

January 19, 2012

Media Alert

Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace Brings Together Diverse Religious Leaders

WHO: Leaders of various faith traditions and communities from central Florida, including:

Bishop John Noonan – Roman Catholic Diocese of Orlando

Rabbi Steven Engel – Congregation of Reform Judaism

Bishop Louis Campese – Anglican Cathedral of the Incarnation

Reverend Doctor Paige McRight – Central Florida Presbytery

Imam Muhammad Musri – Islamic Society of Central Florida

Imam Ashiq Kermalli – Bilal Muslim Mission of America

Reverend Priscilla Robinson – Central Conference, 11th Episcopal District of the AME Church

Venerable Khai Thien – White Sands Buddhist Center

Jasbir Singh Bhatia – Sikh Society of Central Florida

WHAT: Leaders and members of many faith traditions and communities gather together for an interfaith prayer service to pray for the common goal of peace through word and song, to celebrate diversity within that common goal, and to grow in a deeper understanding of one another. A reception will follow the prayer service.

WHERE: Congregation of Reform Judaism, 928 Malone Drive, Orlando, FL 32810

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, beginning at 7 p.m. (media please arrive by 6:45 p.m.)

WHY: *On Oct. 27, 1986, Pope John Paul II realized a great dream: he invited representatives of world religions to Assisi, Italy, so that a single song of peace might be sent to the one God from many hearts and in many languages. Twenty six years later a message of peace is needed as much today as it was then, as is a commitment to build peace in this world.* The theme of the prayer service is *Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrims of Peace*, as all are called to walk the path of peace as pilgrims, to pray and fast for justice in the world, and to dialogue with one another in an effort to discover creative ways to build peace today.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN NOONAN: “For all of our religions, it is very important to respect each other, and that comes from dialogue between each other and praying together.”