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CONTACT: Anna Davis-Hutto
L'Arche USA
404-216-0903
anna.larcheusa@comcast.net

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For Immediate Release

Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche, Interview on American Public Media's "Speaking of Faith"

PORTLAND, OR – Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, an international federation of communities providing residential and vocational support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in family-like settings, will be featured on **American Public Media's** "Speaking of Faith" program, which is hosted by Krista Tippett. The interview, titled, "The Wisdom of Tenderness," was recorded in October 2007. It will air in most cities between Thursday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 26th. For more information, please visit: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/stations/index.shtml>.

This upcoming interview with Jean Vanier provides a deep look into L'Arche, from the heart of its founder. Distressed by the plight of people with developmental disabilities, in 1964 Vanier welcomed two men from an institution to live with him in a little home he called "L'Arche," after Noah's ark, in the French village of Trosly-Breuil. L'Arche grew quickly as this new way of sharing life together in community with people who would otherwise be shut away in institutions attracted many young people. Vanier himself began traveling and speaking about his own life-changing experience of coming to know people with developmental disabilities. Today, there are 131 L'Arche communities in 34 countries on six continents. Pope John Paul II praised Vanier's work in creating L'Arche, saying "Over the past 30 years L'Arche has grown to become a dynamic and providential sign of the civilization of love."

In August 2007, "Speaking of Faith" featured L'Arche's community in Clinton, Iowa: The Arch. This feature is described as a "radio pilgrimage, which takes listeners into a radically different faith community that confronts our assumptions about service and diversity, and the worth of individuals." To listen: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/programs/larche/index.shtml>.

The first L'Arche community in the United States was established in 1972 in Erie, PA. Today, **L'Arche USA** has 16 member communities nationwide. For more information, contact us at larcheusa@comcast.net.