



March 9, 2009

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Xaverian Board of Trustees and the Joe DiMaggio Award Gala Committee, I am very pleased to invite you to the 2009 Joe DiMaggio Award Gala honoring New York Yankee great and Major League Baseball Hall of Famer, **Reggie Jackson**, and the legendary Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, **Neil Young** and his lovely wife, **Pegi**. The 2009 Joe DiMaggio Award Gala will be held on **Tuesday, May 5, 2009** at the **Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers** in New York City.

Each of this year's honorees is noteworthy for their integrity and devotion to only the very best. They distinctly fulfill the "DiMaggio" credo of community service without compromising a greater vision of setting vigorous standards for America's youth. Most importantly, our honorees have a shared mission with the worthy causes of Xaverian High School: to benefit children in need and to remove barriers to those otherwise disabled by reasons of poverty or handicap.

Mr. Jackson, currently serving as a special assistant to the principal owner of the Yankees, is the first Yankee to receive this prestigious award named in honor and memory of fellow Yankee great, Joe DiMaggio. Like Mr. DiMaggio, he has given back to the greater community through his work with many worthwhile charities, especially through his involvement with the Mr. October for Kids Foundation.

Earlier this year, Mr. Young was nominated for a Grammy for Best Solo Rock Vocal Performance in the same category as John Mayer, Sir Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen and Eddie Vedder. Ironically, these same gentlemen have performed at concert series over the years benefiting the Bridge School, founded by Mr. Young and his wife Pegi, to develop and use advanced technology to aid in the instruction of children with disabilities.

It is my hope that you or your company can participate in the DiMaggio Gala by purchasing tickets, tables and JumboTron Rotator Ads. This Gala raises funds for students in the Equity Program at Xaverian. The Equity Program is a mainstream program for students with special needs. Students in this program are taught to use strategies to master the curriculum content and overcome their learning obstacles. Before the inception of this program and the Ryken Education Center, it was rare that students with learning disabilities had the opportunity to attend college. In this way, Joe DiMaggio's drive to serve children and enable them to prosper is greatly enhanced. Without your generosity and that of past DiMaggio Gala benefactors, these young men would have fallen through the cracks and not have been granted the scholarly opportunities they so richly deserve.

In a very short time, the Joe DiMaggio Award Gala has become the preeminent educational gala in the country. As you may know, recent honorees include **Tiki Barber**, **Bob Costas**, **Boomer Esiason**, **John Bello**, **James Gandolfini**, **Paul Simon**, **Regis Philbin**, **Rudy Giuliani**, **Maestro Luciano Pavarotti**, **Dr. Henry Kissinger** and the "**Yankee Clipper**" himself.

Reservations for the DiMaggio Gala range from \$500 or \$750 per person to tables from \$5,000 to \$50,000. If you are unable to attend the Gala, or wish to give even greater support, I ask that you participate in the Gala Program or purchase a JumboTron Rotator Ad. Please also note that tables or individual tickets may be purchased and given back to Xaverian. Xaverian Brothers, faculty, staff and students will fill these donated seats and tables.

Enclosed you will find a formal invitation which provides further details. Please contact Xaverian's Development Director, Timothy J. Cochrane at (718) 836-7100 ext. 119 or via e-mail at tcocchrane@xaverian.org with any questions or concerns.

Thank you for supporting Xaverian High School and the Joe DiMaggio Award Gala. I hope to see you on May 5th!

Very Truly Yours,

Salvatore C. Ferrera, Ph.D.
President