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 higher education leaders on how faith and sports can bring people together and ready young people for life’s many opportunities and challenges.”

SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY NEWSLETTER #3 FEBRUARY 28, 2017

We are excited to announce that as follow-up to the First Global Conference on Faith & Sport held at the Vatican in October 2016 – a by-invitation-only regional conference will be hosted by The Big East Conference and Villanova University this June. This will be an opportunity for college/university administrators and athletic coaches to carry forward the work of the inaugural Vatican gathering, specifically to:

• Discuss the Declaration of Principles that was celebrated at the Vatican conference;
• Explore existing programs, educational materials and related resources available to determine how these principles can be brought to life on college campuses; and
• Consider what role athletic conferences and their members may play in assisting with this task for collegiate sports at large.

SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY GOES TO COLLEGE!

EVENT DETAILS
The historic campus of Villanova University founded in 1842 by the Order of St. Augustine, with its strong faith and sport tradition, will be the host venue for this first collegiate follow-up conference on Faith & Sport.

DATES
June 7 – 8, 2017

VENUE
The Inn at Villanova University
Villanova, PA, USA

PARTICIPANTS
Sixty (60) 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. In addition, other faith-based institutions have been invited to participate.

FEATURED SPEAKERS
The initial roster of speakers includes:

BISHOP PAUL TIGHE
representing Pope Francis and the Vatican

MS. VAL ACKERMAN
Big East Conference Commissioner

Ms. Ackerman will focus on carrying forward themes and action steps developed at the Vatican conference.

"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.”

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

• 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 AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY” as the organizing framework for collegiate sports and the institutional 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.

For more information about the conference, please contact Dr. Christopher Janosik, Director of Planning and Research, Office for Mission and Ministry, Villanova University at Christopher.janosik@villanova.edu