



**FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL CHURCH, INC.**  
Post Office Box 1481, Plaquemine, Louisiana 70764

November 1, 2012

Mr. Victor Musso  
P. O. Box 83332  
Baton Rouge, LA 70884-3332

Dear Mr. Musso,

The early churches of Louisiana hold a special place in the hearts and minds of their surrounding communities. These historic structures impart a sense of peace, solace and inspiration that comes not only from their years of spiritual service to their parishioners, but also the character of the communities that have served these churches for generations.

The St. Paul's Church in Bayou Goula, Louisiana is revered for its architectural significance, its simplistic beauty, and its role in the early development of Louisiana. It is one of the few pre-1900 architecturally significant church buildings remaining in Louisiana, and is the oldest known church site in the Louisiana Purchase. Although the present church was rebuilt in 1871, the first mass in the area was celebrated with the Bayougoula Indians by Father Paul Du Ru on March 28, 1700. Generations of families have practiced their faith in this church free from segregation. Not only was the structure used for religious purposes, but also served as a meeting and gathering place to unite the people of the community in celebrations and sorrows.

In September of 2009, the vacant St. Paul Catholic Church located on the historic River Road was severely damaged by Hurricane Gustav and in danger of being demolished. In response to this disaster, *Friends of St. Paul Church, Inc.* was organized with the mission to purchase, restore and preserve the building. The organization has been approved by the IRS as a non-profit (501)(c)(3) public charity and is a non-denominational, non-affiliated organization. With gratitude and anticipation, *Friends of St. Paul Church, Inc.* has been able to purchase the church and lot from the Catholic Church and is dedicated to restoring this historic structure to working condition, usable by the community for cultural events, ceremonies and meetings befitting a church.

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