



June 23, 2011



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Indianapolis archbishop, founders of MP3 project for military honored

By Catholic News Service

PITTSBURGH (CNS) -- Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, publisher of The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese, has received the Bishop John England Award from the Catholic Press Association.

The archbishop, a Benedictine, has headed the archdiocese since 1992.

The England award is named for the Irish-born bishop of Charleston, S.C., who founded The Catholic Miscellany, the oldest Catholic newspaper in the U.S. in terms of continuous publication. Presented annually, the award recognizes publishers in the Catholic press for the defense of First Amendment rights, such as freedom of the press and freedom of religion. It is the CPA's highest award for publishers.

This year's Clarion Award from the Catholic Academy for Communications Arts Professionals has been presented to Cheri Lomonte and Jeff Gardner of the Frontline Faith Project, which delivers compact MP3 players to members of the military that are preloaded with Catholic spiritual content, especially as it pertains to military service.

Both awards were announced at a June 23 luncheon during the two organization's joint Catholic Media Convention in Pittsburgh.

The Clarion Award recognizes "a timely contribution to Catholic communicators through organizational service; through creativity in a communications effort or product; through service to a diocese, institution or religious order; at a personal or career milestone; through excellence in communications leadership, ecumenical cooperation or industry collaboration."

Lomonte, of Lakeway Texas, is an author and co-host of the award-winning radio program "Mary's Touch." Gardner, of Columbia, Mo., co-founded and became CEO of Catholic Radio International.com -- an Internet-based Catholic radio network. He currently is the executive producer of "Mary's Touch," Frontline Faith and other projects.

Their project was a year in the making and was launched in July 2010. The MP3s are distributed through families and chaplains. So far more than 16,000 players have reached members of the military and their families, "with a special emphasis on injured troops and troops stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan," according to a press release about the project.

"Our troops do not get to see a priest for sometimes seven to eight months," Lomonte said told Catholic News Service in a July 2010 interview. "That would be like you and me not being able to receive the Eucharist until Valentine's Day, or sometime in the spring."

"We have 330,000 Catholics in our military, and our long-term goal is to have an MP3 player called 'Frontline Faith' to every member in our military who wants it," she added.

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