

## **Media Statement – Sisters of the Holy Cross**

**April 14, 2020**

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

In these uncertain and trying times of the coronavirus pandemic, the Sisters of the Holy Cross join people around the world and in our community here in South Bend in doing all we can to keep our loved ones healthy and limit the spread of the virus. Our team of dedicated and hardworking employees and sisters at our motherhouse at Saint Mary's are working closely with our outstanding clinical staff to follow protocols for COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indiana State Department of Health and the St. Joseph County Department of Health.

Even with our due diligence, four sisters residing at the motherhouse and three employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Our sisters are receiving excellent care from our clinical staff. Our employees have been directed to follow up with their health care professionals.

Further testing of sisters and employees is the next important step. We requested the state and local health departments' strike teams to provide on-site testing for COVID-19. The St. Joseph County Department of Health began testing all sisters in Saint Mary's Convent on April 14. All employees are being tested this week at several local medical office locations. Our clinical staff and risk management team continue to monitor the situation.

We are people of faith, hope and compassion. These days of pandemic have stretched the resolve and resilience of all peoples around the world, including our sisters and staff, at work and at home. Situations like this require the stamina and resilience of a marathon or long-distance runner. I am confident that the commitment to care, the generous response to requests for medical supplies and personnel, and the loving prayer support of sisters, employees, friends and health care professionals will help us run this race and reach the finish line together as a steadfast and loving community.

**Questions** may be directed to Amy Smessaert, Communications director, Sisters of the Holy Cross, at 574-284-5728, or [amys@cscsisters.org](mailto:amys@cscsisters.org).