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NEWS RELEASE

'CATHOLICISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS' TOPIC FOR WINNER OF 2001 MARIANIST AWARD, MARY ANN GLENDON

DAYTON, Ohio — When Mary Ann Glendon was researching her latest book on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a United Nations document passed in 1948, she discovered something unexpected: the content and structure of the declaration reflected a strong influence of Catholic social thought.

Glendon, the Learned Hand professor of law at Harvard University and author of the forthcoming *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (Random House, \$25.95), will receive the University of Dayton's 2001 Marianist Award at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. Given annually to a Catholic scholar who has made an outstanding contribution to the intellectual life, the award carries a \$5,000 stipend. Glendon will also receive "Mother & Child," a Marian-themed reverse painting on glass by Canadian artist Sarah Hall.

Glendon will present an address on "Catholicism and Human Rights" following the award presentation.

"There's a contrast between the church's attachment to the whole of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights document and the practice of governments and nongovernmental organizations to push for the human rights they want and forget the ones they don't find convenient," Glendon said. "In the affluent West, we tend to concentrate criticism on the rights we don't violate, such as torture and slavery, but we don't say much about freedom from hunger and deprivation."

The pre-glasnost U.S.S.R. claimed it addressed social and economic issues for its people, but didn't support political and civil rights, Glendon said.

Her interest in the issue was prompted by a papal task. In 1995, she headed the 22-member delegation of the Holy See to the Fourth U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing — the first woman ever to lead a Vatican delegation.

Also on Thursday, Glendon will talk about the "Promise and Peril of the International

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Human Rights Project" at 8 p.m. in the Keller Hall courtroom.

"Many people in 1948 — and today — think a set of ideals set forth without any legal enforcement machinery are just pious promises or empty ideas," Glendon said. "The promise is that those ideals gave focus and voice to the human rights movements that brought about the nonviolent end of apartheid in South Africa and the collapse of totalitarian governments in Eastern Europe, confounding all the predictions of the wise and learned realists.

"The peril comes from the tendency to drive a stake through the heart of the Universal Declaration, from the desire to separate civil and political rights from social and economic rights and from those who would use human rights as a cover for their own agendas."

Both addresses will be followed by receptions, and all events are free and open to the public.

Glendon was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women Lawyers in America" in 1998 by the *National Law Journal*. Her areas of expertise include comparative constitutional law in the United States and Europe.

She is the author of numerous books, including *Comparative Legal Traditions, A Nation Under Lawyers, Rights Talk: The Impoverishment of Political Discourse, The Transformation of Family Law* and *Abortion and Divorce in Western Law*. Glendon, who began her career as a journalist, has also been featured in Bill Moyers' "World of Ideas" series.

In 1994, Pope John Paul II appointed Glendon to the newly created Pontifical Academy of Social Science. She also served on the Holy See's Central Committee for the Great Jubilee 2000. She serves as a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Glendon is a past president of the International Association of Legal Science, a member of the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Comparative Law* and *First Things*, and serves on the advisory boards of the Harvard University Human Rights Initiative and the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program. She sits on the boards of trustees at Catholic University and at St. John's Seminary.

Before joining the faculty at the Harvard Law School, she was a professor at the Boston College Law School, and a visiting professor at the University of Chicago Law School and at the Gregorian University in Rome. She was an attorney in private practice at the Chicago firm of Mayer, Brown & Platt from 1963 to 1968.

Established in 1950, the Marianist Award was originally presented to individuals who made outstanding contributions to Mariology. In 1967, the concept for the award was broadened to honor people who had made outstanding contributions to humanity. The award, as currently given, was reactivated in 1986.