

Dear Fr. Risard,

As the Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin I grant your request that you be allowed to remain a Priest within the Episcopal Church. Up until the end of the Eucharist on Advent IV, December 23, 2007, I had hoped there might be a way for us to arrive at some form of reconciliation. Your statement made so vividly in front of the congregation at that Eucharist left no doubt that you would not want to represent me as vicar in any church in this diocese. It is plain that you do not wish to be part of this Diocese. Please notify me to which Episcopal Diocese I am to forward your letters dimissory. Despite compensation extending to December 31st your final day of service is to be December 25, 2007. Arrangements will be made for you to remove personal effects from your office and the sacristy of St. Nicholas' Church.

I thank you for your service to the Diocese of San Joaquin as both Deacon and Priest and particularly for your time deployed as Vicar at St. Nicholas, Atwater. You will recall clearly your meeting with me at my office on November 6th of this year when you were accompanied by the Bishop's Warden, Jo Sadler and the Canon to the Ordinary. At that time you were notified that your tenure at St. Nicholas would end on December 31, 2007 due to insufficient attendance and contributions from the congregation. I remind you that this meeting was subsequent to the one held at St. Nicholas on May 29th, where you requested a three month extension of your ministry in Atwater. You argued that this extension was necessary to provide sufficient time for you to reverse the decline both in attendance and contributions. In actual fact, the extension I granted amounted to more than five months. According to the statements you made to the congregation on Advent IV, the numbers attending St. Nicholas have decreased, not increased. It is clear, too, that there is not sufficient financial support for a full time priest.

Any requests from congregations in the Episcopal Church who would like to interview you will be given immediate response, and I pray that you will be granted the desires of your heart as you seek to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in your next calling.