

The Catholic Parish of Cleve

(Incorporating Cleve, Cowell, Kimba & Lock)

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12 May 2000

Mr William Kamm
P.O. Box 3076
NORTH NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Mr Kamm,

I received your letter dated May 5th and faxed on May 6th.

In answer to your objection about the use of the term “so-called Order of St. Charbel”, please note the following:

1. Recognition of an Institute of Consecrated life is a long and tedious process that requires several steps:
 - a. Recognition by your own bishop as a “Pious Association” or “Pious Union” or “Confraternity” that is seeking recognition as an Institute of Consecrated life. This period lasts several years and is closely scrutinized. With a new form of Consecrated life in line with the mind of “Vita Consecrata” it might take even longer before step “b”.
 - b. The second step is recognition as an Institute of Diocesan Right. Under the terms of Canon 579, this requires that the bishop consult the Apostolic See. Canons 594 and 595 make clear that the Institute remains under the control of the Diocesan Bishop.
 - c. The third stage is recognition as an Institute of Pontifical Right by the Vatican after a testing period.

2. It is clear to me, that while you might have civil recognition, you do not have the approval of your Diocesan Bishop nor any of the above forms of recognition. No other authority but your own bishop can give you the required recognition to start this process.
3. Since you simply do not exist as a canonically recognized body, I would be betraying the stance of the Church to give your group recognition to which you are not entitled and which I have no right to award. I would, in other words, not be impartial.
4. It is precisely one of the purposes of this inquiry to determine whether you merit such recognition.

Regarding your question about an advocate: you certainly have a right to such assistance. When the time approaches for your personal input, you will be sent a list of possible advocates to choose from to help with your presentation.

As for the other matters mentioned in your letter, I have no authority to answer them as you can see that they are not included in the terms of reference of this newly appointed commission.

The books you promised arrived safely this morning and will be forwarded today to each of the other members of the commission. Your prompt response to my request is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Matthews".

Father Kevin Matthews