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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mount Mary College Alumnae Association to Honor Alumnae for Outstanding Achievements

MILWAUKEE (April 27, 2011) – The Mount Mary College Alumnae Association has named its 2011 Madonna Medal Award recipients. The Madonna Medal Award is bestowed annually to alumnae who excel in professional achievement, service to the community or service to the College. This year marks the 51st Anniversary of the Madonna Medal Awards program. This year's recipients, Carol Steiner Pluta, Kathy Daley Murphy, and Barb Tylenda, will be recognized at the College's 2011 Alumnae Reunion Awards Reception and Luncheon, held Saturday, May 14, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. on the College campus.

“We are deeply honored to recognize these outstanding alumnae,” stated Mount Mary President Eileen Schwalbach. “They represent transformative women making significant contributions in their communities and professions,” she added.

About the Award Recipients:

Carol Steiner Pluta, Germantown, WI, graduated from Mount Mary College in 1961 with a B.A. degree in French and history, and a minor in English. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, she studied a year at the University of Grenoble in Grenoble, France. She also studied at Laval University in Quebec, France. She later received an M.A. as a reading specialist from Cardinal Stritch University. Carol will be receiving the Madonna Medal Award -Service to the Community for her significant volunteer service to Mount Mary College and a wide number of community organizations.

Active in Mount Mary's Alumnae Association for many years, Carol has served as her Class Representative since 1971. She has assisted in planning each of her graduating class's five year reunions and is currently serving as the delegate for the 50th Class Reunion this year. Additional service work to Mount Mary includes volunteering for the Starving Artists' Show[®] for many years and supporting various Alumnae Association activities and events.

Carol has been actively involved in the local chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW), an organization devoted to advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. A member for many years, she founded the "Book Worm" contest and served as its chairperson for six years. She also served as elections chairperson for the Village of Germantown District 4 for 17 years.

Kathy Daley Murphy, Brookfield, WI graduated from Mount Mary College in 1963 with a B.S. in education. She later received a reading specialist license from Mount Mary as well as a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, and a master's degree in administrative leadership from UW – Milwaukee. Kathy will be receiving the Madonna Medal Award – Professional Excellence for her outstanding achievements in education including classroom teaching, curriculum development and administrative leadership.

Kathy taught numerous years for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and West Allis-West Milwaukee School District. She also served as adjunct professor at Cardinal Stritch University teaching reading and writing courses for teachers. In her various roles she developed and implemented gifted and talented programs, summer reading intervention programs, writing programs and an afterschool math club to name a few. She served on school district committees and facilitated professional development workshops throughout her career.

Though retired, Kathy continued to contribute professionally through serving as an acting principal, curriculum director and workshop facilitator. She currently provides mentoring to students at Alverno College and MPS.

Barb Tylenda, Franklin, WI graduated from Mount Mary College in 1974 with a B.S. in occupational therapy. Barb will be receiving the Madonna Medal Award – Professional Excellence for her outstanding achievements in health care advocacy and delivery of health and human services to the uninsured. For over 20 years, Barb has served as the Executive Director of Health Care Network, Inc. in Racine, WI. Barb oversees all aspects of this nonprofit agency that provides free or low cost health care to Racine County residents who are medically uninsured and have a limited income.

Barb previously served as Regional Coordinator of Developmental Disability Services for American Medical Services and Program Director for United Cerebral Palsy of Southeastern Wisconsin. Her leadership skills extend beyond the local community to include state, regional and national influence. She was instrumental in the passage of Wisconsin Act 206 which makes it easier for licensed volunteer care providers to serve.

In addition to her responsibilities at Health Care Network, Barb is actively involved in several civic and professional organizations. She serves on the steering committee of the Free Clinics of the Great Lakes Region, is a member City of Racine Health Planning Committee and Homeless Assistance Coalition, and is a state representative to the National Association of Free Clinics. Her work has been recognized by President George Bush, Senator Russ Feingold and the Wisconsin and American Dental Associations. She was also honored with a Woman of Distinction Award by the Racine YWCA.

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PHOTOS ATTACHED

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 seven 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 14) and 95 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.

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