



## **2010 Holy Family CYO Role Model**

### **Tony Matera**

John Wooden once remarked, "You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." The person who best represents this credo and all the good CYO represents is Holy Family's 2010 CYO Role Model, Tony Matera.

Tony began his Holy Family coaching career in 1991 as a track coach. He served as a track coach until 1997. In 1996 to the present day Tony has also coached girl's basketball. Although Tony's two daughters have long since graduated from our program, he continues to give of his time so generously. If you had to sum up Tony's philosophy, a coach's job is to teach not necessarily to win a lot of basketball games. Tony's teaching incorporates giving your best individual effort, teamwork and belonging to something bigger than yourself. His effect on our youth reaches to the deepest part of them, their character and helps shape it. Coaching youth takes place during a very formative time in their lives and is an awesome responsibility. Tony never takes that for granted. Tony's focus was not on his win/loss record, (which turned out to be exceptional). He began coaching his Tyro team after the girls had just completed their 1<sup>st</sup> travel season (5<sup>th</sup> grade), and had a 1-11 record. Tony's basketball intelligence and dedication has transformed that team into one of the best on Long Island.

Tony not only knows Xs and Os but also how to relate to kids. Feedback from his players and their parents is universally positive. On a personal level Tony is good natured, cooperative and easy going. No matter how stressful or challenging the situation, he is always calm and encouraging. Holy Family had their 1<sup>st</sup> Tommy Orlando Memorial Basketball Tournament this past Christmas. Tony was the first to arrive, the last to leave and the most helpful and hardworking in between. Tony prefers to work behind the scenes, shunning the spotlight and deflecting praise to others. Tony would probably claim that he is not deserving of this award. Those of us who know Tony best, know otherwise.

Tony you are a great coach. Great coaches will make players see what they can be, rather than what they are. You have a great gift. Thanks for sharing it with all of us!