

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange Honors Business Leaders *Kenneth E. Tait to Receive Business Ethics Award*

ORANGE, Calif., (May 15, 2006) - The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange, will honor Orange County businessman Kenneth E. Tait at Chapman University, May 25, at 9:00 a.m. Presenting him with the Diocesan *Business Ethics Award*, Bishop Brown will recognize his achievements and personal dedication to ethical business practices. Tait is the founder of Tait & Associates, Inc., an engineering consulting firm.

The event marks the third Diocese of Orange Conference on Business and Ethics. The program seeks to develop partnerships between local businesses and the 37 elementary schools and seven high-schools within the Diocese. “This successful program allows the Diocese to honor those within the business community who have demonstrated a life-long commitment to ethical business practices,” explained Bishop Brown. Approximately three hundred guests are expected to attend the ceremony and day-long series of lectures, workshops and information sharing.

Kenneth Tait was born in Montana and worked as an engineering assistant while he attended Montana State University. After serving in the Korean War, he became a civil engineer, prospecting for oil reserves in Montana and North Dakota. In 1957, he became involved in oil drilling internationally and took part in locating and drilling the first oil well in the country of Libya. Then in 1964, he founded Tait & Associates, Inc., specializing in civil engineering, environmental design, remediation and construction.

Tait took part in the formation of three independent banks, development of industrial parks and housing tracts. For six years he served on the Diocese of Orange Land Board and later became a member of the State Pharmacy Board. Tait was also awarded a Doctorate of Engineering by his alma mater for designing devices that control hydrocarbon vapor emissions.

Bishop Brown commented: “It is one thing to encourage ethical business practices and another to demonstrate this fundamental social philosophy in the real-world. As a business leader, Kenneth Tait has risen to prominence in his respective field without cost to his Catholic faith or personal integrity. Kenneth is a beacon for every business owner, student and citizen. He has demonstrated that holding true to values of fairness and integrity can be the gateway to success and not a hindrance.”

Guest speakers at the conference will include Michael Josephson, founder and president of the Joseph and Edna Josephson Institute of Ethics, and Deborah A. Proctor, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph Health System. Josephson is one of the nation’s foremost ethics consultants to major corporations and government officials. He has led more than 1,000 ethics programs for over 100,000 leaders in business, government, media, law enforcement and education. In 1995, Josephson received the *America’s Award* from President Ronald Reagan for his achievements in character education and ethics.

Deborah A. Proctor has an extensive background in healthcare that spans more than 30 years and oversees one of the leading Catholic health systems in the nation. The St. Joseph Health System is a \$3 billion non-profit system consisting of 14 hospitals as well as physician organizations, home health agencies, hospice care, outpatient services, skilled nursing facilities and community outreach services. Prior to joining St. Joseph Health System, Proctor was the chief administrative officer of Ascension Health, one of the nation’s largest health systems. She also holds a master’s degree in nursing from California State University, Los Angeles.

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