

Dear Archbishop Beltran,

December 17, 2009

This is a follow-up letter regarding a letter submitted to Father Jacobi in November 2009 pertaining to Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee (OSC) membership on the part of the Parish of St. Eugene. A copy of that letter, with original signatures of concerned St. Eugene's parishioners, was submitted to you after the letter was presented to Fr. Jacobi.

Since that time, more and more St. Eugene parishioners have become aware of, and are alarmed at, the fact that their parish is an organizational member of the OSC. Large numbers of parishioners have paused in their day-to-day activities, have looked into the subject, have decided membership is inappropriate on a number of levels, and have signed letters asking Fr. Jacobi to withdraw from the OSC. Those letters were provided to Fr. Jacobi on December 9, 2009. Contained in the envelope was a cover letter inviting Father Jacobi to meet with those who do not agree with his position. In a follow up phone call, he respectfully declined to accept the invitation. Copies of the letters that were delivered and received by staff and placed in Fr. Jacobi's box are enclosed and are respectfully submitted for your information and review.

We continue to have grave concerns about the impact that St. Eugene's membership in OSC is having within the parish; and, more importantly, of the impact on the larger Church as a whole when we involve our mother Church directly in political processes. This divisive issue, created on the part of a handful of parishioners, has led many families to either leave this parish, or seriously consider doing so. More tragically, we understand some have left and are slow to attend or commit to another parish.

Whether one believes the Church has a legitimate role in the political realm, or that the Church ought not to be directly involved in politics, there is no denying the heartbreaking effect this divisive issue is causing. We therefore ask for your continued prayers on behalf of the people of the Parish of St. Eugene.

The 1983 Code of Canon Law speaks of the role of the laity and states in Canon 212 (3): "According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which they possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons."

Please know that we continue to keep you in our prayers, along with prayers for all of our priests and the Church throughout the world.

Most respectfully,  
Concerned Parishioners of St. Eugene Catholic Church

*Handwritten signatures:*

- Rob Huffman
- John Walker
- Ken & Susan Day
- William C. Stey
- Mary Eisen
- Bob + Irene Albrecht
- Patricia Ann De Cadenas
- Edward DeCastro
- Thomas Margulies
- Elfreda Bazarian
- Kevin W. Spinger
- Mary Ann Kata