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“Hunger No More”

A two-day ecumenical, interfaith conference designed to provide innovative and comprehensive approaches to combating the scandal of hunger.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Raleigh, NC--In a world that produces enough food to feed all people, hunger is truly a scandal. Food should never have to take a back seat to paying the electric bill or putting gas in the car. Not knowing where the next meal will come from is not a way to live.

"Hunger No More" is an ecumenical, interfaith conference designed to provide comprehensive and innovative approaches to combating hunger and its effects. On February 27 and 28, 2009, The Franciscan Coalition for Justice and Peace, a ministry of the Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi, will assemble a cast of distinguished hunger activists to offer the community a deeper understanding of the root causes of hunger, and what we, individually and collectively, can do to solve hunger at home and abroad.

David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World and global leader in advocacy on behalf of the hungry, will headline the conference, flanked by distinguished hunger advocates facilitating six distinct workshops: The Global Hunger Crisis... Take Action on Local Hunger... Hunger Advocacy and Public Policy... Climate Change and Hunger... Student Activism... the Human Face of Hunger: Documentary Perspectives.

Workshop speakers and panelists include: Gerry Straub, documentary filmmaker, award-winning author, and founder of the San Damiano Foundation; Eva Clayton, former Congresswoman and Assistant Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization; Ray Buchanan, founder of the international hunger relief agency, Stop Hunger Now; Dr. William Whelan, hunger economist for the USDA Food Assistance Program; Steve Waldmann, Executive Director of the Society of St. Andrew, one of the world largest gleaning organizations; Peter Werbicki, President/CEO of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC; Jill Staton Bullard, Executive Director and founder of the Interfaith Food Shuttle; Gary Gay, Director of Food Distribution for the NC Department of Agriculture; Franciscan Sister Margaret Mary Kimmins, Religious Community Outreach Associate, Bread for the World; Dr. William Chameides, Dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University; and student-leader hunger activists.

The conference, to be held on the St. Francis of Assisi campus (11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC, 27613), will open on Friday night, February 27, 2009 with an OxFam Hunger Banquet- an experiential component highlighting the disparity of access to food across the globe- followed by a special video presentation from documentary filmmaker, Gerry Straub. Saturday will feature David Beckmann's keynote address, followed by workshops in the afternoon. On both Friday and Saturday, the gathering will close with an interfaith prayer services reflecting the impetus of our diverse faith communities to address this pressing issue.

Additional information and registration is available on line at www.franciscancoalition.org or by calling 919-847-8205.