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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cal Poly English Professor To Talk on Thomas Merton, American Monk

Cal Poly English Professor and author Robert Inchausti will discuss American writer and Trappist monk Thomas Merton at 7 p.m. April 23 in Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center at Cal Poly.

Inchausti, who recently completed the book "Thomas Merton's American Prophecy," is the first speaker in the John Henry Cardinal Newman Lecture series. Admission is free and open to the public.

Inchausti will present "Ask Me About my Vow of Silence: Thomas Merton -- Contemplative Culture Critic." The talk will explore the reasons why Merton -- considered by many to be America's most famous monk -- was also a serious student of Buddhism, Sufism (a form of Islamic mysticism), neo-Marxism, black power, psychoanalysis and feminism.

Inchausti's talk will provide an overview of Merton's life and writings, focusing on Merton's place in American intellectual history. Inchausti is also the editor of an anthology of Merton's writings to be published in the fall.

The lecture is the first of a planned annual series dealing with the intellectual crossroads between philosophy and theology in contemporary culture. The series is sponsored by the Newman Catholic Center at Cal Poly. For more information, call English Professor John Hampsey at 756-2239.

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