

**For Immediate Release**

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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN OPENS**

**WASHINGTON, DC, CONVENTION WITH CATHOLIC THOUGHT LEADERS**

Arlington, VA— The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) opens the first general session of its November 10-13, 2010, Washington, DC, convention with a panel of nationally-known Catholic thought leaders who will reflect on the Church today and the challenges and opportunities Catholics have to make a difference in their families, communities, Church, and world. More than 700 NCCW members and friends are expected to gather at “Celebrating 90 Years: Renew and Rejoice.”

The 10:30 am panel discussion on Friday, November 12, will be facilitated by **Tony Spence**, Director and Editor-in-Chief, Catholic News Service. Panelists include **Helen Alvare**, Associate Professor of Law, George Mason University; **John Carr**, Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; **Sr. Carol Keehan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Health Association of the U.S.; **Kathleen McChesney**, CEO, Kinsale Management Consulting; and **Kerry Robinson**, Executive Director, National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management.

Even as NCCW celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in 1920, the organization is focusing on the future—expanding its efforts to serve the Church and society. The opening general session panel will reflect the new and exciting face of NCCW. Alvare is an advisor to Pope Benedict XVI's Pontifical Council for the Laity and known for her work on right to life and religious freedom issues. Carr leads the staff work on the bishops' current initiatives on immigration, global trade and poverty, the environment, and more. As CEO of the Catholic Health Association, Sr. Keehan leads an association addressing health care challenges in the U.S. McChesney, a former FBI director and director of global security for Disney, started the office of Youth and Child Protection at the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Robinson heads an organization working to strengthen the temporal affairs of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

A pre-convention workshop on leadership development takes place November 10, prior to the start of the convention. The convention officially begins on November 11 with an opening reception, 4:30 – 6:00 pm, and continues through the closing banquet and performance by The Capitol Steps, November 13, 8:00 pm. General sessions and workshops, as well as exhibits and meals, take place at the Renaissance Hotel, Washington, DC.

All Catholic women interested in spiritual enrichment, leadership development, and service to the Church and society are invited to register and attend the convention. Full registration information is available at [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).

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