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**Medinger is Women's Week speaker**

*Summary: Founding director of Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, Mary Kaye Medinger brings together stories of Brigid of Kildare, Mary of Nazareth, Hildegard of Bingen, the Beguines and ETTY HILLESUM in her lecture, "Spirited Lives: Women Who Mattered."*

(February 1, 2006)-Founding director of Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Mary Kaye Medinger will be the keynote speaker for Women's Week at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Her lecture, "Spirited Lives: Women Who Mattered," will bring together the stories of Brigid of Kildare, Mary of Nazareth, Hildegard of Bingen, the Beguines and ETTY HILLESUM, and discuss the implication of their lives for today. This event, a presentation of the UMM Campus Activities Council Speaker Series, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, in Edson Auditorium, located in the UMM Student Center.

Medinger is in training to become a spiritual director. Her work experience includes full-time mothering and homemaking, classroom teaching at all age levels, coordinating adult faith formation in parishes for eight years and coordinating the deacon formation program for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for 11 years. She has extensive experience as a freelance presenter.

Medinger's lifelong interest in Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus, has been a particular area of study for her since 1981. She has given lectures, taught classes, and lead workshops and retreats on this topic since 1986. She gave a presentation, titled "Mary of Nazareth: Mother of Jesus, Sister to Us All," at Newman Center Christ Church in St. Cloud in October 2005.

She holds degrees in history and elementary education and a certificate in holistic health studies from the College of St. Catherine and a master of arts in catechetics and liturgy from the University of St. Thomas. A native and resident of St. Paul, she is the mother of two adult, married children and became a grandmother in 2002.

This event is co-sponsored by the Commission on Women and the Women's Resource Center, both at UMM.

All events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available in the North and West parking lots. Disability accommodations will be provided upon request. Please call Disabilities Coordinator at (320) 589-6178.

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