



STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

For Faculty At

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY

April 4, 2016

Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice stands in solidarity with the faculty of Saint Martin's University 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 Saint Martin's University to support their faculty 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 students, administration, staff, and alumni/ae of Saint Martin's to stand in solidarity with the faculty of Saint Martin's as they pursue this noble cause.

Support for labor unions enjoys a long history in the Catholic Church. Following the 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." 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>.]

BUILDING A JUST WORLD "As a Benedictine university, our tradition is to value each member of the community for his or her uniqueness and the gifts they bring to the whole. We carry this value through in activities that further social, racial and economic justice and equality in society."

Saint Martin's University website
