

December 12, 2007

To the saints who are in San Joaquin and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We write to you on behalf of the clergy and people of The Diocese of California to express our solidarity with you, and to assure you of our prayers during this time of transition and uncertainty. Your commitment to the continuity of the mission of the Episcopal Church in the San Joaquin Valley has come at considerable personal and corporate expense, and we commend you for your steadfast resolve.

Please know that under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, and our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, we will stand ready to support you as you begin to write a new chapter in Church history for the Diocese of San Joaquin.

We are acutely aware that you have reached this dramatic crossroads during the holy Season of Advent, a time of preparation and a time of waiting. If what you are experiencing now feels like the pangs of labor, our fervent prayer is that God's gifts of peace and hope will enfold and sustain you until the birth has occurred.

In the meantime, may your Advent journeying deliver you safely and with joyful hearts to the crib of the Christ Child who is coming into the world that we may know all of the newness and fullness of life.

Faithfully,

The Standing Committee  
The Episcopal Diocese of California

The Rev. Ron Culmer  
Mr. Paul D. Evans, Secretary  
Mr. David Frangquist, Vice Pres.  
Ms. Carolyn W. Gaines

The Rev. Stacey Grossman, Pres.  
Dr. Ronald Johnson  
The Rev. Nina Pickerrell  
The Rev. Steven Strane