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From: Patricia Schmidt

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Sent: Tue Sep 23 11:20:57 2008

Subject: Message from Fr. Carl Morello

I am Father Carl Morello, Pastor of St. Paul of the Cross parish, proposed site of the PADS ministry. It is no surprise to you, nor am I trying to hide the fact that I, along with the Ministerial Association support this effort. Currently the city building and zoning committee has stated that a PADS ministry site must be 500 feet from a building also used as a school. This along with all the other proposed recommendations would make it difficult, if not impossible, to have this ministry in Park Ridge.

If you, as City Council vote for such recommendations to be passed it would be a low point in the history of Park Ridge. This seems to me, and others watching this from near and far, to be nothing more than thinly veiled racial and economic bigotry. I feel this is beneath the real strength and character of this community. I personally feel deceived by some in city government who have led me to believe, all along, that if we followed the path of special use permit we could work together to make this valuable effort happen. Instead, this has taken more and more of everyone's precious time and energy on something that should have been simple to work out together and accomplish. Shame on us all!

I have spent my life in training and in formation and preparation for the priesthood. I have been a priest for 25 years and at the heart of our ministry are the corporal works of mercy, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter those in need, bury the dead and visit those in need of pastoral care. Not to allow us to do what we are called to do hurts the entire community.

I urge you to take this into consideration when you discuss the requirements when you meet on September 29th. It has been said that this issue is a source of divisiveness in the entire community. I hope that we can work together for the good of this community to make this happen and restore a sense of dignity and unity for all.

Sincerely,

Fr. Carl Morello

Pastor

St. Paul of the Cross Church