

*Corporate Stance*  
*Sisters of Divine Providence ~Marie de la Roche Province*  
*August 1, 2010*

The Province has successfully voted to take a Corporate Stance against

**Human Trafficking**

The Sisters of Divine Providence have a corporate commitment to promote a consistent ethic of life. One life issue is Human Trafficking, sometimes referred to as modern day slavery. The Sisters arrived at making a corporate stance on Human Trafficking, affirmed by the associates, through a process approved by the community in November 2008. Following the guidelines as stated in the *Corporate Stance Policy*, the Justice for Life Committee proceeded to educate the Sisters and Associates on this issue and worked to build a consensus on the issue. The process was as follows:

- The 2009 fall Circle meeting materials were devoted specifically to the topic providing background reading, questions for discussion, a prayer service, ideas for further self-education, and ways to help others learn of the issue. For feedback the Circles were asked the question: Should the Community go forward toward a possible corporate stance on the human trafficking issue? The overwhelming majority of the answers were yes.
- In the four months following, all sisters and associates received six communications via email (hard copies for those without email) from the Justice for Life Committee concerning this issue. These communications contained statistics about the problem, articles for further reading, web sites where even more information could be found on the issue, etc.
- The Justice for Life Committee then conducted two conference calls where any sister or associate could call in with any questions, comments, or clarifications they needed.
- Following this a referendum survey monkey (ballot) was sent out with one question - Do you want the Sisters of Divine Providence to take a corporate stance against human trafficking? [Associates received a separate ballot – an affirmation or non-affirmation of the proposed stance.] The results were as follows:
  1. 55% returned the survey (The policy states at least 50% must be returned to be valid.)
  2. 99% of the Sisters said yes. (The policy says at least 65% of those returned must support the stance in order to have a valid vote.)
  3. 100% of the Associates responding affirmed the community to take this stance.

According to the policy, communication is the next step. The Leadership Team and the Office for Mission Advancement will be responsible to make this stance known to various publics.

Some of our next steps as a Community are:

- To continue to educate ourselves on the issue.
- To receive periodic communications from the Social Concerns Office and the Justice for Life Committee for you to act in whatever way you can. This communication will address this issue by informing you of pending legislation, providing prayer services, perhaps suggesting a day of fast, provide you with talking points to spread the word, etc.
- To be in collaboration with other communities working on this issue, such as LCWR, Network, Stop Trafficking, comprised of over 50 religious communities, etc.