

*My name is Andrew Bemish and I have attended church at St. Mary's Catholic Parish in Ann Arbor for the past 15 years even though I live in nearby Northville, Michigan.*

*I am writing in support of the Jesuits' petition to receive a special use exception so that they can live at 1919 Wayne Street. I have known the Jesuits for all of the ten years they have been in Ann Arbor and believe they would not only continue to be good neighbors but also continue to contribute to the well being of Ann Arbor.*

*I know from a factual basis that the Jesuit community in Ann Arbor is of the highest character in keeping with the standards of their religious order. I have taken part in regularly scheduled functions year after years (retreats, seminars etc.) at other Jesuit facilities and as an order, they strive to make themselves an asset to the community by being a good neighbor.*

*I cite as an example Manresa Jesuit Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills at Woodward Avenue and Quarton Road. An affluent residential community surrounds this facility and on all sides the grounds are well maintained and the yards of the homes backing up to the retreat house grounds blend seamlessly across property lines.*

*I have also observed this characteristic in the City of Detroit at University of Detroit Mercy and the Jesuit residence nearby. The structure and grounds of the University and this residence are impeccably maintained despite some blighted conditions in nearby Detroit neighborhoods.*

*I also know the Jesuits current residence on Ferdon is just as impeccably maintained and many of our parishioners, who live in the Burns Park area of town, have over the years commented on their neighborliness and of their being a positive influence in the neighborhood.*

*Based on these facts, I think it is a foregone conclusion that the Ann Arbor Jesuit Community will continue their tradition of neighborliness and excellence in maintaining the facilities they own or occupy.*

*I also ask that you change the date of the Planning Commission public hearing and vote so that all members of the Planning Commission can be present to hear and vote on this very important issue.*

*Again, I ask that you please vote (or encourage the vote) in favor of the Jesuits' petition.*

*Thank you very much,*

*Andrew Bemish*