

Wisconsin Catholic Sisters

February 26, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC SISTERS Support the Rights of Workers

As Wisconsin Catholic Sisters our faith and experience of working alongside and educating many Wisconsin citizens compel us to share our voice in response to what has been occurring in our legislature. We are deeply concerned about Governor Walker's plan to strip basic human rights—including the right to collective bargaining—away from public employees. Our religious tradition teaches us that all working men and women have inherent dignity and the human right to form associations to improve their work conditions.

Our state as well as our nation needs to respect the rights of workers to organize and have a voice. Not only is the right to collective bargaining essential, it has been repeatedly affirmed by the Catholic Church. In the 1986 pastoral letter *Economic Justice for All* the Catholic Bishops stated, "No one may deny the rights to organize without attacking human dignity itself. Therefore, we firmly oppose organized efforts, such as those regrettably seen in this country, to break existing unions or prevent workers from organizing."

Recognizing the economic challenges facing Wisconsin, public service unions have agreed to a reduction of benefits and wages. Governor Walker must also be willing to negotiate a solution for the common good of all Wisconsin citizens, one which will not take away the bargaining rights of his fellow public servants.

We unite our voices to those of the Catholic Bishops, leaders of other faith traditions, and people of good will throughout the state and nation calling upon Governor Walker and our legislators to respect the rights of Wisconsin public workers to organize and to engage in collective bargaining.

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**Benedictine Women of Madison at Holy Wisdom Monastery
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse, WI
Racine Dominican Leadership Team
School Sisters of Notre Dame
Servants of Mary, Ladysmith, WI
Sisters of the Divine Savior - USA
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi Leadership Team
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross Leadership Team
Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis Leadership Team**