More than 100 leaders from around the world will gather in Philadelphia for the Second Global Conference on Faith & Sport to build on the work of the Vatican’s Sport at the Service of Humanity initiative.

"We are excited to announce that as follow-up to the First Global Conference on Faith & Sport held at the Vatican in October 2016— an 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.

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 sport 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."

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

SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY GOES TO COLLEGE!

EVENT DETAILS
Perennial leader of the movement founded by the Holy Father, Bishop Tighe will reinforce the importance of celebrating the value of sport and “… its capacity to bring joy to participants and observers, to promote physical and mental well-being and to create bridges between people.” The October 2016 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.”

CONFERENCE GOALS
On June 7th and 8th, leaders from around the world will gather in Philadelphia for the Second Global Conference on Faith & Sport to build on the work of the Vatican’s Sport at the Service of Humanity initiative.

• Promote broader dissemination of the SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY 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 MOVEMENT 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.

OPENING PLUNKS
Dr. Christopher Janosik, President, Villanova University
Ms. Val Ackerman, Commissioner, Big East Conference

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Paul Tighe

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