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FROM: Mayslake Ministries, 450 East 22nd Street. Suite 170, Lombard, IL

FOR INFORMATION: Dr. Mary Amore, Executive Director, 630-268-9000

Acclaimed Theologian, Author and Speaker Father Robert Barron to present on the Eucharist and Catholicism at Mayslake Ministries' October 1 Symposium

Mayslake Ministries of Lombard, IL is pleased to announce Fr. Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire ministries, will present "Perspectives on Eucharist and Catholicism" at the annual fall symposium on October 1, 2011 from 9am to 3pm at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, IL. The symposium is open to men and women from all faith traditions who seek to enrich their understanding of Catholic spirituality.

Fr. Barron, known for his engaging manner and ability to clearly distill difficult theological concepts, will take on two weighty topics, beginning in the morning with insights into the mystery of the Eucharist, followed by an afternoon presentation explaining what Catholics believe and why – using the arts and beauty of Catholic tradition from around the world as a lens.

The Eucharist, called the "source and summit" of Catholic spirituality presents a real challenge to many of the faithful. Most Catholics, lay and ordained, will freely admit the difficulty of explaining and grasping the Church's teachings on the sacrament. Through stories, examples, and solid theology, Fr. Barron will ease away those barriers to understanding and guide attendees to a fresh realization of how Christ is "really, truly, substantially present" in the Eucharist. Christians desiring to deepen their understanding of the gift of Eucharist will definitely want to hear this presentation.

In the afternoon, Fr. Barron will lead a global journey, giving witness of the living culture of the Catholic Church, the faith that claims over a billion members world-wide, as portrayed in his sweeping, long-awaited 10-part series entitled "Catholicism." This documentary, sure to engage the imagination of Catholics and non-Catholics alike, is the culmination of a two year project which Fr. Barron states "was one of the most exciting and rewarding periods of my life." This will be an exclusive opportunity for symposium attendees to hear Fr. Barron present first-hand on the topic, prior to the public television premiere later that month.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet Fr. Barron afterwards in the exhibit area where representatives from Word on Fire and other providers of Catholic and Christian educational and liturgical merchandise will be available.

Tickets are \$65 per person and include a continental breakfast, lunch, and event materials. Individual tickets may be purchased online at www.mayslakeministries.org or by phone at 630-268-9000. A reduced rate of \$55 for catechists from the Archdiocese of Chicago, and Dioceses of Joliet and Rockford is available. Catechists who attend may be eligible to receive precertification credit and are advised to contact their parish or local formation office for details. Also, a reduced rate of \$55 is offered to Religious and Clergy. In order for as many people as possible to attend this event, reduced group rates are available: Groups of 6 registering at the same time will pay just \$300 (\$50 per person), and groups of 10 pay just \$500 and receive VIP seating. Groups must be registered at the same time by phone, 630-268-9000.

Mayslake Ministries, formerly known as the St. Francis Retreat House in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a lay based 501.c.3 not-for profit organization. Since its founding in 1991 by Fr. Jonathan Foster, OFM, as a “retreat house without walls” Mayslake Ministries has served the spiritual needs of Christian/Catholic men and women from all walks of life with a variety of spiritual enrichment programs, retreats, and individual spiritual direction. Under the leadership of its current executive director, Dr. Mary Amore, Mayslake Ministries continues this legacy providing a tranquil environment for all people who seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

About Fr. Robert Barron and Word on Fire Ministries

Fr. Robert Barron is a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He received his Master's Degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America (1982) and his doctorate in theology from the Institut Catholique de Paris (1992). He currently holds the Francis Cardinal George Chair of Faith and Culture at the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. A prominent author, his many books include "And Now I See: A Theology of Transformation," "Thomas Aquinas: Spiritual Master," "Heaven in Stone and Glass," "The Strangest Way: Walking the Christian Path" and most recently, "Eucharist" and a compilation of his life - changing sermons entitled "Word on Fire." His numerous articles on theology and culture have appeared in a variety of journals, newspapers and magazines. Father Barron's popular DVDs include "Untold Blessing," "Conversion" and "Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues." In addition to his academic work, writing, and media outreach, Father Barron is the director of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. He is considered by many to be one of the leading Catholic evangelists of our time.

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