

**For Immediate Release**

July 21, 2011

Contact: Andrea Schellman

703-224-0990, x. 104, [aschellman@nccw.org](mailto:aschellman@nccw.org)

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ANNOUNCES**

**CHICAGO PRE-CONVENTION WORKSHOPS**

Arlington, VA— The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) will open its 2011 Annual Convention events with three half-day, pre-convention sessions on November 10, 2011, 9 am – 12 noon, in Chicago, Illinois. Convention activities and sessions will take place November 9 – 12 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. The theme of the convention is “Campaign for Human Dignity—Love in Action,” and workshops, general session speakers, and concurrent sessions have been chosen to support this pro-life theme.

***Catholics Mobilizing to End the Death Penalty***

Led by Catholics Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty, the workshop is for all Catholics interested in learning more about the death penalty and the Church’s teaching on this critical social justice issue. It will cover practical and moral questions posed by the capital punishment debate, review resources for education about the issue, suggest tools to use to engage the community, and identify opportunities to get involved in repeal efforts in your own parish and community. The Catholics Mobilizing Network works in concert with the USCCB and proclaims the Church’s unconditional pro-life teaching and its application to the death penalty and restorative justice. *Presenters:* Karen Clifton, Executive Director, Catholics Mobilizing Network, and Vicki Schieber, Advocate and Spokesperson, Murder Victims’ Families for Human Rights.

***Young Catholic Women’s Forum***

This session, designed specifically for young women, will be led by Northwestern University’s Sheil Catholic Center campus minister, Beth Knobbe. Reflect, pray, learn, and network with other women who share your faith! Attendees rated Ms. Knobbe as one of the best presenters at the NCCW 2010 Convention in Washington, DC.

***Spiritual Retreat***

Led by author and professional retreat leader Christine Watkins, this session will focus on our relationship with Mary, in particular, how and what she is communicating to us—even today—from Heaven. After a reflection on God’s healing power, Mrs. Watkins will lead guided healing prayer meditations and introduce a prayer ritual to help attendees experience the mercy and love that pours unceasingly from Jesus’ heart.

Pre-convention sessions are open to non-members and Convention attendance is not required. Registration and payment can be made online at [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org).

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).

--end--