

— on 7/31 - Janne sent
this to 5 other newspapers +
attached it to a photo stat of our
acknowledgement from The Archdiocese
for a previous donation - She wrote
on the bottom of their acknowledgement -
urging the archbishop to not allow this
sacrilegious destruction to occur ^{- in the name of}
god + his church. !!

July 18, 1988

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

She also attached our 'Stop The Bulldozer' flyer.

Dear Friends,
I sent a copy of
this letter to
The Republican
American - Letter
to the Editor
on July 18.
You have my
permission to use
it anyway you
wish. John Girard

I was raised a Catholic and believed in the teachings of my Religion ... however, for how much longer is right now a strong and heartsick question in my mind ... due to reading the articles in the Newspaper for the last few weeks regarding the destruction of HOLY LAND U.S.A.

I was appalled enough to take the time on Saturday to drive to the site, first of all to meet the concerned people who are painstakingly taking the time to try to have this dream preserved ... restored ... and not BULLDOZED DOWN; and secondly, to offer whatever little assistance I could possibly be to them.

What an unwasted trip on a Saturday afternoon, to meet such a group of people ... all different religions ... all different occupations ... but with one beautiful perspective ...
SAVE HOLY LAND!

With no "tin money cups" in their hands, they greeted me at the gate, "peacefully, well organized and determined". I told them I had come, because I also believed in their cause. Not being artistically inclined, I could not offer my assistance to help paint or restore statues, but would be glad to get petitions signed and help in some way to SAVE Holy Land. I proceeded to gather up the literature they had compiled so very neatly on their table, a list of Newspapers to write to, a list of political representatives with telephone numbers, petition forms and past articles published on this awesome site and one man's dream that became a reality. His dream that he passed on to so many people who came ... and still come, and prayed, marvelled, and left this beautiful site with a feeling that still can't be explained or put in writing no matter what religion, if any, they believed in or practiced.

After a long discussion, I asked the group if I could walk up to the Cross (I had not been up there since I was a little girl). They said I could go up by myself but they couldn't accompany me ... they are not allowed inside the gate or they will be arrested.

Low and behold ... I left there and went to the Immaculate Conception Church to light a candle for which I do quite often for various requests and reasons. This time I prayed for this group to be successful in their endeavor ... and then

I prayed for the Religious people involved who have diverted their time from prayers to destruction. Oh, Mr. Grecco, did you ever believe that the people you left responsible for your dream would be the ones at who's hands it would be destroyed? Perhaps it would have been safer in the hands of a stranger! First of all stop them and secondly forgive them. No one is asking them for money ... just for permission to save this glorious site. Give them permission and they will do the rest!

Also, just one last note, when I got up to the Cross at the top of the hill, I met 3 people from Hartford ... we discussed the situation, and at the end of the conversation, one gentleman looked at me and said: "I can't explain what I feel here after walking around the grounds and most of all standing underneath this Cross, and I'm not profoundly religious, however, I would not operate any equipment that was going to destroy this site or anything on it for any amount of money!

Please keep abreast of this situation and support this dedicated Committee to SAVE HOLY LAND.

Joanne Girard
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Joanne Girard 7-18-88

I hereby grant permission to print this letter anywhere you wish.