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PENNSYLVANIA SENATOR CASEY SPEAKS  
ABOUT FAITH-BASED VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Washington, D.C. – “It was a remarkable experience but not an easy one.”

These are the words of Pennsylvania Senator Robert Casey, Jr., keynote speaker at Catholic Network of Volunteer Service’s (CNVS) First Annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Award for Service to the Community. The event was held on June 6<sup>th</sup> at The George Washington University Marvin Center in Washington, D.C.

Senator Casey spoke about his experience as a volunteer with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: East, a member program of Catholic Network of Volunteer Service. The experience teaching low income students at the Gesu School in North Philadelphia had a profound and lasting impact on Senator Casey. Reflecting on his current position as a U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Casey said, “When I look at a budget, I see issues like education and health care through the light of my experience. I have a sense of gratitude for my year of service.” Senator Casey served as a Jesuit Volunteer from 1982-83.

At the event, CNVS honored the Catholic Business Network of Prince George’s County (CBN-PG) with the Bishop Joseph A. Francis Award for Service to the Community. CBN-PG is a membership organization of Catholic business leaders in Prince George’s County, Md., who support Catholic education. Since 1998, they have provided more than \$155,000 to Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the county.

The Award is named in honor of Bishop Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., who served as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Newark from 1976 until 1995. Bishop Francis was CNVS’ episcopal advisor to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1976 until his death in 1997.

Since 1963, CNVS has been the premier non-profit association for domestic and international volunteer and lay mission programs. Currently, more than 10,000 volunteers and lay missionaries serve in its member programs throughout the U.S. and in 112 countries worldwide. Each year CNVS publishes the RESPONSE directory, an annual guide to faith-based volunteer and mission programs. RESPONSE is also available on the CNVS website at [www.cnvs.org](http://www.cnvs.org).

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*Photo Caption: Senator Robert Casey speaks at CNVS’ Bishop Joseph Francis Award presentation.*