



News Release

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For Immediate Release

Romero House Founder / Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner to receive Honorary Degrees at AST Convocation

Halifax, NS – During Convocation ceremonies on May 7, 2016, Atlantic School of Theology (AST) will award a Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, to nationally-recognized refugee advocate **Mary Jo Leddy** and to Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner **Marie Wilson**.

Dr. Mary Jo Leddy, CM, is the Founder and Director of Romero House, a community based practice in which refugees live together in a welcoming community. A human rights activist and supporter of the peace movement, Dr. Leddy is a theologian, author, teacher and journalist. She has received numerous academic and personal achievement awards, including the Governor General's Bronze Medal and the Canada Council Doctoral Fellowship, and was admitted to the Order of Canada in 1996. Dr. Leddy has published a number of books including *The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls Us Home* (2011) and *Our Friendly Local Terrorist* (2010). Mary Jo Leddy is currently an Adjunct Professor at Regis College, University of Toronto, a Senior Fellow at Massey College, University of Toronto, and serves on the boards of both Massey College and PEN Canada. She is the national co-chair of the Keep the Promise campaign against child poverty and also chairs the Writers in Exile Committee for PEN Canada. Dr. Leddy has received a number of honorary doctorates from Canadian universities in recognition of her extraordinary work.

Dr. Leddy will give the address at AST's 2016 Convocation on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. in the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, NS.

Marie Wilson was one of three commissioners on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) and in that role worked for six and a half years to reveal the history and impact of the forced residential schooling of Aboriginal children. Prior to becoming a TRC commissioner, Marie Wilson had a long, successful and respected career as a journalist. Now the 2016 Professor of Practice at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, Ms. Wilson is continuing to advance the study and practice of reconciliation around the world. She has worked cross-culturally in Europe, Africa, South America and various parts of Canada for almost forty years. Among her many honours, Marie Wilson holds a CBC North lifetime achievement award, a Northerner of the Year award, the Diamond Jubilee Medal, and honorary doctorates from St. Thomas University and the University of Manitoba.

Ms. Wilson is the guest speaker at AST's Gala Dinner on May 6, 2016, at the Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax, NS. Ticket information for this event is available on the AST website:
www.astheology.ns.ca.

Located on the Northwest Arm in Halifax, Nova Scotia, AST is recognized as one of the finest theological universities in North America, educating postgraduate students for the ethical and theological challenges of today's world.

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