

Holy Cross High School Statement of Solidarity

We are honored to serve here today to show that Holy Cross High School stands with the Little Sisters of the Poor. As students at a Catholic school, we have been taught much about our Faith. But through our service today, we demonstrate that we do not want to just learn the Catholic Faith — we want to live it.

A mandate under the Affordable Care Act requires that all employers provide coverage in their employee health plans for abortion-inducing and contraceptive drugs. The narrow exemption the mandate offers to those opposed to it for religious reasons nonetheless stipulates that employers facilitate the provision of this coverage by authorizing insurance providers to pay for the services. It is important to note that the First Freedom guaranteed by our Constitution is the right of religious liberty. This includes a right to provide and receive health care without being required to violate one's most fundamental beliefs. Yet this mandate is a direct violation of the fundamental beliefs of the Little Sisters and indeed of the Catholic Church, and thus by no means does it preserve religious liberty.

A powerful verse from 1 Timothy offers much wisdom, stating "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." This message is one that we at Holy Cross are striving to harness, for although some of us serving here today are not even old enough to vote, we are aware of the issues facing our country and our Church. Moreover, we seek to become actively involved by defending our beliefs and showing our support for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Thank you.