



*Archdiocese of Saint Paul
and Minneapolis*

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP
MOST REVEREND JOHN C. NIENSTEDT

April 8, 2013

Grants Administrator
Our Sunday Visitor Institute
200 Noll Plaza
Huntington, IN 46750

Dear Grants Administrator,

I write in support of the grant application of the Siena Symposium for Women, Family, and Culture at the University of St. Thomas to Our Sunday Visitor Institute. I am well familiar with the activities of the Siena Symposium. Last year during the Fortnight for Freedom, in conjunction with the Minnesota Catholic Conference, Siena hosted a remarkably successful panel discussion by three women professors regarding the adverse impact of the HHS Contraceptive Coverage Mandate on religious liberty. Over 150 Catholics attended. The Symposium has also enriched the life of the Archdiocese by hosting well-attended public presentations by such notable Catholic women as Sr. Prudence Allen, R.S.M., and most recently Professor Helen Alvaré.

The conference proposed by the Siena Symposium will provide important scholarship on the true nature of complementarity and its value in building a civilization of love. There is a clear need for such an initiative in light of the current cultural debate on the nature of human sexuality and gender.

I strongly endorse the "Women as Prophets Leading through Truth: 25 Years of *Mulieris Dignitate*," conference of the Siena Symposium at the University of St. Thomas.

Cordially yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

/dkt