



# BECAUSE *we are* CATHOLIC

## Legendary voice not only a dedicated Terrapin but also a Catholic convert

When the University of Maryland men's basketball team faces Valparaiso tomorrow afternoon in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament, Johnny Holliday, the voice of the Terrapins since 1979, will be calling his 54th tournament game as a play-by-play broadcaster.

A parishioner at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Kensington, Holliday participates in a variety of community activities, including Catholic Charities and Special Olympics and hosts a celebrity golf tournament to benefit The Youth Leadership Foundation.

"Anybody in the public eye should give back," Holliday said. "There is nothing that makes me feel better. I know life is busy and time is valuable but we get so many requests in this business and what does it really take, just a few minutes. If more people could have that mindset, it would be a better world we live in."

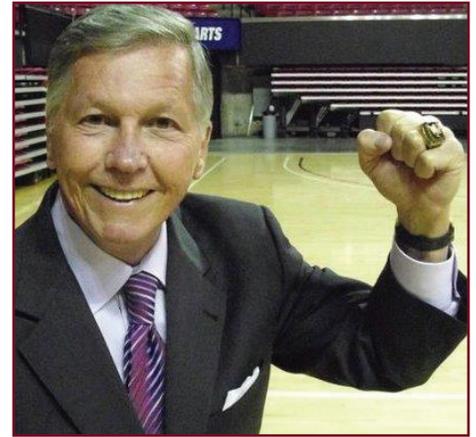
Holliday has made the state of Maryland a better place since arriving in 1969 after a distinguished career as a disc jockey in Cleveland, San Francisco and New York. He and his wife of 56 years, Mary Clare, are the proud parents of three daughters and 10 grandchildren. All attended or currently attend Catholic schools in Montgomery and Harford counties.

"I am a convert," Holliday said. "When we got engaged my wife said if we were going to do this, I needed to become Catholic. I didn't have much religion growing up. I took the lessons and missed only three or four questions out of 700 on the test. When I finished I said to the priest, 'I really might want to go into the seminary.' But he reminded me that was not why I was doing it."

In addition to his duties at Maryland and anchor of the Washington Nationals pre- and post-game shows, Holliday found the time to co-host "Catholic Radio Weekly," a show that was syndicated to stations throughout the country.

"They stopped about two years ago because of funding," Holliday added. "It wasn't a heavily religious-oriented show though we did have bishops and cardinals on from around the country. We did interviews with figures in the entertainment business and sports world. We had Ralph Friedgen on when he was coaching the Maryland football team. He told me he said the rosary every day on his way into work, which I never knew."

Holliday, who has called more than 1,500 Terp football and basketball games, has had an enjoyable ride with the 2014-15



Johnny Holliday has been the voice at the University of Maryland since 1979 and called the Terps NCAA basketball championship in 2002.

basketball team, who set a school record with 26 regular season victories and head into the NCAA Tournament ranked 12th in the nation.

"I am working with a guy right now in Mark Turgeon, who is a pillar in the Catholic community at Holy Redeemer," Holliday said. "He goes to mass every Sunday. His wife is involved in committees at the parish. They set such a good example. He is a family guy and a wonderful addition to the University of Maryland family. When he was hired, someone asked him what his priority was for the program. He said his number one priority was not his basketball team. It is his family. I thought that said something about him as a person."

Holliday has worked with four basketball coaches and seven head football coaches during his time in College Park.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MARYLAND SERVES AND ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR, VULNERABLE AND THOSE IN NEED NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE CATHOLIC.