



*Promoting Catholic Social Teaching on the Indispensable Role of Unions for Every Profession*

August 28, 2012

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

To the Editor

The Trustees of Duquesne University should read, and put into action, the 2012 Labor Day Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding the adjunct union at Duquesne.

Bishop Stephen E. Blaire, speaking for the bishops, states: “At their best, unions demonstrate solidarity by bringing workers together to speak and act collectively to protect their rights and pursue the common good. Unions are a sign of subsidiarity by forming associations of workers to have a voice, articulate their needs, and bargain and negotiate with the large economic institutions and structures of government.”

Further, Blaire states: “Indeed, economic renewal that places working people and their families at the center of economic life cannot take place without effective unions.”

The Trustees of Duquesne University should exercise their religious and civic freedom by removing any moral or legal obstacles that threaten the natural right of adjunct professors to join in fellowship to bargain collectively.

Faithful to Catholic Social Teaching, Duquesne and all Catholic institutions should follow the lead of every Pope since Leo XIII (1891) and “encourage” their workers to form unions.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH J. FAHEY, Ph.D.  
Professor of Religious Studies  
Manhattan College  
Chair, Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice

THE LABOR GUILD, 85 COMMERCIAL STREET, WEYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02118 USA  
Phone +1 (781) 340.7887 Fax +1 (781) 340.5885 Email: [info@catholicscholarsforworkerjustice.org](mailto:info@catholicscholarsforworkerjustice.org)  
Website: [www.catholicscholarsforworkerjustice.org](http://www.catholicscholarsforworkerjustice.org)