

## Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative



### PRESS RELEASE

#### MAFTTI WELCOMES SCHOOL SISTERS' PLEDGE

The Good Counsel Campus of the School Sisters of Notre Dame has announced the community's formal commitment to Fair Trade.

MAFTTI heartily welcomes the Sisters' commitment at this time, not least because October is Fair Trade Month in the USA. This year its focus is on encouraging community leaders and organizations to use and serve Fair Trade products under the slogan "Share the Fair".

The SSND Declaration of Commitment to Fair Trade states that "this choice is consistent with our belief in the dignity of all persons" and is an expression of the social teaching of the Catholic Church. The Statement includes quotations from Popes Francis and Benedict on the purpose of economic activity, human dignity and the social responsibility of both producers and consumers.

The School Sisters "commit to continue to educate ourselves, colleagues, employees and others regarding Fair Trade" and "will use, and continue to add, Fair Trade products in our food service and for meetings held on our campus."

In response, MAFTTI Chairman Paul Renshaw said,

"The Good Counsel community is known for taking clear stands in the light of the Gospel on important matters of the day. International trade is one such issue. In making this declaration for Fair Trade the Sisters reflect their "internationality" which, in their own words, "sharpen our consciousness of universal needs and calls us to foster within ourselves and others a responsible concern for the people of the world."

He added, "MAFTTI looks forward to working further with the School Sisters at Good Counsel with the aim of fostering similar commitments to Fair Trade, both in the wider SSND network and local Catholic churches."

For more information contact

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