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June 28, 2015

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Archbishop Hebda:

Welcome to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Catholic Coalition for Church Reform and its sister organization Council of the Baptized have been active here since 2009 and 2012 respectively. Our mission is to activate lay Catholics to work toward the mission of the local Church in the vision of Vatican II.

Our concern is that we have here Catholics of diverse viewpoints who have migrated to parishes of like-minded people and, very sadly, have become polarized. Leadership has promoted a "one way fits all" Catholic identity, beginning with "non-negotiables." This catechetical approach to faith formation is understandable given the fragmentation of worldviews in the larger society, but it is not conducive to our working together on the mission of the church in Christian love. It has, no doubt inadvertently, encouraged division and hostility.

We need an Archbishop who will appreciate many different ways of expressing Catholic faith, honoring differences while at the same time keeping in-depth discussion of the questions of faith and morality on the table. We are willing to work with him in trying to heal the polarity that exists here.

We also need a process through which all the diverse voices of the Archdiocese can be heard in the selection of our next Archbishop. We have been requesting this kind of an open and broad consultation of Archbishop Viganò. Can you help to make that happen? That process in itself may begin the bridge-building that is necessary.

We would appreciate your meeting with us to discuss our goals. Our Board meets on the second Monday evening of each month. Would you be available on July 13 at 7:00 p.m.? We would, of course, call a special Board meeting for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Bob Beutel, co-chair
Dan DeWan, co-chair

Catholics

Catholic

Catholic