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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Mary College Hosts Women's International League for Peace & Freedom Forum with U.S. State Department

Milwaukee one of five national sites discussing implications of war, militarization on local women

MILWAUKEE (September 14, 2011) – Mount Mary College Peacebuilding Certificate Program, along with the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom – Milwaukee Branch (WILPF), will host a community discussion with a representative of the U.S. State Department on Friday, September 23, 2011. The implementation of U.N. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security will be discussed from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Stiemke Hall, located on the second floor of Notre Dame Hall on Mount Mary's campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The State Department representative will brief the audience on the progress of the National Action Plan, a mandate established by the UN and promised by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to be completed by October, 2011. Broadly applied, Resolution 1325 extends to all stages of peace building, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

In addition to discussing the impact of war and militarization on women, a WILPF representative and other invited guests will discuss women as peace makers, women in government, domestic violence, women and economic disparity, environmental justice, and health care.

“We want to be sure that the Resolution doesn't become just a means to make war safe for women. WILPF strongly believes in preserving the original spirit of 1325 – to advance the status of women and prevent future wars,” stated Tanya Henderson, National Director, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), U.S. Section.

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Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin's first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 60 undergraduate areas of study for women and eight graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its more than 1900 students enjoy small class sizes (average 13) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at www.mtmary.edu.

WILPF, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2015, has strongly lobbied to demand civil society input into the formulation of the NAP. For more information on the resolution and these consults, please go to http://www.un.org/eents/res_1325e.pdf.