



ST. EUGENE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Reverend Joseph A. Jacobi, Pastor

Friday, December 18, 2009

Mr. and Mrs. Rafael De Cardenas
10609 Dorothy Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Dear Ralph and Bette,

I have received the petition you signed on behalf of "Catholic Response." Before making up your mind about the worthiness of the work of our Interfaith Community Organizing effort, come to one of the "listening sessions" that will take place in January and February. The listening sessions will be explained at all the Masses on **Kickoff Sunday, January 24th**, and there will be a sign-up sheet available after each Mass listing the times and places of each listening session. There will be listening sessions offered in the homes of a couple of our team members on the evenings of January 27th and February 3rd as well as listening sessions at the church on Sunday, January 31st, plus there will be other options from which to choose. Each listening session is limited to 10 persons, so it is **important to sign-up** on Sunday, January 24th.

As you pray about this situation, I encourage you to **reflect on today's Gospel passage** from Matthew--the annunciation by the angel to Joseph about the upcoming birth of Jesus (*Mt. 1: 18-25*). When Joseph discovers that Mary is pregnant, at first glance it appears to him that she has been unfaithful, so he decides to quietly divorce her. All Joseph can perceive initially is scandal—his beloved has to be pregnant by another man. But with God's help, Joseph moves from the perception of scandal to the perception of how the Holy Spirit is at work. Joseph was tempted initially to judge and punish Mary, but he held back and waited until he was able to see things differently. Joseph would tell us that whenever things seem simple and obvious and the mind is feasting on its certainty and outrage, go slow---there is more than you think, only it hasn't appeared yet. Joseph teaches us to see everything twice--see it once with the physical eye and then see it again with the eye of the heart.

Know that you are in my prayers. May God bless you during this final week of Advent with the eyes to see the surprising ways the Lord is breaking into our lives, bringing the healing gift of his saving love.

In the peace of Christ,

Rev. Joseph A. Jacobi
Pastor

Philiph, I received your letter
dated Oct 24th. I hope you
will attend one of the listening
sessions so that you will see that
this is not what
you think it is
Fr. Jacobi