



OFFICE of the BISHOP

January 15, 2016

**Nomination of Catherine Swoboda
For
Forty Under 40 Recognition**

It is my great pleasure to write in support of the Nomination of Catherine Swoboda for the Forty Under 40 Recognition as submitted by Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn (ret.) President of the World Food Prize.

I have known Catherine since coming to Des Moines in the role of Catholic Bishop some seven and one-half years ago. During this time, I have been highly impressed by her leadership skills, her initiative and her significant accomplishments.

In particular, my strong support of the award derives from witnessing her dedicated volunteer service through the Church and immigrant community in Des Moines, including writing a regular column in the *Catholic Mirror*, the diocesan monthly. In her teaching role with refugees, she takes a personal interest in the individual serving as a tutor and offering extended support which enables the development of significant potential. Especially noteworthy is her work to alleviate hunger and poverty both locally and globally through her leadership at the World Food Prize, which included her efforts to bring Cardinal A.K. Peter Turkson to speak with the Borlaug Dialogue and interact with the community.

Most importantly, as a young woman of faith, she had the inspiration to personally write to Pope Francis inviting His Holiness to come to Iowa to give a global call to end world hunger. Her initiative led to letters of support by Governor Terry Branstad, Ambassador Kenneth Quinn and myself.

In the early years of her career Catherine was rendered great leadership and service to the Des Moines community, giving well founded promise of future distinction in civic life.

Sincerely yours,

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The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines