



THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF SAN JOAQUIN

THE CENTRAL THIRD OF CALIFORNIA

*THE RT. REV. JERRY A. LAMB, BISHOP
THE REV. CANON MARK H. HALL, CANON TO THE ORDINARY*

January 14, 2009

Dear People of God,

I send you greetings during this season after Epiphany, a season that reminds us that we are called to proclaim the Gospel to all the peoples of the world.

I write to you to invite you into conversations with me regarding your relationship with the Episcopal Church in view of the January 5, 2009 California Supreme Court decision on property. I am, of course, not an attorney, but the decision is clear that all property and assets of a parish are held in trust for the wider Episcopal Church, and upon any attempted disaffiliation from the Episcopal Church, such property must be returned to the Episcopal Church and its Diocese.

There has been enough pain and suffering on all sides of the issue of separation from the Episcopal Church. It is time for us to speak to one another face to face about returning to the fold of the Episcopal Church or setting forth a plan for gracious leave taking.

I remain ready to speak to clergy, the laity, those in leadership, or congregations. Please be in touch with me.

In peace,

+Jerry A. Lamb
Bishop of San Joaquin