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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Mount Mary College Presents Free Diversity Lecture**

*History and Role of Islam in America and in the African American Community Explored*

**MILWAUKEE** (February 23, 2012) – Mount Mary College will offer a free lecture on diversity issues on Tuesday, March 6, 2012, at 7 p.m. in Stiemke Hall, located on the second floor of Notre Dame Hall on Mount Mary’s campus. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture, “Being Muslim in America: An African American Perspective” will be presented by Ronald B. Shaheed, Director of Education, Clara Mohammed School, Milwaukee, and Basimah R. Abdullah, Principal, Clara Mohammed School, Inc., Milwaukee. The presentation will provide a brief history of Islam including the development of Islam in America and among African Americans, women in Islam in American and perspectives on Islam in America’s future.

This lecture is part of Mount Mary’s Foley-Poehlman Diversity Lecture Series, which aims to broaden discussion around diversity and how it impacts our lives. The series is named for long-time Mount Mary College professors Sister Mary Briant Foley, SSND, (history, retired) and Sister Joanne Poehlman, SSND (anthropology). The series is funded by the Mother Caroline Mandate Fund of the School Sisters of Notre Dame with additional support from Mount Mary College.

For more information about the Foley-Poehlman Diversity Lecture Series, contact Dr. Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, SSND or Dr. Lynne Woehrle at 414-258-4810 or visit [www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu).

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Mount Mary College, founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was Wisconsin’s first four-year, degree-granting Catholic college for women. Located on an 80-acre campus in Milwaukee, the College offers more than 30 undergraduate majors for women and eight graduate programs for women and men. Mount Mary also emphasizes study abroad, service learning, and social justice initiatives. Its nearly 1900 students enjoy small class sizes (average 15) and over 90 percent of full-time students receive financial aid or scholarships. Through classroom instruction and community service, Mount Mary develops women to be leaders in their professions and their communities, serving as role models to inspire achievement in others. Visit Mount Mary at [www.mtmary.edu](http://www.mtmary.edu).

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