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## Interfaith Prayer Service at University of Dayton to Provide Guidance for Local Public Officials

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE AT UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON  
TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

DAYTON, Ohio — Those in the public arena make demanding decisions that affect all of society.

That simple truth is the foundation of the University of Dayton School of Law's 7th annual interfaith prayer service, which will be held at 5:15 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 3, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus.

Politicians, lawyers, judges, law enforcement workers, professors and law students are encouraged to attend, and the service is open to the public. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, Feb. 1, by calling (937) 229-3795.

Local representatives of the Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths have coordinated a celebration of music, prayer, Scripture readings and reflection. Rabbi Judy Chessin of Temple Bethor will speak on the topic of "Jubilee Justice," the ancient practice of forgiving debts and returning land to rightful owners as a way of sharing the world's wealth.

The service is inspired by the Catholic Red Mass, a centuries-old European tradition in which citizens would ask God's blessing on the work of their communities' legal and public officials, says Sister Mary Louise Foley, F.M.I., one of this year's committee members.

"On the day before the first Monday of October, the opening of the judicial session, a Red Mass is still held at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in downtown Washington, D.C., which is attended by the president, justices of the U.S. Supreme Court and national political figures," Foley explains.

"The service's purpose is to invoke divine guidance and strength for our public officials," Foley says. "They have demanding jobs and make decisions that affect all of us."

A reception will immediately follow the service in Joseph E. Keller Hall, home of the law school.

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For media interviews, contact **Sister Mary Louise Foley, F.M.I.**, at (937) 229-2093 or via e-mail [foley@trinity.udayton.edu](mailto:foley@trinity.udayton.edu) and **Rabbi Judy Chessin** at (937) 435-3400.

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