



Fr. Kevin Barrett
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Illinois Department of Revenue
Office of Local Government Services
Sales Tax Exempt Section, 3-520
Springfield, Illinois 62702

March 9, 2009

Sales Tax Exempt Reviewer:

I am writing this letter to attest to the completely religious nature of the Ave Maria Retreat Center (AMRC) near Danville, Illinois. I know the founders, John and Mary Timmons, quite well and have been to the Center on a number of occasions to celebrate religious services, to administer the Sacrament of Penance and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. In addition to regular church services, (some of which I have participated in) the center offers a schedule of family retreats where the Sacraments of the Catholic Church are celebrated, along with Catholic educational and catechetical programs offered on a regular basis. This is not a social organization.

A prominent part of the founding mission of the Ave Maria Retreat Center is to "to establish a close relationship with the Apostolate for Family Consecration®, to sanctify and build up the family unit..." I serve as Chaplain for the Apostolate for Family Consecration®, an international association of Christ's faithful with Pontifical status granted by Pope Benedict XVI through the Pontifical Council for the Laity in June of 2007.

I have observed closely the development of the AMRC and have given frequent spiritual advice and direction to the board members at the Center. I have also personally assisted them in the composition of the mission and vision statements for the retreat center, to assure compliance with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. I can give you my full assurance that the nature and activities of the Ave Maria Retreat Center are completely religious and open to any and all people who have an interest in deepening their faith in God in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I might be of further assistance on the application of the Ave Maria Retreat Center for Sales Tax Exempt status.

Very Respectfully in the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Rev. Kevin S. Barrett

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