



**LEADERSHIP
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CONTACT: Kate Alexander
Senior Communications and Marketing
Manager

Owners of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Home Depot co-founder honored for Catholic philanthropy

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Rooney Family — owners of the Pittsburgh Steelers — and Elaine and Ken Langone — co-founder of The Home Depot — were honored on Sept. 22 for their generous giving to the Catholic Church and to Catholic charitable causes.

The Rooney Family and Mrs. and Mr. Langone received the J. Donald Monan, SJ Distinguished Catholic Philanthropy Medal (“Monan Medal”), an award conferred annually to Catholic philanthropists who have invested generously and faithfully in the work to promote excellence in Church management and leadership, and whose giving reflects Fr. Monan’s deeply held belief in collaborative excellence and partnership.

“The Rooneys and the Langones exemplify the strong commitment to faith and the generosity of both resources and spirit that was the hallmark of Fr. Monan’s life,” said Geoffrey T. Boisi, founder of Leadership Roundtable.

Established by Leadership Roundtable, the Monan Medal seeks to thank and inspire philanthropists of the Catholic faith who emulate and personify the vision, character, creativity, and commitment to excellence of the late Fr. Monan, a member of the Society of Jesus. Fr. Monan was the longest-serving president of Boston College and he dedicated his life to spreading Christ’s mission through the inclusive partnership of ordained, religious, and lay Catholic leaders.

Both families received the Monan Medal at a special gala event on Sept. 22 in Washington, D.C., where the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, offered a blessing. The families were nominated to receive the medal by a committee of Catholic leaders that included Fr. Monan’s cousin and trustee of Boston College Cynthia Lee Egan; Georgetown University President John “Jack” DeGioia; Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities President Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, SJ; Harvard Professor Fr. Bryan Hehir; Children’s Scholarship

Fund President Darla Romfo; and Rose Mary Donahue, Assistant to the President at Boston College.

“I had the privilege of studying under Fr. Monan when I attended Boston College and to receive this honor, named in his legacy, in recognition of my family’s commitment to and support of our Catholic faith is humbling,” said Jim Rooney, who accepted the medal on behalf of his family.

“Faith, family, and football are strong values among my family, and none more important to us than our Catholic faith. It has been the catalyst for much of what we have been blessed to accomplish – from my father’s creation of the Rooney Rule to bring equity to leadership in football, to our continued support of Catholic education and social services in Pittsburgh,” he said.

“When many of us in Pittsburgh think about the Rooney family, our minds go back to Art Rooney, Sr., fondly referred to as ‘The Chief,’ and his guidance of the Steelers football team,” said The Most Rev. David A. Zubik, bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. “Through getting to know The Chief personally, I quickly became aware that, even with all his fame and financial success, his heart was always focused on his wife, his family, and the Catholic Church. Art Rooney, Sr. forged a path of servant leadership through his ongoing service to the Church and those in need. He invited the rest of his family to follow that same path.”

Art Rooney, Sr. founded the Steelers in 1933. His brother, a Benedictine monk known as Fr. Silas, served as Chaplain under Patton in World War II and taught renowned scholar Thomas Merton. For generations, the Rooney family has continued to support Catholic charities, institutions, and education.

Elaine and Ken Langone were among the original 40 signatories of The Giving Pledge, a promise by the world’s wealthiest individuals and families to dedicate the majority of their wealth to charitable causes. Elaine and Ken Langone signed the pledge noting in their commitment that “it is inspiring how such a simple idea puts faith into action for the community as a whole.”

Speaking about his generous support of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, Ken Langone said: “My activities here as a trustee of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and my involvement in the restoration of St. Patrick’s Cathedral was a very precious part of my feeling that I was doing what I can to help people live a better, more spiritual life.”

In addition to their support of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Langones have also been long-time supporters of Catholic education, including Partnership Schools and the Inner City Schools Foundation. Ken was made a Knight of St. Gregory by Pope Benedict XVI – an honor bestowed upon Catholic men and women in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church, through their unusual labors, their support of the Holy See, and the examples they set in their communities and their countries.

“I think that those of us who have been blessed with experience in business have a very strong obligation to do what we can to help the spiritual leaders in our faith do as much as they can with whatever resources they’re given,” Ken said. “I really feel that is a strong moral obligation on all of our parts.”

Leadership Roundtable hosted the Monan Medal ceremony in conjunction with its Catholic Partnership Summit, a gathering of more than 230 leaders from across the U.S. on the theme of Living Synodal Leadership: Our Call to a Unified Church.

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Leadership Roundtable promotes best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resources development of the Catholic Church in the U.S., including greater incorporation of the expertise of the laity.

**To learn more about the Monan Medal and view past honorees visit:
leadershiproundtable.org/who-we-are/monan-medal/**