UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

REGION II

FEDERAL BUILDING

26 FEDERAL PLAZA

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

OCT 2 1985

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Very Reverend Sebastian A. Falcone
President-Dean
Saint Bernard's Institute
1100 South Goodman Street
Rochester, New York 14620

Dear Reverend Falcone:

The Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education (OCR/ED) is in the process of clearing a backlog of requests for religious exemption from Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. OCR notified you on May 14 and July 11, 1985 that additional information was needed from Saint Bernard's Institute to enable us to make a determination on your original religious exemption request.
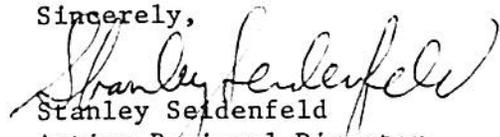
You responded to our request in a letter to Mr. Charles Tejada, dated July 31, 1985. You indicated that "St. Bernard's Seminary has, by virtue of a charter amendment, been re-named St. Bernard's Institute and has re-defined its mission and purpose." You also stated that you were securing clarification from legal counsel and would contact us "within the next two weeks or so."

Ms. Marilyn Rabinowitz, a member of my staff, has contacted Ms. Hetzler of the Institute several times during the last two months to offer assistance and provide clarification if needed. Mrs. Hetzler indicated that a response was being prepared and would be received shortly. However, we have not received a response to date.

If your institution is still interested in receiving a religious exemption, please submit the previously requested information to this office by October 15, 1985. If we do not hear from you by October 15, OCR will assume that your institution is no longer interested in receiving a religious exemption and close your request file.

If you have any questions regarding this notification, please do not hesitate to contact me at (212) 264-4633.

Sincerely,

Stanley Seidenfeld
Acting Regional Director
Office for Civil Rights, Region II
Department of Education