



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori  
*Presiding Bishop and Primate*

January 16, 2008

To the People of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin:

I hold you in my prayers during these challenging times. Together with many others, I deeply regret the actions of your diocesan leaders in their votes attempting to secede from The Episcopal Church. I do not believe that action is legitimate, and the Title IV Review Committee of this Church has concurred, finding evidence that John-David Schofield has abandoned the Communion of this Church in doing so. You know by now that, with the consent of the three senior bishops of the Church with jurisdiction, he has been inhibited, and that the House of Bishops will determine his ultimate status at their meeting in March.

I have asked the Rev. Robert Moore to be a pastoral presence for you in this interim time, and I know that he has already been in touch with many of you. I am most grateful for his willingness to make himself available, particularly as he already has some knowledge of the diocese and its members. Until an interim bishop is in place, you should look to him as a liaison with my office in seeking answers to questions that may arise.

We expect to work next to clarify the status of members of the clergy in the Diocese of San Joaquin, and the status of any former diocesan leaders who wish to remain in The Episcopal Church. We are already working to ensure continued salary for mission clergy who were recently removed from their posts by John-David Schofield. We will similarly work to continue diocesan functions such as ensuring insurance coverage for congregations and clergy.

Once the ultimate status of John-David Schofield is adjudicated by the House of Bishops, and if he is deposed, I will seek to gather the remaining members of the Diocese in a special convention to elect new leadership and make provision for an interim bishop. I will work with diocesan leaders to clarify ownership of the personal and real assets of the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin.

In all of this we seek the continued functioning, new growth, and renewed flourishing of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of San Joaquin. There may be bumps in the road, but with God's guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit, you will all be witnesses to the Resurrection in this part of God's vineyard. I fully expect that this Diocese will emerge from these trials and tribulations stronger and more clearly focused on the mission of Christ which we share. I give thanks for your faithfulness and your belief in the reality of the Resurrection, and I remain

Your servant in Christ,

Katharine Jefferts Schori