

From: Theodore St Antoine
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2014 10:58 AM
To: Planning
Subject: Fwd: Jesuits' residence

Dear Commissioners:

I was born and raised a Catholic but at this point am hardly much of a religious believer. I remain, however, an old-fashioned New Deal liberal.

I am writing you about this problem of the Jesuits at St. Mary's seeking to live together in a zoned residential area. From all that I know from my own experience, Jesuits in such a situation are indeed a "functional family." When I attended Fordham College in the Bronx (about the time of the Spanish-American War!), a distant cousin of mine was the "rector" or head of the Jesuit community on the campus. He was very much a paterfamilias and the rest were his family. Today, of course, there would be a good deal more of a democratic atmosphere but the familial relationship would essentially be the same.

I have not tried to do independent research on any of the legal questions involved. My initial reaction, however, is that the religious nature of the Jesuits' relationship could indeed raise sensitive First Amendment problems. Moreover, it would seem to me that these priests do not present in any way the type of concerns about a group of unconnected, and possibly rowdy, adults getting together that would seem to have been the motivation for the limitations in the zoning provision.

I do hope that, after full consideration, you see your way clear to approve this arrangement.

Sincerely, Ted

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