



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBERS, NEW CHAIRMAN
ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

DALLAS – The Catholic Foundation has announced the addition of Jim Burke and John R. Landon to its Board of Trustees. Both members will serve a three-year term that began in January 2011. Thomas E. Merkel will serve as the chairman of the Board.

New Trustee Jim Burke is CEO of TXU Energy, a competitive retail business which serves more than 2 million residential, commercial and industrial customers. He has led the company through very significant changes to serve customers and compete effectively in the largest competitive electric market in the United States. Burke is an active member of Christ the King Parish, serving as president of the Parish Finance Council. He is an advisory board member for the Tulane University Energy Institute. Burke is a graduate of Tulane University, earning a bachelor's degree in economics and a master's of business administration in finance and general management. A Dallas resident, Burke is a licensed certified public accountant and has also earned the designation as a chartered financial analyst.

John R. Landon, founder and CEO of Landon Homes, also begins his term as a Trustee this year. Previously, Landon served as co-chairman and CEO of Meritage Homes Corporation, a Fortune 1000 which he co-founded and later took public. He has served as a member of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) High Production Builders Council and the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies. A founding member of the Prince of Peace Catholic community, he has been active in both the parish and the school. He also has served on Ursuline Academy's *Facing the Future* building campaign and as a youth coach for basketball and football. Landon graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and currently resides in Plano.

Foundation Chair Thomas E. Merkel is Senior Vice President - Investments at Merrill Lynch in Dallas. Merkel has been a Trustee of the Foundation since 2001, and previously served as chairman of the Investment Committee and chairman of the Audit & Administration Committee. He also has been a member of the Christ the King School Advisory Board and chaired the Christ The King 2009 Annual Fund. A past member of the Major Gifts Committee at Ursuline Academy, Merkel currently sits on the Ursuline Academy Finance Committee. He is a graduate of The University of North Carolina, and resides in Dallas with his wife and four children.

“The Catholic Foundation is positioned to continue making an impact on our local Catholic community, helping to meet the needs of the Diocese and providing exceptional counsel and services to our donors,” said Merkel. “Our 2011 Board brings with it a vast array of talents and expertise, ensuring the Foundation will have strong leadership and oversight.”

The following 2011 officers join Merkel in leading the Board of Trustees: **Alan D. Bell**, vice chairman and chair of the Investment Committee; **Jennifer Staubach Gates**, secretary; **David B. Woodyard**, chair of the Development Committee; **David M. Rosenberg**, chair of the Audit and Administration Committee; and **Thomas W. Codd, Jr.**, chair of the Distribution Committee.

The additional members of the Board are as follows: Walter E. Adams, O.D. (Dan) Cruse, Lisa F. Dickson, Raul Estrada, Most. Rev. Kevin J. Farrell, D.D., Charles L. Gummer, Robin P. Hartmann, former Chairman of the Board, Thomas W. Horton, G. Charles Kobdich, John R. Kraft, Vicky Lattner, Kathleen Muldoon, Joseph C. Murphy, and David A. Small.

Len Ruby, former Chairman of the Board, ended his terms as a Trustee with the Foundation in 2010. “Len’s incredible dedication and service to The Catholic Foundation will be greatly missed, but his leadership will have a lasting impact. We are so thankful for all he has given to the Foundation and look forward to his continued participation on the Advisory Council,” said Ed Schaffler, president and CEO of The Catholic Foundation.

Chartered in 1955, The Catholic Foundation was founded by a group of dedicated Catholic laymen with a vision that extended far beyond the charitable needs of the moment. This independent, nonprofit corporation dedicates its resources to compassionate charitable giving through grants provided by benefactors through its many planned giving programs. The Foundation has been able to provide approximately \$25.3 million through hundreds of grants to various religious, educational and charitable organizations within the Diocese of Dallas during its 50 plus years of existence. In addition, donor-advised funds maintained at the Foundation have accounted for many more grants amounting to millions of dollars over the years. **For additional information about The Catholic Foundation, call 972.661.9792.**

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