



ST. RAPHAEL CATHEDRAL

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Dear Friends in Christ:

This letter respectfully requests a response about your membership. Please return the enclosed response card or completed registration form by Friday, June 6.

As you may know, the Catholic Church in downtown Madison is going through an important transition. In July, the three historic parishes around the Capitol Square – Holy Redeemer, St. Patrick, and St. Raphael – will formally merge into a single parish community to be known as the Cathedral Parish. We approach this transition with deep respect and appreciation for the past, but equally with great hope and confidence in the future.

St. Raphael had a parish life that has been interrupted, and will never again be just as it was prior to the fire. In asking you to be part of the new Cathedral Parish, I am also asking you to see beyond your loss to embrace a new mission and a hopeful future.

Until such time as a new St. Raphael Cathedral (God willing) rises on the historical site and becomes the principal building of our parish, things will continue much the same as they have for the past few years. St. Patrick and Holy Redeemer will remain fully utilized for Sunday and weekday Masses and for the celebration of the other Sacraments. The office of the newly merged parish will be at St. Patrick, while the rectory will be at Holy Redeemer.

The Catholic Church does need to be present in downtown Madison now and into the future. She needs to live in a unified community of believers with a commitment to the local mission of the Church. This is the positive vision that is motivating the merger of the isthmus parishes.

This letter is your formal and personal invitation to become a member of the newly merged Cathedral Parish, which will begin its life in July 2008. You have been a faithful and valued member of St. Raphael Cathedral in the past; it is my hope that you will want to be a committed and enthusiastic member of our new Cathedral Parish as it continues to evolve.

Please return the enclosed response card or the completed registration form to the parish office. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call Monica Freng, Director of Parish Life and Mission, at 257-5000, ext. 14, or visit www.isthmuscatholic.org. Thank you for reading this letter, and I hope that I will hear from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Msgr. Kevin Holmes