April 14, 2000

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

'00 APR 14 AM 11:41

Re: Application Number 16565, St. Mary's Hall, Georgetown University

Dear sirs:

I live at the address provided below, where I moved in early 1992. My property is adjacent to the St. Mary's Hall, whose parking and exit road to Reservoir Road I can see from my bedroom and living room. I am therefore very interested in the proposals for change to St. Mary's.

It is my understanding that the University is planning to renovate parts of St. Mary's and use them for administrative purposes in addition to the offices and classrooms currently housed there. At the same time, I am aware that there are proponents of additional dormitory rooms at St. Mary's. While I understand that there may be additional needs for accommodating students, I am concerned that the proximity of a dorm to a residential area, in this case the row of houses where mine is located, will entail a major change in the living conditions that we now enjoy. More specifically, dorms' hours extend well beyond those of the offices now located at St. Mary's and may well be seen as a 24-hour a day operation.

I also understand that it may be unavoidable to limit the noise level at a dorm even under the most strict rules; youngsters are by nature a happy and noisy crowd and we were all young one day. For this reason, the University may have decided to build the large new residence hall in an area that is sufficiently distant from any perimeter bordering a residential area, and this is a welcome decision. I would like to note that I already suffer very often from the noise made by students from Georgetown University who rent the house next-door to mine at 3729, whenever they throw parties. The University administration is aware of this problem and has proceeded to reprimand students, but this does not mean that the problem has gone away. I hope that you understand what adding a dorm at such a short distance from our houses means. To ensure mutual respect for the quality of life of students and neighbors, some safeguards would be appropriate such as the one clearly chosen by the University as regards the construction of the large new residence hall.

Rosa A. Valdivieso

Rosa A. Valdivieso
3727 Winfield Lane, N.W.
Washington D.C., 20007

cc: Ann Fox, for Cloisters West Homeowners Association Board
Linda Greenan, Georgetown University

BZA
Case No. 16565
Exhibit No. 42

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16565
EXHIBIT NO.42