

Carmelite Hermitage of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8249 DeMontreville Trail
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-779-7351

30 July 2020

Mr. Ken Roberts
Planning Director
3880 Laverne Ave. N. Suite 100
Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Dear Mr. Roberts,

On August 20, 2019, the City Council of the City of Lake Elmo voted to grant our Hermitage a Conditional Use Permit in order to construct a chapel here at the Hermitage. I understand that the Conditional Use Permit requires that we begin construction on the chapel within a one (1) year period. As you know, the Jesuit Retreat House filed two lawsuits, one against the Carmelite Sisters and our Hermitage, and the other against the City of Lake Elmo, in order to prevent construction of the chapel. Because of the two lawsuits, we have been prevented from commencing construction of the chapel.

I am able to share with you that the Carmelite Sisters and our Hermitage have had discussions with the Jesuit Retreat House recently in the hope that the matter can be settled out of court.

In view of the fact that our our Conditional Use Permit will expire on August 20, 2020, and in view of the fact that we have not begun construction through no fault of our own, I am requesting that the City of Lake Elmo extend our Conditional Use Permit for another year so that we can obtain a building permit and begin construction. We have hope to begin construction of the chapel prior to August 20, 2021.

I take this opportunity to thank the City Council and yourself for the assistance and support which you have shown to our Hermitage in regards to our chapel project.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. John M. Burns
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