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REMINDER

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ALBUQUERQUE – October 18, 2004 (IMMEDIATE RELEASE)



**Joe Garagiola, Baseball Great
Former St. Louis Cardinal
Will Be Guest Speaker at
Archbishop's 21st Annual School Fund Dinner
Friday, October 22, 2004, 6:30 PM
Sheraton Old Town, Albuquerque, NM**

Joe Garagiola, baseball great and former St. Louis Cardinal will be the keynote speaker at the Archbishop's Twenty-First Annual School Fund Dinner to be held Friday, October 24, 2003 at the Sheraton Old Town in Albuquerque. The event will begin at 6:30 P.M. with a no-host cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:30 P.M.

For those who need to refresh their memory, Joe first came to public attention in 1946 as a catcher for the St. Louis Cardinals. In the next eight years, he also wore the uniforms of the **Pittsburgh Pirates, Chicago Cubs and New York Giants**. He said, "I felt like I was modeling uniforms for the National League."

Joe Garagiola is a product of "The Hill," a blue collar, Italian-American stronghold in St. Louis. **His best friend and across-the-street neighbor was catcher Yogi Berra**. They left the neighborhood sand lots while still in their teens to play minor league baseball. Garagiola played in Springfield, Missouri and Berra in Norfolk, Virginia, until World War II changed their plans.

On Mother's Day in 1946, Joe was discharged from the Army and joined the Cardinals. In his rookie season, the Cardinals beat the Boston Red Sox in the World Series, in which Garagiola batted .316 with four hits in the fourth game—all this before he was old enough to vote!

When injuries caused him to voluntarily go on the "retired list," Garagiola turned to broadcasting. He prepared for the day of his first broadcast by accepting engagements offered by the Cub Scouts, B'Nai Brith and Holy Name Societies, and other such groups, "I went to more meetings in the Protestant churches and Jewish temples than any Catholic in history."

The late newscaster, Frank McGee observed that Garagiola reminded everybody of somebody they knew and termed him "Mr. Everyman." Today "Mr. Everyman" is involved in getting the message out of ways to help others. One such way is by serving as national chairman of the National Tobacco Program. This program tells the story of the dangers of use of "spit tobacco." Garagiola, has gone to major and minor league camps during Spring Training to deliver the NSTEP message. He has also appeared at schools, Little League functions and various other gatherings to help in educating, especially the young people, to the dangers of this very addicting habit.

A special project to which Joe devotes time, energy, and support is St. Peter's School located on the Pima Indian Reservation between Phoenix and Tucson. He has been helping since he first became aware of the school and its many needs some years ago. The Pima Tribe has the highest rate of diabetes of any ethnic group in the world. Part of the school's program is that of a diet and exercise to help ward off the onset of the disease. To assure that students exercise, Joe and his friends have provided an athletic field. They have also assisted with transportation by helping to purchase three busses, and have upgraded classrooms, and facilities of the school.

Joe clearly knows that our Catholic Schools need support by people like him and you. When you come to the **Archbishop's School Fund Dinner**, you will hear much-much more! This is an evening you will not want to miss.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan extends an invitation to all to attend this wonderful event in which he will also announce the recipient of the Archdiocesan Teacher of the Year. He hopes the Endowment and the Annual Catholic Appeal will provide tuition assistance for to hundreds of needy students in the Archdiocesan Catholic School System. Contact: Catholic Schools Office 505.831-8173