

**Media Statement: Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Initiative, Saint Mary's campus  
November 19, 2020**

**Statement from Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC  
President, Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross**

In an effort to sustain and foster a healthy and productive environment for work, ministry, life and study, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., in partnership with Saint Mary's College, implemented a campus-wide Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Policy on November 19, 2020. The date coincides with the American Cancer Society's annual smoking cessation event, the Great American Smokeout.

The policy prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices or hookahs, on Sisters of the Holy Cross convent property and the college's campus.

"This initiative reflects the Congregation's mission and our commitment to 'witness God's love for all creation,'" said Sister M. Veronique (Wiedower), CSC, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. "Tobacco use negatively affects the entire community, including the environment. This policy is just one more way that we can advocate for and support the holistic health and well-being of all those on the Saint Mary's campus and this planet that is our home."

When the new policy was announced May 29, 2020, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Inc., distributed to employees and sisters its Smoke-Free & Tobacco-Free Policy, a list of frequently asked questions relating to the policy, and information about smoking-cessation and related programs.

"We anticipate the good things that will come from this effort and pledge our prayer and support for all whose health and well-being are impacted," noted Sister Veronique. "Together we can foster and create a healthy campus community."

The Saint Mary's campus is shared by the Congregation, whose motherhouse is on the property, and Saint Mary's College, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

***About the Sisters of the Holy Cross***

*Founded in 1841 in Le Mans, France, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross is an international and intercultural community of women religious whose motherhouse is in Notre Dame, Indiana. The Congregation serves in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, India, Mexico, Peru, Uganda and the United States. Sisters of the Holy Cross are called to be witnesses of God's transforming love for the life of the world. Their ministries focus on providing education and health care services, eradicating material poverty and promoting justice and inclusion. In this work, they give witness to God's desire for the transformation of human hearts, human relationships and all creation. To learn more about the Sisters of the Holy Cross, visit [www.cscsisters.org](http://www.cscsisters.org).*

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