



Statement of Support

For

Adjunct Professors at The College of Saint Rose

July 8, 2014

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice stands in solidarity with adjunct professors at The College of Saint Rose who seek to form a labor union to bargain collectively for just wages, job security, health and retirement benefits, and other improvements to the workplace that befit their dignity as human beings created in the image of God.

We call upon the Trustees of The College of Saint Rose to support their employees as they assert the right to free association that is rooted in the natural moral law and that serves as the cornerstone of Catholic Social Teaching on workers' rights.

We strongly encourage the faculty, students, administration, and staff of Saint Rose to stand in solidarity with the adjunct professors as they pursue this noble cause.

Support for labor unions enjoys a long history in the Catholic Church. Following its medieval support for guilds of working people, the Catholic Church since the publication of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (1891) has given exceptional support for labor unions. The official teaching of the Catholic Church as found in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* (2004) holds that labor unions exert a "positive influence for social order and solidarity, and are therefore an *indispensable element of social life.*" (#305) In 1986 the Catholic Bishops of the United States stated: "The Church fully supports the right of workers to form unions or other associations to secure their rights to fair wages and working conditions...No one may deny the right to organize without attacking human dignity itself." (*Economic Justice for All*, #104) [For a complete understanding of Catholic teaching on labor unions, see Chapter 6 of the *Compendium*, "On Human Work" pp. 115-140. See also Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice's Foundational Statement and "Union Busting is a Mortal Sin," found on our website at <http://www.cswj.us>.]

"In the progressive tradition of the founding Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, we welcome women and men from all religious and cultural backgrounds. In addition to developing their intellectual capacities, students have the opportunity to develop their creative and spiritual gifts in a diverse learning community that fosters integrity, interdependence, and mutual respect."

The College of Saint Rose Mission Statement

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