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Contact: Debra Mitchell
Director of Communications
410.377.7774, ext. 1164
dmitchell@amssnd.org

Sisters Voice Public Stance on Immigration Reform

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FROM ATLANTIC-MIDWEST PROVINCE, SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

(Baltimore—December 11, 2014) School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) Atlantic-Midwest Province approved a corporate stance on comprehensive immigration reform legislation for the United States on December 8, 2014, during the Provincial Assembly of the Atlantic-Midwest Province held in Wilton, Conn.

“As the Atlantic-Midwest Province we have overwhelmingly voted a corporate commitment to comprehensive immigration reform for the United States,” states Provincial Kathleen Cornell, SSND.

“While the recent executive action of President Obama will provide temporary relief to millions of immigrants living in the United States, the sisters will continue to urge Congress to pass bipartisan immigration legislation that is more comprehensive in its approach to U.S. immigration, will reflect the values of human rights and dignity, and will recognize the significant contributions of immigrants to the United States,” she continued.

The corporate stance states:

- Pathways to citizenship for undocumented persons living in the United States
- Family reunification as a priority in immigration policy
- Opportunities and protections for low-skilled immigrant workers in the United States
- Due process protections within our immigration enforcement policies
- Addressing the root causes of migration such as global, economic, environmental and social injustices
- Effective and human border security that recognizes the human rights of all people.

The history of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the United States and Canada is inextricably connected to the immigrant experience. Sister Caroline Friess, SSND, an immigrant from Bavaria, and the sisters who subsequently joined in her mission, contributed to the development of the United States

by building and staffing schools. Caroline opened over 200 schools for settlers and pioneers, boys and girls mainly of immigrant families. Like these sisters, we believe that immigrants are vital contributors to U.S. and Canadian society and are entitled to the opportunity to develop their lives and contribute to their nation as they are able.

School Sisters of Notre Dame is a worldwide religious institute of Roman Catholic sisters devoted to primary, secondary and post-secondary education. SSNDs uphold their congregation's founding vision that education has the power to transform the world. They educate in a variety of ways, serving as teachers, administrators, lawyers, accountants, nurses, therapists, social workers, pastoral ministers, social justice advocates and much more. The sisters of the Atlantic-Midwest Province minister in more than 30 Dioceses across the United States and in countries around the world. For more information, visit www.amssnd.org, www.ssnd.org , www.gerhardinger.org.

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Corporate Stance on Immigration

We, the members of the Atlantic Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, compelled by the Directional Statement of our 23rd General Chapter, which commits us to “intensify our efforts to witness to unity in a divided world while addressing these divisions with audacity and hope,” support a comprehensive immigration reform for the United States. It includes:

Pathways to citizenship for undocumented persons in the United States

Family reunification as a priority in immigration policy

Opportunities and protections for low-skilled immigrants to come and work in the United States

Due process protections within our immigration enforcement policies

Addressing the root causes of migration such as global, economic, environmental and social injustices

Effective and humane border security that recognizes the human rights of all people.

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