



**Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Immaculate Heart of
Mary, teach us
mercy & compassion.**

OSCAR ROMERO CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE

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**Press Release – For Immediate Use May 23, 2018
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Statement on the Medical Marijuana Vote in Oklahoma

by Bob Waldrop, founder, Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House

I am endorsing a “yes” vote on State Question 788, the “Medical Marijuana” proposal.

This proposal provides a rational approach to the medical use of marijuana. Contrary to the false claims of its detractors, this proposal does not legalize recreational marijuana use. It provides a rational regulatory framework for the prescription of medical cannabis by licensed physicians. Twenty-nine states have already legalized medical marijuana and the evidence is that the system is working well.

As a Catholic Christian, my endorsement is an application of the social teachings of the Catholic Church to this real world situation. The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us to compassion and mercy for those who are sick. Generally, Oklahoma is not known as a place where mercy and compassion are common values in our legal system. A “yes” vote for State Question 788 is a vote against the cruelty, irrationality, and social darwinism so popular with our legislators, and a vote for compassion, mercy, and rationality.

The Oscar Romero Catholic Worker House delivers food every month to hundreds of Oklahoma City households who are in need of food assistance and who do not have transportation. We have been doing this for 19 years. This endorsement therefore is also the fruit of my long experience with poverty in Oklahoma and its consequences for those who are ill and who do not have insurance.

(End)