Catholic Leader and Global Charity Founder to Speak at Women of Christ Conference

Mary’s Meals founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow Presents for the First Time in Wisconsin

Bloomfield, N.J. – October 25, 2022 – Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, Catholic founder and CEO of the international school feeding charity, Mary’s Meals, will be a featured speaker during the 14th annual Women of Christ Conference in Wisconsin.

The conference takes place at the Washington County Fair Park & Conference Center in West Bend, Wisconsin on Saturday, November 5th beginning at 8:45am. This will be the first appearance in Wisconsin for MacFarlane-Barrow who will join four celebrated speakers for a day of connecting, worship and fellowship.

“It is a privilege to be invited to speak at the Women of Christ Conference in Wisconsin and to share the Mary’s Meals story,” MacFarlane-Barrow said. He added, “I look forward to a faith-filled day and hearing the other incredible speakers who will add to this meaningful gathering.”

This will be the second US Catholic conference in which MacFarlane-Barrow has been a featured speaker. In September, he spoke at the Christ Our Life Catholic Conference in Iowa.

“In a world where so much seems to be going wrong, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is bringing light and hope. By offering meals in a place of education, Mary’s Meals is helping to draw children into a place of learning. We cannot wait to hear his heart-warming story of love and faith in action,” said Elizabeth Meier, President of the Women of Christ Conference.

In 2002, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow founded, Mary’s Meals. Named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, Magnus was inspired by his faith and the words of a hungry little boy who only wanted to have enough to eat and to go to school.

Its simple mission of feeding children where they learn enables the education that can bring an end to chronic poverty – the root cause of hunger.
“We are meeting their immediate need for food, but we are tackling the underlying causes of poverty by getting them into the classroom,” explains MacFarlane-Barrow.

Two decades later, Mary’s Meals now serves meals to 2,279,941 million children every school day in **20 countries** such as Ethiopia, South Sudan, Haiti, and Yemen. This global movement invites people everywhere to share their prayers, time, talent, and resources to help end hunger.

MacFarlane-Barrow will present a talk based on the 20 years that Mary’s Meals has been serving meals to children where they learn and discuss how that work continues in this global hunger crisis.

He will join Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC of Ohio; Sonja Corbitt of Tennessee; Sr. Tracey Matthias Dugas of Chicago; and the Very Reverend Luke N. Strand of Wisconsin.

The Women of Christ Conference brings together five renowned speakers across the Catholic faith for a day that includes Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, the Rosary, a Eucharistic procession, Mass, and a vendor market.

A unique facet of this conference is the accessibility to confession and Mass for Deaf attendees to be provided by Fr. Christopher Klusman. Klusman is the Director of the Deaf Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and one of the few Deaf priests in the US. He provides Mass and confession in American Sign Language and will make this conference accessible to an even wider audience of women.

“This conference is a place where women can grow in their Catholic Faith, regardless of where they are on their faith journey. God changes hearts at this event. Many attendees depart with a greater love for Christ and a desire to share the hope, love, and peace they have experienced throughout the day,” added Meier.

Tickets for the Women of Christ Conference are just $47 dollars and include lunch.

More information on the conference can be found at: [www.womenofchrist.net](http://www.womenofchrist.net)
For more information about Mary’s Meals visit marylsmeatusa.org or follow Mary’s Meals on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram.

**Facts**

- It costs just $21 to feed a child for an entire year.
- Mary’s Meals is commemorating 20 years of service and now serves children in 20 countries.
- The words of a child lead to the mission of feeding children in their places of education.
- Mary’s Meals collaborates with local communities to source, prepare, cook, and serve meals.
- Globally, people can support this critical mission through prayer, donations, and sharing of talents and the Mary’s Meals story.
- Mary’s Meals feeds 2,279,941 children every school day.
- This global movement invites people everywhere to participate in the mission through prayer, giving ($21 feeds a child for a year), talent (events, fundraising, and free school lessons), and sharing the Mary’s Meals story.

**Current Global Hunger Crisis Facts**

- World Food Program says 345 million people worldwide are facing acute food insecurity.
- UNESCO figures estimate 66+ million children are out of school due to food-related issues.
- UNICEF says that one child every 60 seconds is pushed into severe malnutrition.
- Crisis attributed to 4 Cs: conflict, climate shocks, costs and COVID.
- Mary’s Meals has school feeding programs in 7 of 15 crisis-hit countries.
- Mary’s Meals serves in Niger in the Sahel region and in 8 of the 18 East African countries.