



CATHOLIC SCHOLARS FOR WORKER JUSTICE
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Justice for Adjuncts

We speak as scholars who recognize that labor unions in the Catholic tradition exert a “positive influence for social order and solidarity and are therefore an *indispensable element of social life*.”¹ We recall the encouraging statement the U.S. Catholic bishops made in 1986: “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.”² We are inspired by the challenging statement of the U.S. Catholic bishops in 2005:

“A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.”³

We are keenly aware that there is a division between full-time and adjunct faculty on campuses throughout the United States, including campuses at Catholic affiliated colleges and universities. Adjunct professors are the poor and vulnerable among us and we must do all in our power to see that they are treated with respect and justice and included in the daily life of their institutions.

We praise three Catholic colleges and universities that have chosen not to invoke any legal impediments to the organizing efforts of their adjuncts: Le Moyne College, St. Francis College (Brooklyn), and Georgetown University.”⁴ May these schools serve as a beacon of hope to adjuncts everywhere!

We call upon the Trustees at Manhattan College, Duquesne University, Saint Xavier University, and Seattle University to return to their Catholic tradition and to recognize the unions their adjunct faculty members have chosen for collective bargaining purposes. We call upon Manhattan, Duquesne, and Saint Xavier to immediately remove all legal impediments to the organizing drives and to allow their adjunct professors freedom of association that is rooted in the natural moral law. It is time for Manhattan, Duquesne, and Saint Xavier to stand for justice!

Jan. 1, 2014

¹ *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, paragraph 34. Emphasis in original.

² *Economic Justice for All*, paragraph 104. Emphasis in original.

³ *Seven Themes of Catholic Teaching*.

⁴ Le Moyne and St. Francis are under contract; Georgetown is in negotiations. For a discussion of these organizing efforts see, Joseph J. Fahey “Adjunct Unions at Catholic Affiliated Colleges and Universities: A Background Paper” at CSWJ’s website: cswj.us.

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⁵ Institutions for Identification Purposes only.

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