

May 22, 2008

Dear Fellow Pilgrim in Faith:

I want to share with you some of my reflections on the conversation Archbishop Kurtz held with six members of our parish and myself last Saturday, May 10th. I am personally grateful to the Archbishop for the time he dedicated to us in that it demonstrates to me his profound respect of our ministry and desire to walk side by side with us on our pilgrimage of faith.

He shared that he enjoyed worshipping with us on Derby Sunday and complimented us on our lively and reverent praise of God. He enjoyed as well the round table conversation we had, especially appreciating the respectful exchange on values and the opportunity to pierce more deeply into the depth of the Spirit that animates our ministry. Although our conversation did not result in dispensations from any of the fourteen points of his letter, it did result in a clearer insight for all as to the dynamics at play between values. The Archbishop now knows and appreciates us in a deeper way and we have a greater understanding of the values behind his leadership.

Our Archbishop holds deeply as a value our Church's long held passion to pass on the fullness of our faith and tradition to those who follow. (I would say it this way...if he is going to err it will be to pass on more than is necessary rather than to lose anything essential.) We expressed as a value we hold deeply – a value also long standing in our Church – that the mission of the Church be allowed to shape any current manifestation of the faith that has been passed on to us. (I would say it this way...if we are going to err it will be to be too innovative at the cost of possibly losing something essential.) Both passions – the passion to pass on the fullness of faith and the passion to innovatively apply that faith to our present mission – are now and have always been in a natural tension with one another. One passion moves slowly, the other fast. One sees change as a chance to possibly lose something; the other sees change as a chance to possibly gain something. A balance must be maintained between these polar passions. A balance is what we at Epiphany will continue to seek.

I know that our feelings continue to fall all over the spectrum. Some still feel shock, others peace, others frustration, others hope, still others sadness and discouragement. Whatever your feelings, you are not alone. Your community of faith remains with you. As the worship committee and I discern the best way to implement our directives we ask you to keep us in your prayers. On Wednesday, June 18th at 7pm we will hold an evening service for any who wish to come together simply to be with one another in prayer. Linda Thieneman will preside and facilitate a sharing opportunity within the prayer service. In this way we want to reach out to any who feel isolated and offer all the opportunity to hold one another in love. In this way may we continue to be an epiphany for one another...a manifestation of God in our time.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Fr. Jeff