

Dec. 8, 2007

Dear friends in Christ,

I write to you with sadness at the decision of our brothers and sisters to leave The Episcopal Church. I trust you will join me in forgiving their transgressions, putting all recriminations and bitterness aside, and wishing them well as they continue their spiritual journeys in another community of faith.

I write to you as the Chair of the House of Bishops Task Force on Property Disputes in the hope of reassuring you of the justice and rightness of your position. Your faithfulness and steadfastness to your community and your vows inspire all of us. More than inspiring us, your efforts deserve our active support because, in truth, you are acting on behalf of all of us.

It is the job of the Task Force to do all that it can to see that you receive the care and the support that you need and deserve. Indeed, we will be meeting next week to consider a number of matters in our Church and the protection across the Church of our polity, which is intended to protect all of us from abuses of power such as that you are now experiencing. I can assure you that your situation in the Diocese of San Joaquin will be part of our consideration.

For now, know of our awareness of your situation, our deep concern, and our pledge to do all that we can to support your efforts to carry on the mission of our Church in California. The task you have before you, no doubt, will not be easy. You will not walk it alone.

With the assurance of my prayers and the conviction of the coming of the Lord in this holy season, I am

Faithfully yours,

Stacy F. Sauls
Bishop of Lexington