

May 2, 2004

Brother Andre Marie, M.I.C.M.
Saint Benedict Center
Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Post Office Box 627
Winchester, NH 03470

Dear Brother Andre,

Peace of Christ!

I received your letter of April 21st in which you indicated that you received the information I had sent you and that it looks acceptable. You mentioned in your letter that you would still like to have my DD form 214 which indicates the nature of my discharge from the United States Air Force on file.

I have been unable to find this form in my apartment and believe it may be packed away in a box somewhere in my shed. Not being able to locate this form, I inquired as to how long it might take the Military Personnel Records Center in St. Louis to forward me a copy and discovered that it takes up to six months. So it would seem that I am unable to provide you with all the information you need to accept me into the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I am saddened because I have provided you with everything I sent to the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter and they accepted me as a seminarian based upon the very same information. It was my hope that the documentation I forwarded to you would be sufficient to demonstrate my good character and professionalism both at work and in general. My performance evaluations were all straight 9's, the highest possible evaluation one may receive in the Armed Forces. My letters of commendation from Colonel John G. Lorber, Commander of the 432 Tactical Fighter Wing, Colonel Mary F. Felts, Commander of the 3484 STUS/CC, Captain Ryan T. Whittaker, Commander of the 3484th Student Squadron and *most significantly*, my letter of commendation from Lt. General Charles W. Dyke, Commanding Officer of US Army Forces in Japan, IX Corps, all point out the fact that my performance for the Air Force were very much above standard.

In point of fact, I am one of only a few airman who have received a letter of commendation from a three star General in the history of the US Armed Forces. And the documentation I provided regarding my nomination for Outstanding Airman of the Quarter was, in my view, further evidence of my professionalism and my above average standards.

All of this, combined with proof of my sacramental history and a letter from Fr. Anthony Kazarnowicz, formerly of the Worcester (Massachusetts) Diocese and now a Chaplain with the

US Army, indicating that I have been one of the few Catholic writers in the area who dares to speak out against the evils of our age, would seem to speak as to my character. As would the fact that I provided you with criminal background checks for both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, even though you had not asked for these.

You also mentioned in your letter that I had said I could provide you with references regarding my stay at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Lincoln, Nebraska. Actually, any one of the first year seminarians could vouch for my character based upon their observations of me during my stay as well as the fact that I left the seminary because of the homosexuality I found there. I would not ask the Rector for a character reference since he did not take my concerns seriously and would, at least tacitly, seem to condone the problem I encountered. In fact, he never took the time to write me a letter and to demonstrate any pastoral concern.

It would appear that it is not God's Will for me to enter the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For this reason, would you be so kind as to return the documentation which I have provided you with? This would be greatly appreciated.

I am sorry for all the inconvenience you may have been caused. It was my hope that since I was ready to take a leap of faith by entering Religious Life with no assurances as to the character and background of those I would be living with that I too would be given a certain amount of trust. It was not meant to be.

Again, thank you for your consideration,
God bless you Brother Andre
Respectfully

Paul Anthony Melanson
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