

# ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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## *Media Release*

Interchurch Center, Suite B ■ 0245 SW Bancroft Street ■ Portland, Oregon 97239  
*phone* (503) 221-1054 ■ *fax* (503) 223-7007 ■ *Web site* www.emoregon.org

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact person: Carla Starrett-Bigg, (503) 221-1054  
csbigg@emoregon.org

### **Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon honors St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis with service award**

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis will be honored with an "Ecumenical Service Award" on May 12, 2011, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. The award is presented in recognition of St. Mary's special achievements in hope inspiring, life enhancing, Christ-centered ecumenical community ministry in Oregon.

St. Mary's describes itself as "a large Catholic community whose focus centers on God's Love and whose desire is to live and spread the Gospel by being true disciples in mission." The parish's service to its community is multifaceted and its commitment is deep. A diverse thread of its ministries—including hunger and food security, care for creation, Hispanic ministry, health and social justice—recently combined efforts to intentionally bring together Anglo and Hispanic families in its community garden, located within a larger ecumenical garden. The garden benefits its St. Vincent DePaul food pantry and families on tight budgets growing their own food, while also fostering environmental stewardship and education.

St. Mary's has been a key faith leader in community food security efforts in Benton County. For over five years, the parish hosted EMO's Interfaith Food and Farm Partnership staff office with warm hospitality. It also helped to organize community events for groups such as Ten Rivers Food Web, the Congregational Wellness Coalition, Oregon Food Bank's FEAST program, and more.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at the Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO's ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. and the dinner and award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are available at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org) for \$60 per person and tables for 10 are available for \$600. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or [csbigg@emoregon.org](mailto:csbigg@emoregon.org).

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.*

#### MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

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Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches