



MEDIA RELEASE

SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

13105 Watertown Plank Road

Elm Grove, WI 53122-2291

Mary Conarchy, Director of Communications

Phone: 262-787-1032 • Email: mconarchy@ssnd-milw.org

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For more information contact:

Tim Dewane, Director of Shalom Global Peace and Justice

tdewane@ssnd-milw.org • 262-7871023

Catholic Sisters Oppose Death Penalty

Thirteen congregations of Catholic Sisters across the state are speaking with one voice about the possibility that the death penalty will be reinstated in Wisconsin. "While our congregations are diverse and represent many different viewpoints, this is one issue we agree on," said Sister Joann Sambs, CSA, of Fond du Lac.

"We stand with all victims of crime and the families and loved ones of those victims. It is clear that any individual who is victimized by crime has the right to seek justice," said Sister Sharon Simon, OP, of Racine. "But we believe that using violence to end violence only perpetuates the cycle and erases the opportunity to create a space for healing and transformation for those who have suffered."

Jointly the 13 congregations have created an ad that reads: "As Catholic Sisters rooted in the Christian ethic of life, we believe that the death penalty is unjust. We believe that to achieve justice we must respect life and end the cycle of violence."

The ad will run in early November in Catholic diocesan papers throughout the state. It will also run in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the *Wisconsin State Journal*. "Our goal is to make our position known throughout the state," said Sister Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, of La Crosse. "We hope that by our speaking out together, the public will take notice and give careful thought to this important issue."

The 13 congregations are located throughout Wisconsin, and as a group represent 3,583 Catholic Sisters. The congregations are: Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa; Holy Cross Sisters, Merrill; Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, La Crosse; Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac; Dominican Sisters, Racine; Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross, Green Bay; Servants of Mary, Ladysmith; Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis, Stevens Point; and from the Milwaukee area the School Sisters of St. Francis, Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida, Sisters of the Divine Savior, Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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