

## Call To Action National Conference

**Friday Seminars and Days of Reflection**[Introduction](#)[Plenary Speakers](#)[Presentations A-G](#)[Presentations H-Z](#)[Schedule](#)[Registration](#)[Friday Seminars](#)[Features](#)[Travel & Hotels](#)[CTA Home Page](#)**St. Mary of Magdala: Fact, Fiction and Feminism in Popular Culture**

**Teresa Berger and Joseph Kelly** are the presenters. In the morning, Berger discusses the many ways in which biblical texts, historical reception, popular religiosity and current cultural trends "frame" (!) this important and enigmatic biblical woman. Berger has doctorates in dogmatic theology and liturgical studies, and teaches theology at Duke. Her books include *Dissident Daughters: Feminist Liturgies in Global Context* (2002). The Vatican has barred her from Catholic faculties in her native Germany and throughout Europe. In the afternoon, Kelly gives a Power Point presentation about the portrayal of Magdalen in Dan Brown's best selling novel, *The DaVinci Code*, which has caused more than 60 million readers to look at her in a new way. Kelly is chair of the religious studies department at John Carroll University, Cleveland. For more about Kelly and his related presentation on Saturday, click [here](#). Friday, 9 AM-2:45 PM (1.01)

**Sex, Marriage and Spirituality: Can the Church's Blind Spot Unveil a New Vision?**

**Charles Curran, Fran Ferder, and Patricia Beattie Jung** are co-presenters. In the morning, Fr. Curran, renowned moral theologian, surveys the negative aspects of Catholic moral theology on sex, which have lost the church so much credibility, but then lifts up positive parts of the tradition which could ground a more adequate sexual ethic. Psychologist and Franciscan Sr. Ferder examines "the sex offender mentality in the Church," and argues that not only individual offenders but also church structures need therapy. After lunch, as a married theologian Dr. Jung offers theological reflections on marriage. She uses current debates about gay marriage to reflect on sexual pleasure, procreativity, gender complementarity, the sexuality of Jesus, and Christian beliefs about the goodness of creation. The workshop closes with a panel discussion with all three speakers.

