FREE PUBLIC LECTURES HIGHLIGHT CHRISTIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

FEBRUARY 15, 2010 – Washington DC – The Institute for Public Service & Policy Development and the Institute for Global Engagement, two Washington D.C.-based organizations, announce three free networking receptions and public lectures featuring Michael Gerson, E.J. Dionne and Dr. Andrea Bartoli to explore the Middle East conflict and the positive and negative contributions of Christians. Each lecture will be held at the U.S. Capitol with refreshments beginning at 6:30pm, the presentations beginning at 7:15 and a time for response following. The receptions and public lectures are free and open to the public.

The series provides an opportunity for Protestant (including Evangelical), Catholic and Orthodox religious perspectives to interact with each other, along with invited Jewish and Muslim voices to help enrich the conversation. The title suggests ways forward while recognizing how the Christian community has both helped and hindered efforts to ease the conflict.

On Wednesday, March 17, Michael Gerson begins the series with “Faith or Fanaticism” examining the problem and promise of faith and politics in the Middle East. Gerson is an opinion writer at The Washington Post and senior research fellow at the Institute for Global Engagement’s Center on Faith & International Affairs. He served as a policy adviser and chief speechwriter to President George W. Bush from 2000 to 2006. Before that, he was a senior editor covering politics at U.S. News & World Report. His book "Heroic Conservatism" was published by HarperOne in 2007.

The second lecture will be on Thursday, April 29. E.J. Dionne will present a lecture entitled “Cries for Justice” examining hunger, housing and social justice in the Middle East. Dionne is a columnist for The Washington Post. Before joining The Post in 1990 as a political reporter, he spent 14 years at The New York Times, covering local, state, and national politics, and also served as a foreign correspondent in Paris, Rome and Beirut. He is a University Professor at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at The Brookings Institution. Dionne has been a

On Thursday, May 20, the series concludes with Dr. Andrea Bartoli’s lecture “Overcoming Violence” concerning fresh approaches to conflict resolution in the Middle East. Bartoli has been the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution’s Drucie French Cumbie Chair at George Mason University since 2007. He works primarily on Peacemaking and Genocide Prevention. The Founding Director of Columbia University’s Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), a Senior Research Scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), a Teaching Fellow at Georgetown University, and at the University of Siena, Dr. Bartoli has taught in the US since 1994. He is a member of the Dynamical Systems and Conflict Team and a Board member of Search for Common Ground. He has published books and articles on violence, migrations and, conflict resolution and was co-editor of “Somalia, Rwanda and Beyond: The Role of International Media in Wars and International Crisis.”

Learn more and rsvp at www.Nyack.edu/DC or by calling 202-220-1300.

The Institute for Public Service & Policy Development (I.P.S.) is a faith-based academic center powered by Nyack College's Capitol Hill campus in Washington, D.C. The I.P.S. prepares people for national and international government and non-profit service. The I.P.S. functions as a place where differing multi-partisan views can be addressed with civility, respect, honesty and trust; a place where thoughtful solutions to the challenges of contemporary society can be sought.

The Institute for Global Engagement (IGE) promotes sustainable environments for religious freedom worldwide. It studies the impact of faith on state and society, it encourages governments to protect religious freedom, and it equips citizens to exercise that freedom responsibly.

This lecture series is the first collaborative effort between the two D.C.-based institutes.

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