Unfortunately, a recent mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would force the Little Sisters to arrange for coverage of abortion-inducing drugs, contraceptives, and sterilization in their employee health plans. If the Little Sisters do not arrange for coverage of these “services,” then they face massive fines from the federal government, totaling approximately $70 million per year.

The Little Sisters were forced to sue the federal government in order to stave off these potentially crushing fines on their ministry. Their case has recently been heard before the U.S. Supreme Court, which will decide whether to vindicate the Little Sisters’ rights to free exercise of religion under federal law. The Little Sisters have argued that religious freedom exists not only for houses of worship but also for those who serve others, such as in ministry to the poor, which is part and parcel of the Catholic faith.

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The Little Sisters have dedicated their lives to following Christ in service to the world. We pray that the Court will uphold their freedom to serve and that our government will respect the freedom of all people of faith to contribute to the common good.

Let us pray for the Little Sisters of the Poor!