

# Teamsters Local 727

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## **CHICAGOLAND RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL ON DIGNITY MEMORIAL TO RESUME GOOD FAITH NEGOTIATIONS**

**Chicago Fire Department Chaplain Thomas Mulcrone and Area Clergy Ask  
Houston-based Funeral Giant to Negotiate with Local Funeral Directors**

(Chicago, IL) – Rev. Thomas Mulcrone, Chaplain of the Chicago Fire Department, Metropolitan Iakovos and Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and Bishop Timothy Lyne and Rev. John Boivin of Chicago’s Holy Name Cathedral have joined 46 other area clergy to call upon Service Corporation International (NYSE: SCI) to resume negotiations with striking funeral directors and drivers.

“The religious community across the Chicagoland area is calling on SCI now to negotiate a fair contract with its funeral directors and drivers,” their appeal stated. “Do not tear apart the fabric of our neighborhoods and the pride of Chicago’s funeral homes by continuing to engage in anti-worker, anti-labor practices. On behalf of parishioners across Chicago and northern Illinois, the religious community urges SCI to treat its employees with the same level of integrity that SCI expects workers to demonstrate to grieving families.”

These 51 members of the clergy joined 40 additional religious leaders who signed a similar appeal by ARISE Chicago on June 28.

SCI, which uses the Dignity Memorial brand name, operates 16 funeral homes with 59 employees in the Chicagoland area. The company forced its workers out on an unfair labor practice strike more than two weeks ago. Strikers have been picketing at Dignity locations since July 2.

“I never imagined that we’d have been pushed to this point, but we’re doing what’s right and what needs to be done. We’re all local neighborhood people, highly experienced and known in our communities. We want to get back to doing what we do best, to take care of

our client families,” said Vincent Giff, a 24-year funeral director at Blake-Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn.

The 51 religious leaders who signed the new appeal included:

**Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos**  
Chancellor, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

**Metropolitan Iakovos**  
Presiding Hierarch, Greek Orthodox Metropolis

**Rev. Thomas Mulcrone**  
Chicago Fire Department

**Bishop Timothy Lyne**  
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, IL

**Rev. John P. Boivin**  
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Wayne Svida**  
Our Lady of the Ridge Church, Chicago Ridge, IL

**Rev. Frank Latzko**  
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Michael J. Furlan**  
St. Germaine Catholic Church, Oak Lawn, IL

**Fr. Thomas R. McCarthy**  
St. Rita of Cascia High School, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Harold Stanger**  
St. Marcelline Church, Schaumburg, IL

**Rev. William T. Corcoran**  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Orland Hills, IL

**Rev. Jonathan B. Krogh**  
Evergreen Park Ministry, Evergreen Park, IL

**Rev. David L. Haley**  
Central United Methodist Church, Skokie, IL

**Rev. Patrick J. O’Neill**  
St. Alexander, Palos Heights, IL

**Fr. Kevin McCray**  
Queen of Martyrs Parish, Evergreen Park, IL

**Fr. Edward Mikolajczyk**  
Queen of Martyrs Parish, Evergreen Park, IL

**Deacon Joel W. Chrastka**  
St. Leonard Parish, Berwyn, IL

**Rev. Monsignor James T. Kaczorowski**  
Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Joseph A. Mulcrone**  
Catholic Office of the Deaf, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Timothy Fiaia**  
St. Domitilla Parish, Hillside, IL

**Rev. Joseph E. Millshi**  
Westchester Community Church, Westchester, IL

**Rev. Martin E. Michniewicz**  
St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church, Palos Hts., IL

**Associate Pastor Joseph Mol**  
St. Jane de Chantal Church, Chicago, IL

**Rev. William A. Eddy**  
St. Hilary Church, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Thomas J. Hurley**  
Old St. Patrick’s Church, Chicago, IL

**Pastor Patrick Cecil**  
St. Mary of the Woods, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Thomas Winikates**  
Divine Infant Church, Westchester, IL

**Rev. Darrio Boscutti**  
St. Cyprian Church, River Grove, IL

**Associate Pastor Judith Watt**  
Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

**Parish Administrator Jose F. Zuleta**  
Transfiguration of Our Lord, Chicago, IL

**Pastor Erik S. Weber**  
St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, Skokie, IL

**Gale Voytas**  
St. Daniel the Prophet, Chicago, IL

**Alice Dusek**  
St. Daniel the Prophet, Chicago, IL

**Deacon Richard Voytas**  
St. Daniel the Prophet, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Lawrence Dowling**  
St. Agatha Parish, Chicago, IL

**Rev. Richard LoBianco**  
Divine Savior Church, Norridge, IL

**Rev. Louis Tylka Jr.**  
Mater Christi Church, North Riverside, IL

**Rev. Frank A. Kurucz**  
St. Cajetan Parish, Chicago, IL

**Kathleen Kidder**  
Wedding and Funeral Coordinator, Fourth  
Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

**Bishop Valentin Lorejo, Jr.**  
Diocese of Eastern United States and Eastern  
Canada, Philippine Independent Church, Chicago, IL

**Father Byron Papanikolaou**  
Protopresbyter Emeritus, Sts. Constantine and Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Hills, IL

**Chaplain Raymond Tillrock**  
Palos Community Hospital, Palos Heights, IL

**Father Greg Rom**  
Pastor, St. Felicitas, Chicago, IL

**Joyce D. Morrison**  
Senior Clerk, St. John Vianney, Northlake, IL

**Ruth Knipper**  
Queen of Martyrs Parish, Evergreen Park, IL

**Sonia Villalpando**  
Our Lady of the Snows, Chicago, IL

**James Griffith**  
St. Christina Catholic School, Chicago, IL

**Eva Bustamante**  
Coordinator, Ministry of Consolation, Chicago, IL

**Father Gene F. Smith**  
Associate Pastor, St. Linus Parish, Oak Lawn, IL

**Rev. Mark Walter**  
St. Linus Parish, Oak Lawn, IL

**Pastor Charles Bolser**  
St. Viator Parish, Chicago, IL

Teamster-represented funeral directors established a website ([www.integrityinillinois.com](http://www.integrityinillinois.com)) and hotline (312-206-4123) to direct families to community-friendly funeral homes not affected by the labor action. A complete list of affected homes is available at the site.

Since the strike began, Dignity Memorial has not contacted Teamsters Local 727 to resume negotiations.

Teamsters Local 727 has represented Chicago's funeral directors and embalmers since 1946, and it represents more than 6,800 hardworking men and women in the greater Chicagoland area.

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