

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2012

**Statement by Seattle Archbishop J. Peter Sartain
Regarding the scheduled Aug. 12 march in support of religious women**

(Seattle) The Holy See and the Bishops of the United States are deeply proud of the historic and continuing contribution of women religious to our country through social, pastoral and spiritual ministries; Catholic health care; Catholic education; and many other areas where they reach out to those on the margins of society.

Religious women have made a lasting contribution to the wellbeing of our country and continue to do so today. For that they deserve our respect, our support, our thanks and our prayers.

I remain committed to working with leaders of the LCWR to address the issues raised by the Doctrinal Assessment in an atmosphere of prayer and respectful dialogue. I look forward to our meeting and our future discussions as we continue to collaborate in promoting consecrated life in the United States.

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