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## Media group honors Catholic MP3 player giveaway to military

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The leaders of a project that delivers MP3 players filled with Catholic spiritual content to service members received the 2011 Clarion Award from the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Professionals at the annual Catholic Media Convention in Pittsburgh.

The award recognized Cheri Lomonte and Jeff Gardner, heads of the Frontline Faith Project which distributes the MP3 players through families and chaplains. The project has put 16,000 players into circulation and especially targets injured troops and soldiers stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The media devices are a welcome tool for the chaplains and are a "great comfort" to service members and their families.

"Mrs. Lomonte and Mr. Gardner were both honored and humbled to receive the award," the project said in a June 23 statement.

Lomonte, a resident of Lakeway, Texas, is an author of two books and co-hosts the radio program "Mary's Touch." She is married and has six children and nine grandchildren.

Gardner worked in Catholic education for many years as a teacher, principal and assistant director of Catholic schools before he became involved in media. In 2007 he co-founded the internet-based radio network Catholic Radio International.com. He lives in Columbus, Missouri with his wife and their four children.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services said that the MP3 players will help the archdiocese "touch their hearts" and help the service members "enter into a spirit of prayer."

The devices help them hear the celebration of the Eucharist and pray with the wider community, which is "indeed united to them in the great bond of spiritual fellowship that unites all men and women of the Catholic faith."

The Clarion Award, established in 1995, recognizes individuals for their contributions to Catholic communications through organizational service and creativity in a project.



### Raymond Arroyo

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EWTN Global Catholic Network 5817 Old Leeds Rd., Irondale, AL 35210 USA 1-205-271-2900 1-205-271-2900