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February 22, 2012

The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson, D.D., JCL
Bishop of Evansville
4200 North Kentucky Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711

Dear Excellency,

I wish to thank you again for meeting with me and my family on December 13, 2011. The note you sent to us afterwards was kind and much appreciated.

As I mentioned during our meeting, for many years now, I have been working to discern a vocation *beyond* that of my cherished vocation of husband and father. Your statement this month as our bishop to his lay faithful outlined the great and troubled times that are now upon us. I felt stirred by your message to begin to voice what I believe is my own personal call to aid the Church of Rome in her present need. This call has been increasingly growing deep within me now for nine years.

As we currently find the world in an alarming state of chaos, I have been led to believe that Our Lady wants a new sovereign religious military order founded, with the name, "Co-Redemptors of Jesus Christ." The outline of its work and rule have yet to be written, but they will closely follow along request lines that Our Lady has made of her children during numerous authentic apparitions during the past several centuries.

Such an order would be designed mainly for people who are actively engaged at working at home or out in the world (though I can see it also including priests, nuns under normal vows, and consecrated virgins in the world). Special emphasis, therefore, would be placed on members to engage in daily Mass, frequent Confession, prayer, penance, Eucharistic adoration and frequent periodic fasting—all in harmony with each person's mode and demands of life, and all directed to inspire their performing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Your recent statement to the diocesan Faithful sparked the feelings in me that *now* is the time to begin. I realize the magnitude of the design I have in mind, but I see it as a response to the needs of the present drastic times—that cry out for drastic measures. I firmly believe it is now time to begin work on this order.

Religious orders in the past have always responded to various needs in the Church and in the world. Considering the state of modern nations today and the progress evil is making against them, there seems to me no alternative other than to combat pro-actively the many organized attacks by Satan and his minions against the Roman Catholic Church, as well as against civil governments, independent businesses, and good secular institutions.

Never before has mankind faced such an organized, multifaceted evil, and therefore that we must summon all who see the problems and are willing to war against them to an active, co-ordinated participation in Our Lady's call for men, women and young people to dedicate their lives in response to her call "to faithfully carry out the mandate given to the United States" (November 22, 1980, Our Lady of America).

I want to call particular attention to the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Blessed Gerard de Martigne was simply responding to the need of his time to protect and care for the Christian pilgrims who had journeyed to the Holy Land in the 11th century, many of whom arrived in Jerusalem sick or injured and needing care and kind attention to their needs. It is with the same zeal that I would request simply to begin to form a modern military order to be called the "Co-Redemptors," who will point out to contemporary "pilgrims" who are still journeying through this life—no longer to the geographic Holy Land, but to the eternal one, by way of holiness of life. And that is a journey which Our Lord desires us all to make.

However, with the intrusiveness and all pervasiveness into people's lives of the modern mass media with all its false ideas, coupled with the control of banks, governments and law courts, this new order must perforce respond to the nature of the battle being waged today and take the fight to the enemy on its own grounds.

As a military order, we shall therefore need members who are lawyers, doctors, accountants, politicians, professional people of all sorts and entrepreneurs—all to begin to form a varied and powerful line of defense against the modern-day evils we shall have to contend with, but all under the banner of the Church and the leadership of Our Lady.

I believe this is a timely response on my part in answer to an urgent call from Blessed Pope John Paul II as well as to a recent plea from our Holy Father requesting that the lay faithful step up and do something about the troubles we face. For the success of this work, I humbly ask for your episcopal blessing, as well as for your wise guidance that this new endeavor may move forward expeditiously, the progress of which I would intend to keep you informed of on a regular, periodic basis.

Attached is a brief inspirational paragraph that I wrote in July 2009, under what I believe was the inspiration of the Blessed Mother. I did not really comprehend at the time what it meant and only recently have I come to understand how it relates to this envisioned order. This paragraph will form part of a letter that I would address to the Holy See, requesting permission for the establishment of this new sovereign order.

This paragraph is enclosed for your information, and a copy of any correspondence, of course, that would be sent to Rome would be forwarded through your office, with a copy for your files as well when it is ready to be sent. Any advice that you might be able to give regarding how to proceed with Rome, or any assistance in accomplishing the foundation envisioned, would be most deeply appreciated. I look forward to speaking in detail personally with you fairly soon about this entire matter.

I do not intend that this request become to you an additional burden in your already full schedule. It would be my intention, however, to pursue it vigorously under your guidance.

May God bless you in your work of shepherding our diocese, and rest assured you and your work will be kept in my own prayers and Mass intentions and in our daily family Rosary.

Sincerely yours in Jesus and Mary,

Timothy Russell Martin

Enclosure
TRM/jt