



## Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Hobby Lobby Suit

The U.S. Supreme Court today favorably ruled in favor of the right of Hobby Lobby Stores and Conestoga Wood Specialties to apply their religious principles in the conduct of their business and to uphold an important fundamental right on which this country was founded: The right to religious freedom.

While Monday's decision applied only to the rights of closely-held corporations and their right to religious liberty in the context of contraceptives and related services, the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth is hopeful that future court decisions will enable Catholic organizations such as schools and charities to prevail in their objection to a "so-called accommodation." The federal government's accommodations purportedly remove the requirement to provide contraceptives and related services through a religious organization's health plan by assigning the responsibility to its insurance company or some other party.

Fort Worth Bishop Michael F. Olson saluted the Supreme Court decision.

Bishop Olson states, "Today's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court upholds religious liberty as a basic right that is not abdicated when people operate a family business. While the influence of today's decision upon the current standing of the litigation involving Catholic Charities of Fort Worth and the Diocese of Fort Worth is yet to be determined, I join Catholics and men and women of all faiths in applauding the decision as a step in the right direction for the religious liberty of all people."

"Let us work ever harder to promote a society that respects both the basic human right of religious liberty as well as the right to basic healthcare for the sake of human dignity."