

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

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Office of the Bishop

June 5, 2009

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With all the media attention from South Florida on the impending reception of a Roman Catholic priest, I thought it might be helpful to remind myself and you of some important points.

1. Here in the Diocese of Chicago, we are richly blest by the lay people and clergy who have joined our common life from other religious traditions.
2. There are clearly defined processes for discerning Episcopal Church vocations with clergy from other traditions.
3. Clergy from other traditions who wish to be clergy in our diocese must spend at least a year participating fully in parish life as a lay person. It is important to have a strong sense of the rhythm of life in our congregations.
4. These persons must pass through our screening procedures.
5. Most importantly, clergy from other traditions who wish to be clergy in our diocese must be able to articulate a coherent sense of call to leading Episcopal communities of faith.
6. Such persons must go through a time of formation as Episcopal clergy.



CELEBRATING
AND SHARING
OUR FAITH

All Christians are continually about the task of discerning what God is calling them to do. This process is one incarnation of that general truth and is designed to help us be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and responsive to individuals' spiritual gifts.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeffrey D. Lee,
Bishop of Chicago

