



Sister Laura Reicks, RSM, President
Sisters of Mercy, West-Midwest Region
7262 Mercy Road
Omaha, NE 68124

May 16, 2016

Dear Sister Laura and Members of the Board of Directors,

As a faithful, practicing Catholic committed to the full equality and dignity of all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, I am writing to thank and commend you for your decision to continue to support a member of your faculty who is a transgender man.

I believe this decision is entirely consistent with the values of love, justice, and inclusion that are foundational to our faith. I appreciate your “resolve to support the dignity of each person—regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity” as expressed in your letter to the Mercy High School community. I applaud your sensitivity in making counselors and School administrators available to parents and other community members who need help in understanding this decision. I truly believe the approach you have taken models the highest of Catholic standards for your students.

Thank you for your willingness to do what is right, rather than what may be expected. I hope for many blessings on your ministry.

Sincerely,

CC: Archbishop Cordileone