

K. Wade Eaton

From: Archabbot [archabbot@email.stvincent.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2008 5:05 PM
To: Eric Hoyle
Subject: RE: request for info concerning Joseph Natale

Dear Mr. Hoyle,

I am writing to acknowledge your e-mail of January 21, 2008 regarding Mr. Joseph A. Natale. According to our records, Joseph A. Natale came to Saint Vincent as a candidate for the lay brotherhood on July 5, 1960. He remained here for several months as a postulant but he did not receive vows as a Benedictine monk.

There is a directory for our Congregation which contains the names of those individuals who are duly professed and accepted Catholic Benedictine monks of our Congregation. It is called the ORDO of the American Cassinese Congregation which lists all professed members of the Benedictine Communities. There is also the Catalogus of the Benedictine Federation which lists both monasteries and individual members of Benedictine Communities throughout the world.

In my review of the Catalogus, I have found no reference to the "Holy Family Monastery" in New Jersey which you indicated in your letter. Secondly, in reviewing the ORDOS of the American Cassinese Congregation for the years 1960 - 1968, I have found no listing for Joseph A. Natale, which would confirm our understanding that he was never professed as a Benedictine member of this Community. I would also note that this group is not listed in The Official Catholic Directory which is another source for approved Catholic organizations.

I hope that this information is of some assistance to you. I will try to find a copy of the 1960's Constitutions of the Congregation regarding the foundation of a monastery. Since they are not Benedictines, I don't believe the Constitutions would apply anyway.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

+Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B.
Archabbot of Saint Vincent

-----Original Message-----

From: Eric Hoyle [mailto:eric_hoyle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2008 3:19 PM
To: Archabbot
Cc: Lester, Hugh
Subject: request for info concerning Joseph Natale

Hello,

My name is Eric Hoyle and I am seeking information from St. Vincent's on

Mr. Joseph Natale. An organization calling itself "Most Holy Family Monastery" claims that Mr. Natale was given permission to found a Benedictine monastery by an authority at St. Vincent's, I think in 1966.

I have strong reason to believe that this claim is false, so I'm writing

to request the testimony of St. Vincent's on the matter.

I ask that you make a formal reply, if possible, because I hope to use your testimony to prove before a judge that "Most Holy Family Monastery"

is guilty of fraudulent statements.
The web address and pertinent information are pasted below.

Sincerely,
Eric Hoyle
4931 Thales Road, Apt. A-10
Winston-Salem, NC 27104
336-765-7139

http://www.mostholyfamilymonastery.com/Our_Benedictine_Community.html

Our Benedictine Community

The Founder of our Benedictine community:
Brother Joseph Natale O.S.B.

Brother Joseph Natale was trained at St. Vincent's Arch-abbey in Latrobe, PA. St. Vincent's Arch-abbey was the largest Benedictine monastery in the United States. In the 1960's, Bro. Joseph left with the

permission of the then Archabbot Dennis Strittmatter to start his own Benedictine community. Shortly after leaving St. Vincent's, Bro. Joseph started his community in southern New Jersey. Bro. Joseph never allowed the New Mass to be celebrated at his monastery, only allowing the traditional Roman Rite Mass. Bro. Joseph printed, distributed and sold numerous books, pamphlets and audio tapes defending the Catholic faith and educating Catholics about the true teachings of Catholicism. In 1994, the community was given a piece of land in rural New York. Bro.

Joseph wrote and stated on many occasions that he would be moving the community to New York. But Bro. Joseph was not able to complete this desire, due to the fact that he died on November 11, 1995. After Bro.

Joseph died, Bro. Michael Dimond, O.S.B. was elected superior of the community. Bro. Michael immediately went to work to fulfill Bro.

Joseph's wish to move the community to New York. In late 1997, Most Holy

Family Monastery finally finished moving the community and its belongings to New York.