



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **Washington Theological Union hosts 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Franciscan Symposium**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.,** - Attendees from across the nation will gather Friday - Sunday, April 8-10, 2011 in Washington, DC for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Franciscan Symposium hosted by the Washington Theological Union (WTU). Sponsored by WTU's Franciscan Center, the 2011 National Franciscan Symposium themed "*Franciscans in the Public Square,*" will feature dynamic speakers discussing the impact of Franciscan Spirituality in the world today.

**WHAT:** Washington Theological Union hosts 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Franciscan Symposium

**WHEN:** Friday, April 8 through Sunday, April 10, 2011

**WHERE:** Washington Theological Union  
6896 Laurel Street, N.W  
Washington, D.C. 20012

**DETAILS:** The three-day conference will include multiple presentations and panel discussions. A sampling of the presentations include; Fr. Michael Blastic, OFM, Director, Franciscan Center, WTU speaking on "The Public Vocations of Francis and Clare of Assisi"; Kathie Uhler, O.S.F., Ph.D.; Advocacy Officer, Franciscans International speaking on "Public Square to Global Sphere: Franciscan Life-Work Today"; Fr. Thomas Nairn, OFM, Senior Director, Ethics; Catholic Health Association speaking on "Following the Footsteps of Christ in Today's Public Squares: Prophets or Reconcilers?"; and Mr. Russell M. Testa; Director, Holy Name Province OFM, Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and Sr. Sharon Goodremote, FSSJ, Chair, Buffalo, New York Diocesan Care for Creation Committee speaking on "Living the Franciscan Message in the World – Tools and Actions for Integral Social Transformation."

The Symposium is open to the public. To register or learn more about the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Franciscan Symposium, please visit [www.wtu.edu](http://www.wtu.edu).

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*Washington Theological Union has educated men and women for ministry in the Roman Catholic Church for forty years. Founded as a coalition of seminaries for men in religious communities, the Union has earned a reputation as one of the finest graduate schools for ministry in the United States. Graduates often pursue doctoral studies at major Catholic institutions as well as minister and teach around the world in settings as diverse as suburban and inner-city parishes, high school and college campuses, hospitals and hospices, homeless shelters and prison ministries. The student body consists of Catholic religious men and women, laity, ordained ministers, and students from other Christian traditions who are part of the Washington Theological Consortium. More information about the Washington Theological Union is available at [www.wtu.edu](http://www.wtu.edu).*