

Media Statement – Sisters of the Holy Cross

April 22, 2020

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

The Sisters of the Holy Cross and the staff at the motherhouse at Saint Mary's are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of so many people as we continue to do all we can to keep our sisters and employees healthy and limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Last week sisters and staff were able to participate on a wider scale in testing for the virus. The results are as follows:

- The St. Joseph County Department of Health tested approximately 90 sisters in Saint Mary's and Rosary convents for COVID-19. Two additional sisters tested positive, bringing the total number of sisters diagnosed with COVID-19 to six. The sisters are being well cared for by our dedicated, compassionate staff in accordance with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH).
- Our staff underwent voluntary COVID-19 testing at several local medical office locations. Six additional employees tested positive, bringing the total number of staff diagnosed with COVID-19 to nine. These staff are following up with their health care providers for treatment. Human Resources staff members are working with employees about return to work dates based on CDC guidelines.

It is hard to hear this news about our sisters and employees who are sick with the coronavirus, and we pray for their swift recovery. Please continue to hold all of them in prayer.

We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers, messages of encouragement, and donations of medical supplies from so many, including the Family of Holy Cross, the Congregation's ministries, Holy Cross Associates, friends and benefactors, and local businesses and organizations. We are blessed!

We hold close in our hearts all those suffering in our community, country and world; those touched by the pandemic and those whose lives are circumscribed by war, poverty and injustice of any kind. We are women of hope, and we promise to continue our mission of bringing God's transforming love and compassion to all whose lives we touch.

Questions may be directed to Amy Smessaert, Communications director, Sisters of the Holy Cross, at 574-284-5728, or amys@cscsisters.org.