

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary as “Ecumenist of the Year”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) as “Ecumenist of the Year” on May 11, 2017, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*.

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary is an international congregation of Catholic Sisters that has ministered in the Northwest since Oregon became a state in 1859. Its U.S.-Ontario Province is headquartered in Marylhurst, Ore. SNJM is dedicated to the full development of the human person through education, social justice, contemplation and the arts. Among its core values are hospitality and service to people who are impoverished, abandoned or living at the margins of society. SNJM’s twin commitments to education and justice are exemplified by its recent partnership with EMO and the Albina Ministerial Alliance to bring The Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III to Portland for the powerful 2016 *Collins Lecture* on “Redeeming the Soul of America: Race, Justice and Reconciliation.”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor extraordinary individuals and organizations such as SNJM whose courage, moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making Oregon, and the world, a better place.

This year, the event will be held on May 11 at the Portland Hilton, 921 SW Sixth Ave. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, a live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at www.emoregon.org, are \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10. For more information, contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, 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.