



Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist

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**RESPONSE TO HHS MANDATE
AND SUBSEQUENT ACCOMMODATION**

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist in Independence, Missouri, join with the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, our sister communities and all concerned Americans, Catholic and otherwise, who stand in firm agreement with the United States Council of Catholic Bishops in protesting the January Department of Health and Human Services mandate and the ensuing February “accommodation” announced by President Barack Obama.

These rulings stand in grave violation of our most precious first amendment guarantees of religious liberty and freedom of conscience. In addition, they impede our ability to provide human services to the ill, the poor, the needy and the neglected members of society.

We call for these rulings to be rescinded and for a broadening of a religious exemption. As loyal citizens and defenders of the U.S. Constitution we pledge our prayers, our continued involvement in the pursuit of fairness for all Americans and our untiring efforts to promote truth and justice for all.

March 18, 2012