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INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OF LAY VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION

4121 HAREWOOD RD NE
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U.S. CATHOLIC NETWORK OF LAY MISSION PROGRAMS

MOST REV. JOSEPH A. FRANCIS, S.V.D., D.D.
EPISCOPAL ADVISOR

REV. BERNARD M. TRACEY, C.M.
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

SR. ELLEN CAVANAUGH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 8, 1993

Ms. Catherine Milton, Executive Director
Commission on National and Community Service
529 14th Street, N.W., Suite 452
Washington, D.C. 20045

Dear Ms. Milton:

I am writing on behalf of the 157 volunteer service programs which comprise the membership of the International Liaison of Lay Volunteers in Mission to request a written statement regarding the status of programs affiliated with religious organizations under the National and Community Service Act and the emerging National Service Program.

All of the ILLVIM programs satisfy the Church-State separation standards under the National and Community Service Act because their volunteers do not "as part of [their] duties,...give religious instruction, conduct worship services, engage in religious proselytizing, or engage in fundraising to support religious activities." The task of these volunteers is to minister with and to the poor and marginalized in their communities. If you have any doubts whatever about this fact, we request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the issue. The Church-State standard cited above is taken from the regulations implementing the 1980 Higher Education Act which grants a deferment on repayment of student loans to participants in our programs.

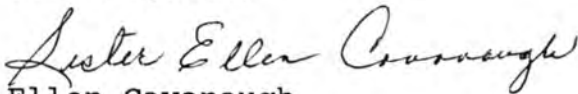
I need a formal statement because I spoke with the staff of the Claretian Volunteers and Lay Missioners last week who, with their Summer program, are serving the poor in the Mexican-American neighborhoods on the South side of Chicago, as well as the Hispanic populations in Northern New Jersey. They had planned to apply to be a part of the Summer of Service Opportunity but when they called the Commission a staff person explained to them that no program affiliated with a church could even be considered for the project and that they "need not apply." Needless to say, this news was very disappointing to all of us at ILLVIM who have come to understand that, under the explicit terms of the National and Community Service Act, religiously-affiliated programs are eligible to apply. We are concerned that the President's National Service

Program will not contain an explicit provision ensuring that church-sponsored programs are covered, or that an explicit provision will be ignored in practice.

We are forwarding a copy of this letter to Bill Galston, Shirley Sagawa, Gloria Johnson and Jack Lew to alert them to the issue. It would be tragic if the President's National Service Program discriminates against church-sponsored programs. I would appreciate hearing from you on this issue as soon as possible, so that I may communicate your message to our member programs and hopefully clear up a great deal of the concern and confusion that has been caused by this misinformation from your staff.

I thank you for your attention to this matter, and for all that you and your office do for national and community service.

Best regards,



Ellen Cavanaugh
Executive Director

cc.

Eli Segal, Director, Office of National Service
Bill Galston, Deputy Assistant to the President for
Domestic Policy

Gloria Johnson, Director of Public Liaison, Office of
National Service

Jack Lew, General Counsel, Office of National Service
Shirley Sagawa, Special Assistant to the President for
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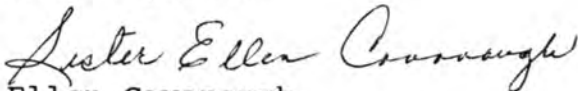
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