

November 14, 2017

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune, theologian, ethicist and expert in responding to clergy misconduct, to be honored at American Academy of Religion on November 16, 2017 in Boston, MA.**

Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune will be celebrated on November 16, 2017 at a panel discussion recognizing the impact of her forty year career addressing religious issues pertaining to violence against women and children. The panel, called "*Ending Violence: More Than a Life's Work*" is part of the annual American Academy of Religion conference taking place in Boston.

Rev. Dr. Marie M. Fortune, Founder and Senior Analyst for FaithTrust Institute, is a nationally and internationally known writer, speaker, trainer, practicing ethicist and theologian. In 1983, Fortune was the first theologian to write on the relationship between sexual violence and religion with her book, *Sexual Violence: The Unmentionable Sin*. It was revised with the 2005 release of *Sexual Violence – The Sin Revisited*. She was also one of the first persons to call religious communities to accountability on the issue of sexual abuse by clergy. Her commitment has been and will continue to be, to provide the spiritual, intellectual and practical resources to those who encounter victims, survivors and perpetrators of interpersonal violence. Her subsequent efforts have changed the way religious leaders and institutions respond to sexual and domestic violence, as well as clergy misconduct.

Fortune is the author of nine books on sexual and domestic violence, sexual ethics, and abuse by religious leaders including: *Sexual Violence: The Sin Revisited* (Pilgrim Press, 2005), *Keeping the Faith: Guidance for Christian Women Facing Abuse* (HarperOne, 1987), *Violence Against Women and Children: A Christian Theological Sourcebook*, with Carol Adams, Eds. (Continuum Publishing, 1995), *Love Does No Harm: Sexual Ethics for the Rest of Us* (Continuum Publishing, 1995), *Responding to Clergy Misconduct: A Handbook* (FaithTrust Institute, 2009). She was editor of *The Journal of Religion and Abuse* (2000–2008) and served on the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women for the U.S. Department of Justice (1995–2000) and the Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence for the U.S. Department of Defense (2000–2003).

The multi-faith panel participants will include:

- Dr. Margaret Farley, Gilbert L. Stark Professor Emerita of Christian Ethics, Yale Divinity School
- Dr. Mary E. Hunt, Co-Founder, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual
- Ms. Salma Abugidieri, LPC, Advisor and Trainer, Peaceful Families Project
- Rabbi Mark Dratch, Vice President, Rabbinical Council of America
- Ms. Elena Giacci, Advocate and Educator, Wiya Luta Training

- Rev. Dr. Traci C. West, Professor of Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University
- Ms. Emily Cohen, M.Div., FaithTrust Institute

Dr. Denise Starkey, Associate Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at The College of St. Scholastica and President of the Board of Directors of FaithTrust Institute, will moderate the discussion.

**Event Location and Time:**

Thursday, November 16, 2017 from 4pm-7pm  
Hynes Convention Center, Room 210

*This event is free and open to the public.*

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