

## **NFPC ANNOUNCES 2010 TOUCHSTONE AWARD RECIPIENT –**

The President of the NFPC, Father Richard Vega and the Board of Directors announce **Reverend Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti** will receive the 2010 **Touchstone Award**.

Monsignor Rossetti is currently Clinical Associate Professor of pastoral studies at the Catholic University of America. From 1993 to 2009 he was on the staff of St. Luke Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland, first as executive vice president before being appointed president and chief executive officer in 1996. He held that post until he stepped down in October 2009.

During his tenure at St. Luke Monsignor Rossetti led the Institute in significantly expanding its services for both men and women. This includes expanding the focus of the men's residential program to treat a wide range of psychological and spiritual difficulties. In addition, a highly effective treatment program for women religious, the Talitha-Life Program, was established. He also focused the Institute's efforts on promoting the psycho-spiritual wellness of thousands of priests and religious internationally through its newsletters, workshops and consultation services.

Monsignor Rossetti was an expert adviser to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse that drafted the 2002 *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. He also participated in the April 2003 Vatican Symposium on child abuse sponsored by the Pontifical Academy for Life.

He is the author of numerous books and articles on priesthood and priestly spirituality. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse in 1984. Prior to his ordination he graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1973 and served as served six years as an Air Force intelligence officer.

*The **Touchstone Award** is presented to the priest who, in the view of the Board of Directors and president of the National Federation of Priest's Councils, is one whose service in the Gospel of Jesus Christ exemplifies the purpose and goals of the Federation.*

*In particular, his leadership enhances the ministry of others and his words and deeds support the life and ministry of priests; thus he is, as it were, a touchstone for genuine, quality priesthood.*