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California Polytechnic State University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Activist to Speak on 'Waging Peace' Feb. 6 at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO - "Waging Peace: The Challenge of Active Nonviolence" is the topic to be addressed by Jesuit priest, peace activist, organizer, lecturer, writer and retreat leader John Dear at 7 p.m. Feb. 6 in Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly.

Dear, who has authored and edited some 20 books on peace and justice, has spent the past two decades working among the poor in the United States and abroad, speaking out against war and nuclear weapons. Recently, he served in the Family Assistance Center in New York City as a chaplain to more than 1,500 people who lost friends and relatives in the World Trade Center disaster, and more than 500 police officers, firefighters and rescue workers at Ground Zero.

He has also worked in homeless shelters, soup kitchens and community centers around the country; traveled to war zones around the world, including most recently Iraq and Palestine; lived in El Salvador, Guatemala and Northern Ireland; and has been arrested more than 75 times in acts of civil disobedience, at one point spending nearly a year in prison for a disarmament protest.

His discussion at Cal Poly is sponsored by the Lutheran Campus Ministry, Lutheran Student Movement, Newman Catholic Center, Students for Social Change, Progressive Student Alliance and Associated Students, Inc.

A longtime practitioner and teacher of nonviolence, Dear has written hundreds of articles and given hundreds of talks on nonviolence. Some of his books include: "Mahatma Gandhi: Apostle of Nonviolence"; "Living Peace: A Spirituality of Contemplation and Action"; "Jesus the Rebel"; "Peace Behind Bars: A Journal from Jail"; "The God of Peace: Toward a Theology of Nonviolence"; "Disarming the Heart: Toward a Vow

of Nonviolence"; "The Sound of Listening"; "The Sacrament of Civil Disobedience"; "Seeds of Nonviolence"; "Our God Is Nonviolent: Witnesses in the Struggle for Peace and Justice"; and "Oscar Romero and the Nonviolent Struggle for Justice."

For more details about Dear, his work or his writing, visit his Web site at: <http://www.fatherjohndear.org>. For more information about his talk at Cal Poly, contact Sister Mary Pat White at the Newman Catholic Center at 543-4105, or visit the Newman Center Web site at www.slnewman.org.

-30-

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