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**Archdiocese of Atlanta to serve as local host for U.S. Catholic premier annual
social justice training opportunity
July 20 – 25, 2008**

Atlanta – The Archdiocese of Atlanta will serve as the local host to the premier annual social justice training for U.S. Catholics, slated for July 20 through July 25, at Oglethorpe University. The event begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory.

The Social Action Summer Institute is a prayerful, intensive education and advocacy training that covers the foundations of Catholic Social Justice Teaching. This year's advanced symposium will focus on racism with a look at the Church's teaching, the challenging reality and how to build right relationships and transformative awareness. Participants will come from dioceses around the country as well as the Archdiocese of Atlanta's North and central Georgia area.

The institute includes national presenters who will lead workshops throughout the week. These include Father Thomas Massaro, S.J., of Boston College School of Theology and Ministry who will cover the Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching and Sister Barbara Reid, O.P., of the Catholic Theological Union who will explore the "Biblical Concepts of Justice." Presenters for the Racism Track include Father Bryan Massingale, STD, of Marquette University and Father Clarence Williams, CPPS, of Catholic Charities USA. Local speakers for the event include Ms. Tayyibah Taylor, Editor of Azizah Magazine, Ms. Sherry Frank, former Director of the American Jewish Committee and Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, Pastor of Providence Missionary Baptist Church.

"This is an unprecedented opportunity for parishioners and diocesan staff in the Southeast in terms of awareness, skills and both personal and community transformation," said Susan Stevenot Sullivan, Director of Parish & Social Justice Ministries for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, the local partner for the event. "This is the first time the institute has been held in the Southeast and we have the second highest registration in its 23-year history."

For media access and to obtain a detailed itinerary contact Veronica Diaz, Assistant Communications Director at vdiaz@archatl.com or (404) 978-2766 or 404-906-0213.

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