

October 28, 2003

Professor Douglas Freake
York University Faculty of Arts
207 Vanier College
4700 Keele Street
Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M3J 1P3

Dear Prof. Freake:

Aaron Milavec has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him, and I am only too happy to do so. My only regret is that Bellarmine University does not have a vacancy that we could ask Aaron to fill.

I have known Aaron as a colleague for about eight years. We have been active together in the Ohio Valley region of the College Theology Society, and at virtually every meeting Aaron has made a presentation that was truly memorable both in scholarship and in delivery. On one occasion, I was so impressed that I invited him to deliver the talk he gave as the annual Keenan Lecture. A number of those present commented that it was the best lecture in recent memory.

When I was the department chair at Spalding University, I asked him to fill a vacancy for a part-time instructor in the weekend college program. Aaron taught an undergraduate New Testament course using his own materials on computer disk, and his student evaluations were exceptionally high. In every category relating to the instructor and the course, Aaron scored higher than average. In particular, approximately 90% of the students responding gave him the highest rating in the categories, "Instructor motivated me to learn," "Instructor had a broad understanding," and "Instructor had ability to teach." As one student wrote on the evaluation, "Mr. Milavec is a wonderfully enthusiastic teacher. He always taught with excitement."

Aaron has a rare gift of being so organized in his thinking that he can speak for an hour without notes, and yet a transcript of his presentation could be printed with minimal editing. At the same time, his delivery is so direct and personal that it appears to be spontaneous rather than the product of intensive preparation. I have heard Aaron make formal presentations on a variety of topics, and I have always been impressed with his ability to find new relevance in the familiar. He has a deep comprehension of Christian origins and an amazing facility in communicating both facts and ideas.

Aaron is a dedicated scholar and gifted teacher who is deeply respectful of every question that is asked, revealing an ability to understand the concerns of others and respond in a way that is both critical and gentle. He has been an active participant in Jewish-Christian dialogues, and his work on the *Didache* demonstrates his mastery of Greek and his familiarity with the social context of early Christianity.

As you can tell, I cannot recommend Aaron Milavec too highly. If you decide that he is the best candidate for this position, I am sure that he will exceed your expectations and be a great asset to your institution.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Martos
Department of Theology