

# Catholic Witness Statement

## WITNESS STATEMENT FOR THOSE WHO SERVE IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION

The mission of the Church is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every institution of the Church exists for this reason. The General Directory for Catechesis explains “Indeed the primordial mission of the Church is to proclaim God and to be His witness before the world” (General Directory for Catechesis, #23). All employees of the Diocese of Providence share in this mission.

Employees of the Diocese of Providence are commissioned to live and proclaim the Gospel in every time and place. While employees are asked to serve in a variety of roles, each employee’s duties and responsibilities are principally evangelical religious. That is, by word and deed, each employee is involved in spreading the Catholic faith and other key works of the Church. Every employee is vital to the spiritual and pastoral mission of the Church. In both personal and professional life, an employee must exemplify the moral teachings of the Catholic Church. The employee must not advocate or in any way encourage belief or behavior contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church as it exists in the public forum.

All persons employed by the Diocese of Providence are to be considered ministers of the Church and are thus called to be witnesses to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church. Therefore, all who serve the Diocese should possess a basic knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

The truths of Catholic faith are outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Particular attention should be paid to the moral teaching of the Church including her social doctrine. The following principles guide the personal and professional lives of our employees:

- **Life and Dignity of the Human Person:** Every human life is sacred. Every person, at every stage, in every place has a dignity that should be respected.
- **Sanctity of Marriage and Family:** The union of a man and woman bonded together for life is a sacred institution. The Church supports families as the basic building block of society.
- **Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable:** The moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The Church seeks an economy that supports families and looks after the poor.
- **Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers:** If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected especially to safe working conditions and a just wage.
- **Solidarity:** Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that “loving our neighbor” has global dimensions in this interdependent world in which we live.
- **Care for God’s Creation:** Care for God’s creation is a requirement of Catholic faith. We are called to ensure sufficient care for our common home.

Only those persons who can support this Catholic Witness Statement may be employed by the Diocese of Providence. All individuals employed by the Diocese of Providence should be made aware that support of this Catholic Witness Statement must be reflected in your public behavior. Employees should demonstrate a public life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Your signature hereinafter indicates that you support the Catholic Witness Statement and its implications, and indicates an agreement not to behave in any manner which may hinder the religious purposes of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence.

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Signature

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Date