

From: Alison Cornish

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 2:52 PM

To: Planning; Petersen, Sally; Lumm, Jane; Briere, Sabra; Kunselman, Stephen; Taylor, Christopher (Council)

Subject: In support of the Jesuits in our midst

My name is Alison Cornish. I am a professor at the University of Michigan and live in Ann Arbor, 807 W. Liberty St. 48103. I am writing in support of the Jesuits' petition to receive a special exception use so that they can live at 1919 Wayne Street. I have known these men for five years and know without a doubt that they would not only be good neighbors, as they have already been in Burns Park, but also continue to contribute to the well being of Ann Arbor as they have for the past ten years.

St. Mary's Student Parish is an uncommonly vibrant parish, unique because of its combination of students and residents, the perfect interface of town and gown. The Jesuits' mission is to serve both these communities, of which I myself am a part.

I find it very peculiar in this day and age, in Ann Arbor of all places, where families are defined in the most flexible and untraditional sorts of ways that a group of men who have taken vows of poverty, obedience, and chastity, have committed their lives to the service of others, and live as brothers in a domestic space according to an ancient tradition, should be ostracized in our community. They certainly resemble family much more than they resemble a group of students. And as for the "bond of permanence" mentioned as a criterion for the definition of family in the code, it applies much more deeply to these men than to most modern families today.

Not only do the Jesuits enrich Ann Arbor, Ann Arbor would be greatly diminished if it were to let prejudice win the day in this case.

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 in favor of the Jesuits' petition.

Thank you very much.

Alison Cornish
Professor of Italian Literature
Romance Languages and Literatures
University of Michigan
812 East Washington
4108 Modern Languages Building
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1275
tel: (734) 764-5344; f: (734) 764-8163