

For Immediate Release Contact: Nancy Wynn February 1, 2008 (860) 430-1292

## Sacred in the Secular at Clare Gallery

Hartford — The Clare Gallery is pleased to present Sacred/Secular, an exhibition by photographer and digital imaging artist, Kelli Newton. The exhibition is free and open to the public and extends from April 4 to May 18, 2008. A reception and lecture will be held on Friday, April 4th from 5 to 7 p.m., at which time Ms. Newton will make a presentation exploring the origins and themes of her art. Her lecture will begin at 6 p.m. All are welcome to the reception and lecture.

Sacred/Secular features photographs of sacred objects found in unexpected secular settings. Prayer cards, statues and shrines are among the religious objects that become part of a broader landscape providing viewers with a glimpse into private and public expressions of faith. "Exploring individual ideas, interpretations and expressions of belief – from the kitsch to the contemplative" states Ms. Newton, is her interest.

Ms. Newton is also an Adjunct Professor of Photography at both the University of Bridgeport and at Tunxis Community College in Farmington, CT and has received degrees from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, FL and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The Clare Gallery primarily features exhibitions that emphasize world religions or interfaith themes, as well as social justice themes, on either a global or local level. The Gallery is housed in the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry at 285 Church Street. The Center is part of St. Patrick – St. Anthony Church, a vibrant and active downtown faith community.

The Clare Gallery's hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Gallery and all related events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available directly across from the church, and the facility is handicapped accessible. More information may be found under "ministries" on the church's website: www.stpatrick-stanthony.org.