



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2017

Media Contact:

Gabe Jones

314.792.7557

gabejones@archstl.org

ARCHBISHOP CARLSON ANNOUNCES HISTORIC SETTLEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ST. LOUIS – In a letter released Monday, October 23, Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, announced that the Archdiocese of St. Louis and Catholic Charities of St. Louis, along with more than 70 other religious organizations had entered into an historic settlement with the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury of the United States Government. In a series of lawsuits, the religious organizations challenged Department of Health and Human Services regulations that would have required these entities to provide employee health plans that included contraceptives, abortifacients, and sterilization procedures, in violation of their religious beliefs.

The historic settlement in effect grants a permanent injunction prohibiting these regulations or any similar future regulations from being enforced against the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Catholic Charities, and the other religious organizations.

“This historic settlement brings to an end many years of litigation, tension, and uncertainty for Catholic institutions,” Archbishop Carlson wrote in the letter. “We have finally prevailed in this unwelcomed fight for religious liberty – a fight which was not of our making.” The entire letter is available at archstl.org/liberty.

#CatholicSTL