April 14, 2000

3735 Winfield Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

By Rapifax

Government of the District of Columbia
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

'00 ABR 14 P2:56
OFFICE OF ZONING
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Re: BZA Application 16565
St. Mary's Hall

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment:

As a resident and homeowner living in Cloisters West, I strongly support the University's current proposal to renovate St. Mary's for administrative purposes. I live along the 37th Street extension of Winfield Lane. St. Mary's is literally in my back yard and I am, thus, immediately and directly affected by its renovation and subsequent use.

As I understand it, the proposed renovation would maintain St. Mary's current use, which is principally for administrative and management purposes. That use minimizes student noise and disruption coming from the back of my property. Georgetown and St. Mary's have been good neighbors and with the renovation plan they will remain like that.

I also oppose the building being used as a residence or dormitory. The University is building a large dorm in the SW Quadrangle, which is more central to the campus and farther from a residential area than is St. Mary's. The combined benefits of the SW campus location make more sense than having a student dorm virtually on top of our residential street.

The noise we get in Cloisters West from rowdy student houses gives me some sympathy for those Georgetown residents pushing for more dorm space on campus. However, we all moved to a university neighborhood, and a certain amount of student noise comes with the territory. The University's target of providing dorms for what I recall is at least 75% and up to 86% of undergraduates over the next decade seems very reasonable. In this age of independence and affluence, a higher dorm "rate" does not seem realistic, particularly for a large university in a developed, urban area.

I would urge the Board to approve the St. Mary's Hall project promptly, and am grateful for the opportunity to present my views.

Sincerely,

Catherine Curtiss

Catherine Curtiss

cc: Linda Greenan, Georgetown University

BZA
Case No. 16565
Exhibit No. 40

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16565
EXHIBIT NO.40