

**GESU SCHOOL EIGHTH GRADERS “MEET THE PRESS” WITH TIM RUSSERT**

**Acclaimed journalist talks about politics and the 2008 presidential election with eighth graders at nationally recognized Gesu School before being honored by the Philadelphia-area Jesuit community**

PHILADELPHIA (October 2007) – Acclaimed political analyst, journalist and author Tim Russert was recently honored in Philadelphia at Gesu School, a nationally recognized, Jesuit-run inner-city elementary school for which he is an advisory trustee and has been a longtime supporter, by the region’s Jesuit community with the Magis Spirit Award for his support of such Jesuit ministries as Gesu, the Ignatian Lay Volunteers and the Washington Jesuit Academy.

At the event, Russert spoke with eighth-grade students about current events and his ability to succeed in Washington thanks to the lessons he learned in Catholic school, adding, “The best exercise of the human heart is reaching down and picking someone up.” He also talked with luncheon guests gathered to celebrate the Sponsor a Child program at Gesu, a parish school saved from closure by a diverse group of business and community leaders where students achieve against all odds.

A graduate of Jesuit institutions Canisius High School and John Carroll University, Russert is best known as managing editor and moderator for Meet the Press, political analyst for NBC Nightly News and the Today program, anchor for MSNBC and The Tim Russert Show on CNBC, and senior vice president and Washington bureau chief for NBC News.

###

**PHOTO CAPTIONS:**



**RUSSERT WITH STUDENTS:**

Visiting journalist Tim Russert discusses politics and life lessons with Gesu School students. Sitting in on the talk are Gesu School President and CEO Christine Beck and former Gesu President Fr. George Bur, now superior of the Saint Joseph’s University Jesuit community.



**RUSSERT AWARD:**

Russert, center, is honored at Gesu School with the Magis Spirit award by representatives of the Philadelphia and Camden, N.J., Jesuit communities, including (from left) Fr. Mark Horak, S.J., pastor of Old Saint Joseph's Church; Fr. Ray Donaldson, S.J.; Fr. George Bur, S.J., superior of the Saint Joseph's University Jesuit community and former president of Gesu School; and Fr. Tim Lannon, S.J., president of Saint Joseph's University.



**RUSSERT AND BECK:**

Russert shares a laugh with Beck and students at the event.