations. In opening remarks to the conference delegates, Pope Francis noted the importance of preserving fun and joy in sports and making sports accessible to all, regardless of ability, and particularly migrants and the disadvantaged. IOC President Thomas Bach and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also spoke at the opening ceremony.

BIG EAST Commissioner Val Ackerman was a delegate at the inaugural conference and served on an advisory committee assembled to develop the framework and content for the event. She led a breakout session on the opening day of the conference on the inclusion of women in sport globally.

"Villanova is very excited to build on the Vatican's Sport at the Service of Humanity initiative and to support His Holiness Pope Francis' desire to explore how faith and sports can promote the betterment of society," said Villanova University President Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA. "The principles of the conference are fully in line with Villanova’s mission and values, and we welcome the chance to engage other higher education leaders on how faith and sports can bring people together and ready young people for life’s many opportunities and challenges."

Bishop Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said: “The aim of the Pontifical Council for Culture, in conjunction with the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee, in sponsoring the initial Conference on Sport and Faith at the Vatican was to celebrate the value of sport; its capacity to bring joy to participants and observers, to promote physical and mental wellbeing and to create bridges between people.”
Bishop Tighe continued: “The Conference brought together people from diverse backgrounds with a view to creating a broad movement - Sport at the Service of Humanity - to ensure that sport realizes its inherent potential to enrich human lives. The Council is very pleased to be associated with Villanova and the BIG EAST Conference in the promotion of a conference that aims to ensure that this movement and the principles on which it is built engage the attention and the energy of key players from the world of college sport in the USA”.

"The BIG EAST Conference is honored to join with the Vatican and Villanova in staging this important gathering, which will help carry forward themes and action steps developed at the inaugural Vatican conference in October," said Ackerman. "Intercollegiate athletics programs are an ideal platform to build character and teach values, and we hope the Villanova conference will reinforce these benefits and the role sports play in building bridges and improving lives."

The Villanova conference, which will be hosted by the Office of Mission and Ministry, will be an invitation-only event and is expected to attract administrative, academic and athletic leaders and influencers from within college sports, including from faith-driven institutions.

About Villanova University: Since 1842, Villanova University’s Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition has been the cornerstone of an academic community in which students learn to think critically, act compassionately and succeed while serving others. There are more than 10,000 undergraduate, graduate and law students in the University’s six colleges—the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Villanova School of Business, the College of Engineering, the College of Nursing, the College of Professional Studies and the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. Ranked among the nation’s top universities, Villanova supports its students’ intellectual growth and prepares them to become ethical leaders who create positive change everywhere life takes them. For more, visit www.villanova.edu.

About the BIG EAST: The BIG EAST Conference is an association of ten nationally prominent colleges and universities that foster healthy athletic competition, community service and the pursuit of excellence in academic environments. The athletic programs of BIG EAST institutions provide national-caliber participation opportunities for more than 3,500 student-athletes on over 180 men’s and women’s teams in 22 sports. Established in 1979 and headquartered in New York City, the BIG EAST’s members are located in seven of the country’s top 35 largest media markets and include Butler University, Creighton University, DePaul University, Georgetown University, Marquette University, Providence College, St. John’s University, Seton Hall University, Villanova University and Xavier University. For more information, visit www.bigeast.com.
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* Not Yet Confirmed
College and University Participation by Association, Division, and Conference

**NCAA – Division I**
American Athletic Conference
University of Central Florida (FL)

Atlantic Coast Conference
University of Notre Dame (IN)

Atlantic 10 Conference
Duquesne University (PA)
Fordham University (NY)
La Salle University (PA)
St. Joseph’s University (PA)
University of Dayton (OH)

Big East Conference
Butler University (IN)
DePaul University (IL)
Georgetown University (DC)
Marquette University (WI)
Providence College (RI)
St. John’s University (NY)
Seton Hall University (NJ)
Villanova University (PA)
Xavier University (OH)

Big 12 Athletic Conference
Baylor University (TX)

West Coast Conference
Brigham Young University (UT)
Pepperdine University (CA)
University of San Francisco (CA)

Western Athletic Conference
Seattle University (WA)

**NCAA – Division II**
Conference Carolinas
King’s University (TN)

Northeast 10 Conference
Lemoyne University (NY)

**NCAA – Division III**
Colonial States Athletic Conference
Neumann University (PA)

Middle Atlantic Conference
DeSales University (PA)

Presidents’ Athletic Conference
St. Vincent’s College (PA)

University Athletic Association
University of Rochester (NY)

**NAIA**
Wolverine - Hoosier Athletic Conference
Siena Heights University (MI)
APPENDIX II – CONTENT

From the outset, the Villanova Planning Committee envisioned a relatively short two day event with four main components (EXHIBIT E):

- Presentations to provide orientation to and context for the Vatican’s Declaration of Principles
- Discussion to share perspectives and encourage taking next steps upon returning to campus
- Prayer to celebrate our shared identity as faith-related colleges and universities
- Meals in settings designed to facilitate conversation, community building and networking

Opening remarks were provided by Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA - President of Villanova University; Msgr. Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda - Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture; Michael Galligan-Stierle - President, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities and Mark Jackson - Director of Athletics. Longer keynote presentations were made by Val Ackerman - Commissioner of the Big East Conference; Most Reverend Bishop Paul Tighe - Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture and Reverend Pat Kelly, SJ - Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies, Seattle University. Video recordings of all of these interventions are available.

Structured discussions followed the presentations by Ackerman, Tighe and Kelly. Discussions were guided by facilitators. A prepared set of suggested questions was offered as points of departure for each discussion (EXHIBITS F, G, H). Notes were taken in discussions following Tighe and Kelly. Verbal summations followed these discussions as well.

Dr. Edward Hastings coordinated preparation of the team of facilitators, who volunteered in advance to contribute to the conference in this manner.

- Fr. Frank Beria - Theology and Religious Studies, LaSalle University
- Eloise Berry - Intercultural Affairs, Villanova University
- Len DiPaul - Education and Human Services, Neumann University
- Fr. Robert Hagan - Athletics, Villanova University
- Thomas Judge - Campus Ministry, DePaul University
- Clark Power - Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame
- Brian McCabe - Campus Ministry, Villanova University
- Vince Nicastro - Big East Conference
- Fr. William Rickle - Campus Ministry, St. Joseph’s University
- Fr. Richard Rock - Campus Ministry, St. John’s University
- Chuck Sack - Athletics, Neumann University
- Rev. Julia Sheetz - Campus Ministry, Villanova University
- David Walsh - Campus Ministry, Villanova University

Rev. Julia Sheetz, Associate Director for Ecumenical and Interfaith Outreach in Campus Ministry at Villanova presided at a Vespers Service on Wednesday, June 7th. Bishop Paul Tighe was the principal celebrant at Mass, offered on Thursday, June 8th. Rev. Robert Hagan, OSA delivered the homily. On both occasions, Mark Bani, Campus Minister for Liturgical Music and Villanova students provided music.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:20 AM</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION</strong> — <em>Inn at Villanova University, Lobby</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:20 AM</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME</strong> — <em>Inn at Villanova University, Ballroom</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rev. Peter Donohue, OSA, President, Villanova University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Msgr. Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda, Undersecretary of the</td>
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<td>Pontifical Council for Culture</td>
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<td>Michael Galligan-Stierle, President, Association of Catholic</td>
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<td>Colleges and Universities</td>
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<td>Mark Jackson, Director of Athletics, Villanova University</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>A VISION FOR A HOLISTIC COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS EXPERIENCE</strong></td>
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<td>Val Ackerman, Commissioner, BIG EAST Conference</td>
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<td>11:00 AM - NOON</td>
<td><strong>COLLEGIATE SPORTS AND THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES</strong></td>
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<td>Table Discussion</td>
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<td>NOON - 1:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:15 PM</td>
<td><strong>INCLUSION AND INVOLVEMENT</strong> — *Bishop Paul Tighe, Pontifical</td>
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<td>Council for Culture</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Sport at the Service of Humanity: The Church in Dialogue”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK OUT DISCUSSION</strong> — *Meeting Rooms downstairs on Floors 1</td>
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<td>and 2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 - 4:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>REPORTS</strong> — <em>Inn at Villanova University, Ballroom</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 - 5:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>VESPER</strong> — <em>St. Thomas of Villanova Church</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>COCKTAILS AND DINNER</strong></td>
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**DAY 2 — THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 8:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</strong> — <em>Inn at Villanova University, Ballroom</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>INSPIRATION</strong> — <em>Rev. Pat Kelly, SJ, Seattle University</em></td>
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<td>“The Intersection of Faith, Spirituality and Collegiate Sports”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 - 11:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>BREAK OUT DISCUSSION</strong> — *Meeting Rooms downstairs on Floors 1</td>
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<td>and 2*</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOON - 12:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>MASS</strong> — <em>St. Thomas of Villanova Church</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong> — <em>Connelly Center, Villanova Room</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 - 3:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>REPORTS</strong> — <em>Connelly Center, Villanova Room</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td><strong>CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS</strong></td>
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FIRST DISCUSSION:
Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Respond to the Declaration of Principles

1. How has participation in sport enriched your own life and/or the lives of others? In particular, what positive values do you feel are instilled through participation in sports?

2. During the first global conference on “Sport at the Service of Humanity” at the Vatican, much was said about the transformational power of sport. How does collegiate sports transform? What capacity does it have for bringing people of different faiths, cultures, races, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, etc. together?

3. In the United States, a great deal has been written about the professionalization of collegiate / amateur athletics, the tendency for participation to require a “year-round” commitment, etc. What can collegiate sports do to inculcate the principles of “balance” and joy?”

4. As with professional sports in America and elsewhere, collegiate sports can fall prey to the desire to “win at all costs,” creating a “hostile environment” for opponents, and bending, even breaking the rules to gain competitive advantage. Recently, outward expressions of “respect, compassion,” even “love” for one’s competitor has become newsworthy. How might our teams and conferences do more to promote the principles of “respect, compassion and love”?

5. As faith-based institutions, serving an ever increasingly diverse student body, what is our proper role in encouraging self-reflection and contemplation, promoting “enlightenment,” if you will — more specifically, a deeper appreciation by our students of their God-given talents and abilities?
SECOND DISCUSSION:
Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Involve and Include

Participants in the Vatican Conference discussed systemic cultural change that sport may well be able to affect for the larger, common good. More specifically, Pope Francis identified “access through inclusion and involvement” as a way to alleviate discrimination and to inspire marginalized/disenfranchised populations.

1. In what ways do our institutions, athletic departments and campus ministries support and promote the involvement and inclusion of student-athletes in the life of the university?

2. How do athletic departments promote or enhance involvement and inclusion through policies and procedures, particularly in recruitment and hiring of personnel?

3. How might service — community outreach — by our athletic departments and sports teams facilitate inclusion, involvement and contribution to the larger, common good?

4. How can service — community outreach — by our athletic departments and sports teams be targeted more intentionally to involve marginalized or disenfranchised populations?

5. Are there local, regional, national or international organizations with which individual athletic departments or athletic conferences might affiliate for mutual benefit in this regard?
THIRD DISCUSSION:
Collegiate Sports and its Capacity to Inspire and Enrich

The Vatican Conference addressed the virtues with which sports should be played. The "Declaration of Principles" speaks to the positive values and transformational power of athletics. Pope Francis mentioned specifically that “integrity, trust, dignity and respect” are fundamental to sports well played.

1. What is virtuous competition? How might our institutions and athletic departments and/or conferences become even stronger advocates for virtuous competition?

2. How do our institutions encourage student-athletes to search for meaning in sports and beyond? What role does / can the athletic department / campus ministry play?

3. In what ways do our institutions attend to the spiritual needs and faith development of student-athletes specifically? What role does / can the athletic department / campus ministry play?

4. Are there particular differences between and among Division I, II, III / NAIA schools that affect an institution’s ability to attend to the spiritual needs and faith development of student-athletes? If so, what might they be?

5. How might the institutions gathered here collaborate to become more intentional toward the spiritual needs and faith development of student-athletes?
APPENDIX III – OUTCOMES

The Villanova Planning Committee developed a set of goals and objectives for the June conference that was submitted to and approved by the Vatican Management Team (EXHIBIT I).

The Villanova Planning Committee also devised “A Proposal for Next Steps on College and University Campuses,” which was included in the registration packed given to all participants (EXHIBIT J).

Upon being commissioned to form a permanent Working Group to further the conversation begun at the Villanova conference and to support of the “Service at the Service of Humanity” initiative, Dr. Barbara Wall invited conference delegates to express interest in serving in the group. An inaugural team has been selected. The group will be chaired by Dr. Christopher Janosik, Director of Planning and Research, Office for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University (EXHIBIT K).

Since returning to their respective campuses, concrete “next steps” are under way:

- Several schools have met to review the “Proposal for Next Steps on College and University Campuses” and are working to develop strategies for implementation.

- At least one institution is exploring the possibility of holding a meeting with regional neighbors, who were not in attendance, to discuss the June conference and explore how they might collaborate on promoting the Vatican’s Declaration of Principles.

- Others have been in touch with their conference leadership to promote placing “Sport at the Service of Humanity” and the Vatican’s Declaration of Principles on the organization’s agenda.

- The Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities has sent details of the June conference to its 28 member institutions.

Delegates are encouraged to update the Working Group on any and all efforts to share the Principles with colleagues or implement strategies on their campuses.
INTRODUCTION

On October 5-7, 2016, an international meeting on the topic of “Sports at the Service of Humanity” took place at the Vatican. The conference, which was conducted at the direction of Pope Francis and under the auspices of the Pontifical Council for Culture, explored “how sports and faith can harness their combined influence to serve the greater good.” With approval of the Vatican, Villanova University and the Big East Conference will host a follow-up regional conference for college/university administrators and athletic coaches to carry forward the work of Vatican’s inaugural gathering.

Forty colleges and universities from the NCAA Division I, II and III as well as the NAIA have been invited to discuss the intersection of faith and sports at the collegiate level and to explore how we might place our own activities and resources more firmly at the “service of humanity.”

PURPOSE

• Discuss the Declaration of Principles promulgated at the Vatican conference;

• Explore existing programs, educational materials and related resources available to assist in the implementation of these principles for our own campuses; and

• Consider what role athletic conferences and their members might play in assisting with this task for collegiate sports at large.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

• Promote broader dissemination of the Vatican Declaration of Principles and the work of the 2016 conference;

• Identify advocates for faith, spirituality and sports among those working in higher education;

• Provide a platform for building stronger relationships between athletic departments and campus ministry/chaplaincy personnel;

• Encourage assessment of athletic department policies, procedures and practices through the lens of the Declaration and the broader goals of involvement, inclusion and inspiration;

• Inspire participation in and adoption of the “Sport in the Service of Humanity Movement” as the organizing framework for collegiate sports at the institutional and conference levels.

• Support and extend the work already being done in the field of faith, spirituality and sports at colleges and universities in the United States and beyond.
A PROPOSAL FOR NEXT STEPS ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

1. Conduct a Campus Sports and Spirituality Audit

PERSONNEL

a. Are there designated personnel on your campus charged with the responsibility of attending to the spiritual needs of student-athletes? If so, please specify who they are and what services they provide.
b. Are team chaplains a part of your athletic program? If so, are there formal expectations for these personnel? Are these personnel compensated or volunteer? Are these personnel affiliated with a specific team? If so, please describe.
c. Are there formal relationships between your athletic department and campus ministry office or its equivalent? If so, describe the nature of this relationship.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS

a. In what ways do departmental policies and procedures encourage / discourage involvement and inclusion among our student-athletes?
b. How might our current “training and development” programs for student-athletes address more intentionally the spiritual lives of our student-athletes?

FAITH / SPIRITUALITY

a. Are regularly scheduled religious services held for the athletic community? If so, please describe and indicate the frequency of these.
b. Are there regularly scheduled programs that support / attend to the faith tradition(s) and spiritual development of student-athletes? If so, please describe and indicate the frequency of each.
c. Are there student organizations that support / attend to the faith traditions(s) and spiritual development of student-athletes? If so, please describe them.

SERVICE

a. Are there regularly scheduled opportunities for service / charitable giving to under-served, under-represented or other persons, groups or organizations? Please describe.
b. Are service expectations coordinated by the athletic department or initiated by individual coaches / teams? Please describe.
c. Does the athletic conference to which you belong have service expectations for its member institutions? If so, please describe.

ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

a. Are there courses for academic credit related to faith/spirituality and athletics/sports? If so, please list or describe.
b. Have there been or are there plans for conferences, symposia, workshops or lectures related to the intersection of faith/spirituality and athletics/sport/play? If so, please describe.
EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS

Does your college or university (including but not limited to the athletic department) maintain any formal, ongoing partnerships with a sports-related, non-profit (e.g., Coaches Against Cancer, Special Olympics, Police Athletic League, Boys and Girls Clubs)? If so, please describe.

**What other action steps can be taken to focus more intently on the intersection of sports and spirituality to our campuses:**

2. Create Sports & Spirituality Liaisons

Appoint a point person at your college or university who has an interest in sports and spirituality and is willing to initiate sports ministry efforts on your campus. Ideally, this person would be a member of the Athletic Department and will work with a designated person in Campus Ministry. Perhaps these designated personnel could be the basis for a regular annual meeting.

3. Expand Availability of Team Chaplains

If chaplains on your campus volunteer and serve only a few of your school's teams, develop a plan to provide chaplains to unserved teams. If the role of chaplain is performed by an ordained minister, could lay personnel and/or students be used in this capacity? Could these efforts benefit from standardized expectations, training and compensation?

4. Enhance Regularly Scheduled Spiritual / Religious Programming

Organize evenings of reflection or day retreats for both teams and the entire student-athlete community. Work with student-athletes to organize a weekly Bible Study and/or interfaith prayer, focusing on the inspiration for athletic completion. Is it possible to integrate aspects of the life of your denominational founder or your institutional “charism” with athletics? (As an example, the Augustinian charism emphasizes values such as friendship, humility, reflection and self-knowledge. These values could be interpreted as important aspects of sports.)

5. Include Spiritual Reflection as a Component of Service Projects

Develop strategies to follow service activities with structured reflection upon why it is important to care for others, or how service is rooted tenants of religious faith, the legacy of a particular founder or in the particular charism of the sponsoring religious order. Provide opportunities during service projects for workers/students to reflect upon why they are doing what they are doing and to reflect on faith in action.

6. Create a Sports, Faith and Spirituality Award

Recognize, on an annual basis, the student-athlete and/or team who/that has displayed exemplary dedication to academics, athletics, faith and service to others.

7. Explore External Relationships and Affiliations

Look for opportunities to establish an ongoing relationship with a local, non-profit, community-based sports organization with the goal of making sports more accessible to the under-served or less fortunate.

Several International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) promote play and sport as a powerful social tool, bringing together people from different ethnic, cultural, religious, linguistic and socio-economic backgrounds, as well as a means for improving physical and mental health, fostering active citizenship and social inclusion. Explore how your institution or athletic conference might support these efforts.
Under the auspices of the Pontifical Council of Culture and its Vatican Management Team, the first regional follow up conference of the “Sport at the Service of Humanity” initiative was held at Villanova University on June 7-8, 2017. The focus of the gathering was “Faith and Collegiate Sports.”

More than 100 delegates representing 28 faith based colleges and universities in the United States met to discuss how the resources of athletic departments, campus ministries and chaplaincy offices might address more intentionally the faith development and spiritual needs of student-athletes and to more fully place their combined resources “at the service of humanity.”

At the close of the conference, the Vatican Management Team, represented by Monsignor Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda (Undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture), Bishop Paul Tighe (Adjunct Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Culture), Bernard Mullin (CEO, Aspire Group) and Nick Marrone (Principal, Marrone and Associates) encouraged Barbara Wall (Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University) to form a permanent working group to facilitate continued dialogue among constituencies represented at the conference.

Among the goals of the working group are:

- Promoting awareness of and commitment to the Vatican “Declaration of Principles” among colleges and universities, collegiate athletic conferences and related governing bodies in the United States;
- Building stronger relationships between athletic departments and campus ministry / chaplaincy personnel;
- Assuring that institutional missions are embedded in its athletic programs;
- Creating a positive culture in athletic programs with a focus on inclusion;
- Breaking down silos that may exist for student-athletes, so they can thrive as part of the larger campus community;
- Providing resources to nurture all parts of the student-athlete, including faith and spirituality;
- Supporting student-athletes in becoming their “whole selves,” with greater attention placed on balance in the student-athlete experience;
- Graduating student-athletes who are well prepared to thrive in all aspects of their lives.
Delegates attending the conference were invited to volunteer for the working group. The composition of the inaugural group was determined by the Office for Mission and Ministry at Villanova University that selected a representative number from those that volunteered. They are:

Frank Alloco, Senior Associate Director of Athletics for External Relations
University of San Francisco, West Coast Conference, NCAA – DI

Gina Castelli, Head Coach - Women’s Basketball
Lemoyne College, Northeast 10 Conference, NCAA – DII

Susan Hozak, Associate Director of Athletics / Head Coach, Women’s Volleyball
Saint Vincent’s College, President’s Athletic Conference, NCAA – DIII

Rev. Robert Hagan, OSA, Associate Director of Athletics (Ad hoc)
Villanova University, Big East Conference, NCAA – DI

Chris Janosik, Director of Planning and Research - Mission and Ministry (Chair)
Villanova University, Big East Conference, NCAA – DI

Rev. Patrick Kelly, SJ, Associate Professor of Theology
Seattle University, Western Athletic Conference, NCAA – DI

Kathleen Meehan, Associate Vice President for Athletics
St. John’s University, Big East Conference, NCAA – DI

Angie Petrovic, Associate Director of Athletics
University of Dayton, Atlantic 10 Athletic Conference, NCAA – DI

Clark Power, Professor of Liberal Studies
University of Notre Dame, Atlantic Coast Conference, NCAA – DI

Fred Smith, Director of Athletics
Siena Heights University, Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference, NAIA

David Walsh, Campus Minister for Sports and Spirituality
Villanova University, Big East Conference, NCAA – DI

Barbara Wall, Vice President for Mission and Ministry (Ex officio)
Villanova University, Big East Conference, NCAA – DI

John White, Director of Sports Ministry / Assistant Professor of Practical Theology
Baylor University, Big 12 Athletic Conference, NCAA – DI

Vatican Management Team Representation to be determined.

The committee will begin its work during the fall semester of 2017. For more information about the Collegiate Working Group contact: christopher.janosik@villanova.edu.
APPENDIX IV – ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the risk of omission, the Villanova Planning Committee wishes to express special appreciation to:

- Rev. Peter Donohue and the presidents of the Big East Conference for entrusting us with the responsibility for planning and implementing the first regional follow up conference to the Vatican’s global “Sport at the Service of Humanity” Initiative;
- Most Reverend Paul Tighe, who encouraged us to think more broadly and be more inclusive;
- Nick Marrone and Philip Leopold of the Vatican Management Team, and to Big East collaborators Val Ackerman and Vince Nicastro for their guidance and wisdom throughout the planning process;
- Speakers Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD (President, Villanova Univ.); Msgr. Melchor Sánchez de Toca y Alameda (Undersecretary, Pontifical Council for Culture); Michael Galligan Stierle (President of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities); Val Ackerman (Commissioner, BIG EAST Conference); Bishop Paul Tighe (Adjunct Secretary, Pontifical Council for Culture); Rev. Pat Kelly, SJ (Theologian, Seattle University); Barbara Wall (Vice President for Mission and Ministry (Villanova University), Fr. Robert Hagan (Associate Director of Athletics, Villanova University) who encouraged and inspired participants and especially to Mark Jackson (Director of Athletics, Villanova University) who served as indispensable host and moderator for the event.
- Facilitators, scribes and reporters Fr. Frank Berna (LaSalle University), Eloise Berry (Villanova University), Len DiPaul (Neumann University), Fr. Robert Hagan (Villanova University), Edward Hastings (Villanova University), Thomas Judge (DePaul University), Brian McCabe (Villanova University), Vince Nicastro (Big East Conference), Clark Power (University of Notre Dame), Fr. William Rickle (St. Joseph’s University), Fr. Richard Rock (St. John’s University), Chuck Sack (Neumann University), Rev. Julia Sheetz (Villanova University) and David Walsh (Villanova University) for their role in guiding conversation and documenting our discussions.

The success of this undertaking is due in no small measure to dozens of staff, without whom such a project is impossible. We are indebted to:

- Marcy Bray of the Office for Mission and Ministry, who handled travel arrangements and related details for our speakers and dignitaries and to Marybeth Avioli, who assisted with website management / electronic payments;
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- Brian Sirak and Myra Villas, who handled our video production / related technical needs, and photographer John Walsh;
- Campus Ministers Rev. Julia Sheetz, Mark Bani and Sr. Barbara O’Neill, who planned and implemented Vespers and Mass for our gathering;
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- Stefanie Austinit of Conference Services and Campus Ministry Interns Duncan Fischley and Denzell Stanislaus who assisted with on campus apartment housing arrangements.

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