



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Laura Sheehan, Associate Vice President for Marketing, Media and Communications

Telephone: 860.231.5297

Email: lsheehan@usj.edu

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH TO AWARD THREE HONORARY DEGREES AT MAY 9 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (April 14, 2015) – The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will award three honorary degrees at its 80th Commencement on Saturday, May 9, 2015. The ceremony will take place at 10:00 a.m. on the south lawn of the University's West Hartford campus located at 1678 Asylum Avenue. Honorary degree recipients include Rhonda Joy McLean, J.D., deputy general counsel, Time Inc., who will also deliver the 2015 Commencement address; Margaret Farley, RSM, Ph.D., Gilbert L. Stark Professor Emerita of Christian Ethics, Yale University Divinity School; and Eileen Hogan, RSM, M'73, M'80, former prison chaplain, Rikers Island. All three recipients reflect the University's values of leadership, service, and excellence in their respective fields.



Rhonda Joy McLean joined Time, Inc. in 1999, as associate general counsel and was promoted to deputy general counsel in 2009. As such, she manages one third of the law department and conducts regulatory compliance efforts for consumer marketing materials for the 21 magazines that Time Inc. publishes in the United States and Canada. McLean previously worked for the Federal Trade Commission as assistant regional director, where she received national awards for her work on behalf of underserved consumer communities. Throughout her career, McLean has been a mentor and inspiration to young women in leadership positions. She earned her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1983 and is the recipient of several major awards, including the Corporate Counsel of the Year by the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and the Professional Achievement Award from the Association of Black Women Attorneys. She is also a co-author of *The Little Black Book of Success: Laws of Leadership for Black Women* now in its seventh printing. She has been featured in *Essence*, *Black Enterprise*, and *Ebony* magazines and is the chair of the Better Business Bureau Board of Directors.



Margaret Farley, RSM, Ph.D., is the Gilbert L. Stark Professor Emerita of Christian Ethics at Yale University Divinity School where she taught from 1971–2007. She also served as director of the Women’s Initiative: Gender, Faith, and Response to HIV/AIDS. Farley holds a master’s degree from the University of Detroit and a doctorate in Religious Studies from Yale University. She has published and lectured extensively on the topics of ethics, spirituality and justice, and HIV/AIDS. She is the author or co-editor of seven books including *Personal Commitments: Beginning, Keeping, Changing; Compassionate Respect*; and most recently, *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*. Farley is the past president of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Society of Christian Ethics. She has received several honorary degrees and a variety of fellowships and awards, including the John Courtney Murray Award for Excellence in Theology and the 2008 Grawemeyer Award in Religion for her book, *Just Love*. She and fellow Sister of Mercy, Eileen Hogan, founded the *All-Africa Conference: Sister to Sister* program; a project intended to bring together African religious women to develop strategies for responding to the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in Africa.



Eileen Hogan, RSM, M’73, M’80 is co-founder (along with Sister Margaret Farley) of the *All Africa Conference: Sister to Sister* program, which brought conferences, workshops, and training programs to six sub-Saharan countries; both women were honored with the Heart of Life Award from the University of Saint Joseph for their work. Hogan, a former chaplain at Rikers Island, New York, was the first Roman Catholic American woman to hold a prison chaplaincy. She developed the Mercy Prison Ministry Training Program and has championed the rights of prisoners for more than 20 years. Hogan was the founder and former executive director of WomenCare, Inc., a one-on-one advocacy program offering emotional and logistics support to women released from prison. She is also a former Sisters of Mercy Connecticut Leadership Team member. Hogan holds master’s degrees in Education and Pastoral Counseling from the University of Saint Joseph and is the co-editor of the book, *Who is the Prisoner?*

To learn more on USJ’s 80th Commencement, visit www.usj.edu/commencement.

###

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master’s and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University’s two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 25 majors and seven pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue ♦ West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 ♦ Tel: 860-231-5204 ♦ Fax: 860-231-5882