

March 29, 2016

Signatories

**Catholics in Alliance for the
Common Good**

**Conference of Major Superiors of
Men**

Franciscan Action Network

**Leadership Conference of
Women Religious**

**Maryknoll Office for Global
Concerns**

National Council of Churches

**NETWORK, A National Catholic
Social Justice Lobby**

Pax Christi USA

**River Road Unitarian Universalist
Congregation**

**Sisters of Mercy of the Americas,
Institute Justice Team**

**Unitarian Universalist
Association**

Dear Senator McConnell and Senator Grassley,

The faith based organizations listed below call on the senate to do your job as mandated by the Constitution, and move quickly to conduct hearings and consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland.

The Constitution clearly assigns the president and the senate critical roles in the process of appointing new Supreme Court Justices. It states that the president "shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint...Judges of the Supreme Court." The Constitution is clear the shared responsibility in the process. As people of faith, we urge you to respect and honor this process.

We understand and support an open democracy where all people's rights are considered and we urge the Senators to do not just their legal responsibility, but their ethical responsibility to protect our democracy.

As representatives of many faith traditions, we hope and pray that you will execute your duties by holding a fair and impartial hearing for Judge Garland in accordance with the Constitution and rules of the senate, and take action according to your own morals and values.

In shared hope for our democracy,

National faith-based organizations