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Statement Regarding Holy Cross Children's Services

SAGINAW — It was recently brought to the attention of the Most Reverend Joseph R. Cistone, Bishop of Saginaw, that a marked vehicle bearing the name of Holy Cross Children's Services, a Catholic institution, was seen arriving at the Saginaw-based abortion clinic on Cabaret Trail.

Pro-life advocates, praying near the entrance of the parking lot on the day the Holy Cross vehicle arrived, watched as a female driver, accompanied by a young woman, entered the clinic. The pro-life group remained at the clinic until the driver and young woman left several hours later.

Holy Cross Children's Services operates throughout the State of Michigan. While the organization leases property owned by the Diocese of Saginaw, the diocese has no involvement in its day-to-day operations.

Bishop Cistone's Office contacted Holy Cross Children's Services to determine if the allegation that a representative of the organization drove a young woman in its care to the abortion clinic was, indeed, true.

Holy Cross released the following statement: "It has been reported on social media that a vehicle belonging to Holy Cross Children's Services was parked near the Women's Center in Saginaw. Holy Cross Children's Services has a legal obligation to assure the privacy and confidentiality of all clients and their families; and that confidentiality is protected by Federal and State Laws. In addition, as a citizen of the State of Michigan a Holy Cross coworker felt obligated to follow a court order and be in compliance [sic] with Federal laws regarding the care of minors therefore she felt she did not have to consult with leadership at Holy Cross to implement this court order. As a Catholic agency, we strongly support the sanctity of life and are opposed to the termination of life under any circumstance."

Bishop Cistone spoke with Brother Francis Boylan, CSC, Executive Director of Holy Cross Children's Services and indicated that the organization needed to provide a full explanation of the incident.

"While I understand Holy Cross' legal obligations as noted in its statement, as a Catholic institution, their first and foremost obligation is to abide by the moral principles of our faith, without compromise." Bishop Cistone said. "Holy Cross Children's Services has not shared with me all the details, but it is unconscionable to think that a Catholic organization might help facilitate such an injustice. A very faithful group of concerned people, of various faiths, brave the

cold and heat throughout the year outside that abortion clinic to demonstrate their commitment to the sanctity of life. I, myself, have prayed with them at that same clinic on several occasions, always with the intention that our presence and our prayers will change hearts. I share their deep distress as to Holy Cross' possible purpose at the clinic." Bishop Cistone went on to say, "Two weeks ago, I joined hundreds of our young people as we travelled by bus to Washington D.C., in bitter cold temperatures, to participate in the annual March for Life, protesting the legalization of abortion.

"In speaking with Brother Francis, he informed me that all policies and practices will be reviewed to make sure that all teachings of the Catholic Church are properly implemented in all Holy Cross Children's Services programs. I appreciate this commitment; but, with all due respect, I believe a fuller accounting is in order."