

MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: BROTHER ANDRE MARIE
(603) 239-6485

SAINT BENEDICT CENTER TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saint Benedict Center, administered by the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary — America's oldest and foremost religious order of traditional Catholics — will hold its 2008 Annual Conference from July 18 to 20, Friday to Sunday. The conference, the largest gathering of Catholic traditionalists in the U. S., will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Nashua. The conference will include daily Mass at the hotel. Several vendors will be present with books, holy cards, veils, pro-life materials, rosaries, jewelry, etc.

The theme of this year's conference is *The Light of our Faith in the Darkest of Times*. Guest speakers include retired U.S. Army Special Forces (Green Beret) officer Dr. Robert Hickson, a former professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy and the Defense Intelligence College, and former Chairman of the Literature and Latin Department at Christendom College. Joining Dr. Hickson will be the celebrated Catholic writer and chronicler of the traditionalist movement in the Church, Gary Potter, the founding editor of *Triumph* magazine and the author of *After the Boston Heresy Case*.

The conference will also feature Lt. Commander John Sharpe, USN, the Silent Service (submarine) officer who is a powerhouse in Catholic publishing. Sharpe's IHS Press is the only publisher dedicated exclusively to the social teachings of the Catholic Church. Philip F. Lawler, the editor of Catholic World News, will discuss his nationally acclaimed book *The Faithful Departed: The Collapse of Boston's Catholic Culture*.

Other speakers include Brother Andre Marie, M.I.C.M., Prior of the St. Benedict Center, and a distinguished lecturer in the fields of apologetics, ecclesiology, church history and devotional practices; Boston's veteran culture warrior and noted defender of the Faith, C.J. Doyle, Executive Director of the Catholic Action League of Massachusetts; Brian Kelly, the gifted and erudite editor of *Mancipia*, prominent conservative journalist R. Cort Kirkwood, author of the important new book *Real Men: Ten Courageous Americans to Know and Admire* and Tim Ehlen, organizer of "Building Catholic Communities," a confederation of scholars, architects, religious and lay leaders championing community life based on Catholic principles.

Brother Andre Marie made the following comment: "Although the condition of our society remains perilous and the challenges facing the Church are daunting, this Conference will also be marked by hope and confidence. Pope Benedict's restoration of the traditional Mass is a turning point in the history of the Church and a source of great joy and consolation for us, which shows that after decades of struggle, our concerns and our aspirations are now resonating in the very corridors of the Holy See itself." The conference will be opened and closed by the Center's venerable founder, Brother Francis Maluf, who will celebrate his 95th birthday on July 19.