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From Roman Catholic Womenpriests, www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org

Roman Catholic Womenpriests Walk in Solidarity with Maryknoll priest Roy Bourgeois and the School of the Americas Watch peace and justice community

Contact:

Elsie McGrath, 314-477-6089 314-477-6089
Rose Marie Hudson, 636-208-5598 636-208-5598
Marybeth McBryan, 314-277-3212 314-277-3212

See <http://bridgetmarys.blogspot.com/>

Press Release: July 22, 2010 --The feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, "the Apostle to the Apostles," first witness to the Resurrection and the apostle who was commissioned by the Risen Christ to spread the Good News.

Yesterday, SOA Watch announced that *"Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers [a Roman Catholic religious order], which has contributed \$17,000 annually to SOA Watch, will not support our efforts for peace and justice in the Americas this year. Their decision is due to SOA Watch founder Father Roy Bourgeois' personal belief that women, as well as men, should be able to be ordained into the priesthood."*

Roman Catholic Womenpriests (RCWP) believe that the Vatican has put pressure on the Maryknoll community to end their financial support of SOA Watch, which Fr. Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest for 38 years, founded in 1990. It is cruelly ironic that the Vatican and the Maryknolls would take this stand when they know very well that Fr. Bourgeois and SOA Watch have been nominated for the 2010 Nobel Prize for Peace.

Today as women and men gather around the world to celebrate the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, Roman Catholic Womenpriests walk in solidarity with Fr. Bourgeois and the School of the Americas Watch peace and justice community. (See www.SOAW.org)

Roman Catholic Womenpriests *encourage Catholics to stop giving money to our institutional Church until it reforms unjust laws and practices which discriminate against women.* RCWP suggest that Catholics donate instead to peace and justice organizations, and to other non-profits whose members also live the Gospel.

On August 9, 2008 in Lexington, Kentucky, Fr. Bourgeois participated in the ordination of SOA Watch former prisoner of conscience Janice Sevre-Duszynska and gave a prophetic homily supporting the ordination of women. Soon afterward he was called to Maryknoll headquarters to recant his support of women priests – which he refused to do. Fr. Bourgeois continues to give talks around the country advocating that the U.S. Army School of the Americas be closed and that the Roman Catholic Church ordain women called to the priesthood.

Sunday, July 25th, is the fifth anniversary of the first North American ordinations of Roman Catholic Womenpriests. The growing RCWP movement now includes about 100 ordained women, and more in preparation for priesthood.