



For Immediate Release

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Equal Rights Center Congratulates Former Board Member's Induction into Human Rights Hall of Fame

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 26, 2010 – This week, [Equal Rights Center](#) (ERC) founder and long time board member Monsignor Ralph Kuehner, was initiated into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame.

“The entire board and staff of the ERC are proud to celebrate with Msgr. Kuehner this great honor,” said ERC Executive Director Donald Kahl. “For more than 25 years, Msgr. Kuehner helped lead the ERC as the organization expanded and continued to advance civil rights in the communities around us, and across the country. His impact in civil rights is immense, and we are thrilled to see his efforts honored on this occasion.”

Msgr. Ralph Kuehner joins prior inductees ERC Board President Rev. Dr. James G. Macdonell and ERC Board Member Jackie Simon in the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame. Msgr. Kuehner was a member of the founding board of the Fair Housing Council in 1983. In 1999, the Fair Housing Council merged with the Fair Employment Council and became the Equal Rights Center. Msgr. Kuehner served on the board until 2009. He was a seminary Scripture teacher for 17 years. After coming to Washington in 1967 he was a pastor for 17 years. He was director of a number of Archdiocesan offices, including two terms with the office for social concerns (1970 – 1978 and 1996 – 2002).

In addition to the ERC, Msgr. Kuehner is the co-founder of SOME (So Others Might Eat), Victory Housing, Community Ministry of Montgomery County and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington. Among a number of awards received, Msgr. Kuehner was named Washingtonian of the year in 1999 by the Washingtonian magazine, a National Point of Light in 2000. He has authored several books and articles dealing with Scripture and continues to teach biblical courses, for example, in Lourdes, France in 2003 and 2004.

The Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame was established in 2001, when it's first 20 honorees were inducted. Inductees are honored for having made great personal sacrifices and contributions to human and civil rights in Montgomery County, either as

trailblazers of the past or as current foot soldiers in the struggle. The honorees are recognized for their visionary leadership, outstanding achievement and altruism on the road to eliminating discrimination and advancing human rights.

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About the Equal Rights Center (www.equalrightscenter.org)

Originally formed in 1983, the Equal Rights Center (ERC) is a national non-profit civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. With members located in 33 states and the District of Columbia, the ERC works nationally to promote equal opportunity in housing, employment, disability rights, immigrant rights, and access to public accommodations and government services for all protected classes under federal, state, and local laws.