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Archbishop Carlson Announces Excellence in Communication Award Recipients

ST. LOUIS – St. Louis media and communications professionals Chuck Neff and Tom Kavanaugh have been selected as the 2016 Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Excellence in Communication Award recipients. The award is a way for the Archdiocese of St. Louis to recognize the important role of the media and communication professionals in our local community as they work to inspire positive change in response to the significant issues facing our society today. This is the fourth year of the awards.

Chuck Neff, a veteran TV journalist, is currently the host of *The Inner Life*, a daily show on the Catholic network, Relevant Radio, and the president of Salt River Production Group (saltriverproductions.com), a collaboration of nationally acclaimed, award-winning production professionals committed to creating high quality faith and values programming.

In 1999, Neff was extensively involved in the Pastoral Visit of Pope John Paul II to St. Louis. He coordinated the TV pool coverage for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He also served as Executive Producer in the production of “Gateway to Faith,” the official video of the Holy Father’s visit to St. Louis.

Neff and his wife Judy have four children and five grandchildren. They are members of Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield.

Tom Kavanaugh has had a lifetime of experience in the communication field, much of it involving religious and non-profit organizations in the St. Louis area.

After seven years as a teacher in St. Louis Archdiocesan schools, Kavanaugh worked as Director of Community and Public Relations at Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital before moving into the field of marketing communications – as partner with Ahearn, Kavanaugh and Associates, President of Triune Communications, and currently as Creative Director of iU Creative—specializing in Catholic non-profits, specifically in education and healthcare. It was in this capacity that Kavanaugh designed the “Life Rose” logo for Missouri Right to Life.

In the early 1970s Kavanaugh began his other role as movie critic for the *St. Louis Review*, an assignment he held for over thirty years.

Kavanaugh and his wife Maureen are members of Our Lady of Sorrows parish in south city. They have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

Neff and Kavanaugh join previous awards winners including KSDK meteorologist Mike Roberts, the late Martin Duggan, and St. Louis media personality Wendy Wiese. Two winners are selected from a pool of nominees each year - one Catholic and one secular. The winners are honored at a ceremony with Archbishop Carlson every summer. For more information about the award and to see a complete list of previous winners, visit archstl.org/excellence.

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