

St. Anthony Catholic Church

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Diocese of Peoria

John and Mary Timmons
Ave Maria Retreat Center
27199 State Route 1
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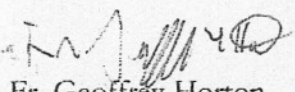
I am happy to write this letter of support for the Ave Maria Retreat Center. I have been encouraged by the good work you are doing and I want to encourage you in your efforts to continue to serve the Roman Catholic Church.

In particular, I would like to mention the hospitality you have shown in allowing Schlarman Academy to use your facility for our annual high school retreats. It is a beautiful property and very well suited for teen retreats. The chapel allows for daily Mass and talks, and the dining room and Sacred Heart great room is excellent for both meal time and for group activities and talks. The open areas outdoors is also well suited for teen sports, games and walks around the lake, and it also allows for meditative activities and group prayer near the lake or near the life size crucifix scene.

I have also been encouraged by the work you are doing to help sanctify families using the resources of the Apostolate for Family Consecration. I am particularly struck by the emphasis on prayer and the good use of the sacrament of Confession. Blessed Pope John Paul II said, "the future of world passes through the family," and your work in helping to consecrate families in the truths of the Faith is especially important in the life of the Church. And I especially love the fact that the 10:30 am Mass is overflowing on the Sundays of your monthly CIT family retreats!

I am most happy to encourage you in your good work and I will continue to provide my spiritual support to activities at the Ave Maria Retreat Center.

In Christ,


Fr. Geoffrey Horton
Parish Administrator
St. Anthony's Catholic Church