

JESUIT NOVITIATE OF SAINT ALBERTO HURTADO
1035 SUMMIT AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55105

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd West
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, MN 55102
December 6, 2017

Dear Councilmen and Councilwomen:

We are novices in the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), a religious order in the Catholic Church, and we have volunteered this past semester at the Listening House at 464 Maria Avenue in Saint Paul. During our time there, we have seen first-hand how courageous these people are for not giving up their right to life, and we have heard their stories about how much they care for one another. They have given us life and hope, along with the message not to give up when times are hard, and have been great witnesses of faith to us in their perseverance in carrying their own crosses.

Sadly, we have learned that the Listening House is under a threat of foreclosure because of confusion with the local community. For our part, we would encourage strongly those who live near the Listening House to take some time to meet the people with whom they share a home here in Minnesota. In so doing, they may find that the people who come to the Listening House are really no different than themselves—that they have goals, dreams, worries, and laughter, just like everyone else. And while they may have a different way of living, that does not change their inherent worth that is given to all of us by God.

On this great feast of St. Nicholas, we hope that you would allow the Listening House to share its resources with their fellow Minnesotans. Nicholas gave his life to providing for those who are most in need. Our hope would be for you all to let the Listening House offer that same care for our neighbors here in St. Paul.

Sincerely,

Alex French
Alexander G. French, nSJ

Vicktor O. Moberg
Vicktor O. Moberg, nSJ