

## **2010 St. Francis de Sales nominations**

### **Joseph P. Sinasac, Bayard Press**

Formerly publisher and editor of *The Catholic Register* in Toronto, Ontario, and presently editorial director with Bayard Presse in Canada, Joseph Sinasac is one of the most accomplished and best Catholic journalists working in North America today. A working journalist and author, he has lead a staff of 12 and dozens of contributing writers to dozens of awards from the Catholic Press Association and the Canadian Church Press, including general excellence from both.

As an author, he has written several books, including a biography of legendary Catholic journalist Henry Sommerville. He has penned numerous articles for secular newspapers and magazines, and for many Catholic media and Catholic News Service. He is a weekly columnist for Catholic On-Line, Canadian correspondent for Vatican Radio and was publisher and editor of *Toronto 2000*, the official daily newspaper of World Youth Day. He is a frequent commentator on religion for Canadian radio and television.

He has invested his considerable leadership skills to strengthen journalism in many ways during his career. He has taught and lectured in Communication Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University and other educational institutions. He has served since 1998 as a member of the CPA-CNS Liaison Committee, was a member at large of the executive committee of Canadian Church Press, has served since 1997 as co-chair of Canadian Catholic News, the national news service for Canadian Catholic newspapers, and was co-chair of the Catholic Media Convention in Toronto in 2008.

He also has long been involved in civic affairs in Ontario. He is a member of the board of directors of St. Joseph Hospital System and is a member of the board of Governors and chair of the human relations committee of St. Jerome's University.

Throughout his career, he has excelled in the practice of journalism, and especially Catholic journalism, to the great benefit of his readers, his colleagues and people of faith throughout North America. He is nominated for his exceptional contributions and strong leadership.

Joe was a finalist for this award in 2009. The reasons for his receiving it are probably more valid now than they were a year ago. His accomplishments are listed on page five of the April 2009 issue of "The Catholic Journalist." He worked very hard with Fr. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B. to host a marvelous CPA convention in Toronto in 2008. He is a model Catholic journalist-informed, fair and faith-filled.

### **Ed Wilkinson The Tablet**

Ed Wilkinson, in his 40 years with The Tablet newspaper of the Diocese of Brooklyn, has been the epitome of what a Catholic journalist should be. He has upheld the highest standards of the field by consistently providing readers of The Tablet with an informative, interesting, lively, readable, faith-filled weekly vision of the life of the Church in Brooklyn. No matter how large or small his supporting cast is or whatever changes are affecting Church life in Brooklyn, Wilkinson has been a constant, respected figure on the diocesan scene and a man who serves the Church with knowledge, skill, integrity and a sense of mission. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in any diocese with a greater collection of associates and friends, including a number now at other CPA publications who count that friendship and association as pivotal in their own growth and development as Catholic journalists. Wilkinson has served as Editor of the Tablet for the past 25 years, and before that was news editor and early on a popular sports and general assignment reporter. He continues to capture photographs that tell the story, a talent that has served him well from the beginning. For about half of his years with The Tablet, Wilkinson hosted a weekly cable television show based on the newspaper's story roster. It aired on the diocesan television station. His weekly column, The Editor's Space, is a must-read, every week, for 25 years running. It is part of the best-read editorial page in the Catholic diocesan press, the envy of many an editor for the breadth of its editorials and the bevy of letters from readers in each issue. The editor, the

paper and the readers all have their say, with a little Brooklyn swagger to boot. He has served the Catholic Press Association for years as a member of its directory committee and was a leading part of the committee that hosted the convention in Brooklyn in 2007. He also was a member of CNS liaison committee for several years. On a personal level, he is a true Christian gentleman with a great sense of humor and a low-key, regular-guy approach. He knows how to navigate home life, parish life and even chancery life, with equal aplomb. If readers of The Tablet voted for this award, Wilkinson would already have it. He's the real deal, proven over time and as good as ever. For his working lifetime of commitment, dedication and journalistic skill in the service of the Catholic Press, I heartily nominate Ed Wilkinson for the St. Francis de Sales Award.

**Anthony Spence**  
**Catholic News Service**

Tony Spence began his career in the Catholic press more than 25 years ago at the Tennessee Register in Nashville, where during his tenure as editor in chief and general manager, he increased the newspaper's readership by half and doubled the editorial content. Tony was elected the Catholic Press Association president in 1994. During his presidency he oversaw the establishment of the Catholic Advertising Network and Catholic Press Foundation, and served as co-founder of the Appalachian Press Project of Kentucky and Tennessee. Another of his major achievements as president was to forge relationships between the CPA and emerging Catholic publications in post-Soviet Eastern Europe. He led a CPA trip working to raise the profile of American and Canadian Catholic journalists internationally while mentoring these newly independent Catholic journalists in the new realities of free-market economics. To further expand the international scope of Catholic journalism and create opportunities for collaboration in the global Catholic community, Tony has been active for nearly two decades in UCIP, the international association of Catholic journalists. In 2004, Tony left his beloved Nashville to take on the directorship of Catholic News Service, his efforts focused on automating digital news delivery to client Web sites and pursuing opportunities afforded by rapidly changing technology. Having spearheaded the production of news video in both Washington and Rome, he is collaborating and leading the way to a multimedia news future for Catholic journalism. Tony was named in 2006 as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, which has kept him at the forefront of international conversation about the future of church communications. In a statement he said, "It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve the people of God as a Catholic journalist." Tony is a valued colleague, friend and mentor to many in our association, and admired for his kindness, storytelling and collaborative approach to problem solving with clients and competitors alike. For his contribution to the Catholic press, for his leadership in the CPA and for seeing the importance of multimedia journalism as part of the mission of the church in the world, Anthony J. Spence is nominated for the 2010 St. Francis de Sales Award.

**Russell Shaw**  
**Our Sunday Visitor**

Russell Shaw, an Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly contributing editor, could be considered the dean of Catholic journalism in the United States, having penned thousands of magazine and newspaper articles, columns and reviews over a 54-year career, and having served as point-man for U.S. Catholic media relations at critical junctures in our nation's recent past. He began writing for Our Sunday Visitor Newsweekly in 1964, and has been on the masthead since Jan. 17, 1988, first as Washington Correspondent, then Senior Correspondent and finally Contributing Editor. A check of OSV archives at the beginning of February shows his byline appearing 839 times in the Newsweekly over the past 45 years, which works out to more than 35 percent of the issues. He is a self-syndicated columnist for catholicexchange.com, InsideCatholic.com, and several diocesan newspapers; American correspondent of Palabra, a newsmagazine published in Madrid; and a contributor to several encyclopedias. Currently he is serving his third five-year term as a consultant to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Social Communications. He is a member of the faculties of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome, and the Catholic Distance University in Hamilton, Va. He is author or coauthor of 20 books and a contributor to and/or editor of several others. His most recently published book is Nothing To Hide: Secrecy,

Communication, and Communion in the Catholic Church Ignatius Press, 2008). Shaw's books include novels (Renewal, Church and State, and The Dark Disciple), and non-fiction works such as Beyond the New Morality (with Germain Grisez; now in its third, revised edition); To Hunt, To Shoot, To Entertain: Clericalism and the Catholic Laity; Does Suffering Make Sense?; Why We Need Confession; Papal Primacy in the Third Millennium; Ministry or Apostolate: What Should the Catholic Laity Be Doing?; Personal Vocation: God Calls Everyone by Name (also with Germain Grisez); and (with Father C. John McCloskey, III) Good News, Bad News: Evangelization, Conversion, and the Crisis of Faith. He is the editor of Our Sunday Visitor's Encyclopedia of Catholic Doctrine (1997). His books have been published in Great Britain, Germany, Spain, and the Philippines. Shaw is former Secretary of Public Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops/United States Catholic Conference (1969-87) and former Director of Information of the Knights of Columbus (1987-97). He served as national coordinator of media relations for Pope John Paul II's pastoral visits to the United States in 1979 and 1987 and as press secretary to U.S. cardinals participating in the two papal election conclaves of 1978 as well as U.S. delegations to the world Synods of Bishops from 1971 to 1987. He was a reporter with the Catholic Standard (Washington, D.C.) from 1956 to 1957 and with the National Catholic News Service (now Catholic News Service) from 1957 to 1966, and was director of information and publications of the National Catholic Educational Association from 1966 to 1969. From 1966 to 2006 he wrote a monthly Washington affairs column for the Knights of Columbus magazine Columbia. Shaw received his B.A. summa cum laude from Georgetown University in 1956 and his M.A. in English literature there in 1960. He is a recipient of the Frederic Ozanam Award of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists and the Pro Vita Award of the Diocese of Brooklyn, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and the Knights of Columbus. He is vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Distance University. He and his wife Carmen live in Washington, D.C., and have five children and 10 grandchildren. For his vast contribution to the Catholic press and for his journalistic efforts to push the institutional Church to more transparent operation, I nominate Russell Shaw for the St. Francis de Sales award.

### **Bob Zyskowski** **The Catholic Spirit**

Bob Zyskowski is driven by one goal: to make The Catholic Spirit newspaper in St. Paul, Minn., the best diocesan newspaper in the country. His efforts in that regard haven't been overlooked: From 2004-2009, The Catholic Spirit was named the top large-circulation diocesan newspaper in North America four times by the Catholic Press Association. Bob has been committed to excellence throughout his 35 years in the Catholic press, first as a reporter and editor in Peoria, Ill., Philadelphia, Chicago and the Twin Cities, and now as associate publisher and general manager of The Catholic Spirit. He understands that the mission of the Catholic press is to "inform and educate" to help Catholics understand their faith better so they can be more knowledgeable members and leaders in the church. That involves telling the day-to-day news and providing readers with inspirational and educational stories both in print and online. In that regard, Bob has been a big promoter of the Web (The Catholic Spirit now hosts three Web sites) and social networking resources, such as Facebook and Twitter, to help the church tell its story. Bob leads by example: He expects the same level of excellence from The Catholic Spirit staff that he expects from himself. Thankfully, however, he doesn't micromanage his news team. His philosophy is to hire talented people and then give them the space and resources they need to do the job right, while offering advice and encouragement along the way. Bob understands the big picture. His commitment to Catholic journalism extends to his service on the Catholic Press Association's board of directors," including a recently concluded stint as the organization's president, helping to guide it and its members during a time of incredible change in the media world. Catholic press members know they can draw on Bob's long experience and call him anytime to get advice or feedback regarding an issue they are facing at their own publications. One of Bob's mantras is: We shouldn't do things just because we've always done them that way. He pushes his staff and his Catholic press colleagues to experiment with new ways of telling the Good News. Keep doing what works and what proves to be effective, he says, and stop wasting your time on the things that don't work or don't work effectively anymore. Bob is one of the first

people in the office every day and one of the last to leave. He still manages, however, to balance his seemingly tireless commitment to the Catholic press and The Catholic Spirit with other commitments to his church, his parish, his family and the civic community. For these reasons, we nominate Bob Zyskowski for the 2010 St. Francis de Sales Award.