

THE FRANCISCANS

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August 3, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regard to William Patterson Mayo. At the time I knew William he was a student at Roger Bacon High School in Cincinnati, a Catholic high school run by the Franciscans. William attended the school from August, 1980 through June, 1984. During William's freshman year I was the Dean of Students and during the remainder of his years I was the Principal of the school.

William's mother contacted me and informed me of his incarceration and asked me to write a character reference letter on his behalf. I am happy to write such a letter but am only able to talk about William during his high schools days.

My dealings with William were always pleasant. I got to know him pretty well and found him to be a decent young man. He did have his work cut out for him in school as William had to work very hard to achieve passing grades. This is not attributable to lack of effort on his part but, rather, to his capabilities as a student. I have enclosed a transcript from the school. A study of his transcript indicates that William worked hard to achieve the grades he received. Roger Bacon had sound academic expectations of its students and William, I assure you, was not just passed on.

While at Bacon William was a good citizen. He played football for us and he wrote for the Penman. I always found William to be willing to assist whenever asked. He was always a polite young man and was well behaved. The disciplinary expectations of the school are rather firm and William managed to stay within the bounds of our behavioral expectations. In my dealings with him, William was always honest and trustworthy.

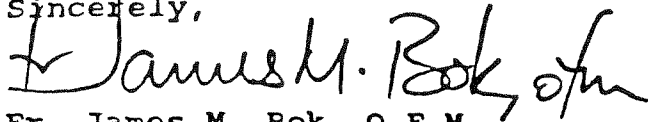
Because Roger Bacon charged tuition it was necessary for William to work to pay his way through school. This he did because he wanted to graduate from Bacon rather than his local public school. I consider such a sacrifice to be a positive statement about his internal desire to better himself and earn a respectful place in society. I know that William worked hard to remain enrolled at Roger Bacon.

William also had to deal with the reality of his father's illness while in school. His dad died while William was a student at Bacon. I am sure that this situation was very difficult to deal with and yet William dealt with his father's death and continued the struggle to stay in school and graduate.

I always liked William. He was friendly and polite. I always believed that he had some serious goals that he wanted to accomplish. During his four years of high school he struggled against many adversities and seemed well on his way to lead a productive life. He was thrilled to have completed high school and was looking ahead to good things.

I am sorry to hear about William's current situation. I hope this letter sheds some insight into him pertaining to his earlier days. If I can be of any assistance, beyond this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. James M. Bok, O.F.M." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Fr. James M. Bok, O.F.M.