



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate

June 8, 2007

For the people of Northern Michigan

My dear brothers and sisters:

We have lost a friend and brother as well as a bishop. The prayers of the whole Church are with you, for Bishop James Kelsey was a large presence in our common life. Our hearts are torn, and we shall miss him mightily. In the coming years, we will all continue to give thanks for the gift he has been to so many, both as a person and as a leader and agent of change. He kept the vision of justice before us, and he kept us all alert to the gift of ministry given in baptism.

I will miss him both in the House of Bishops – where I often met him on early morning runs as well as working with him in the more formal sessions – and as a brother in Christ, as I knew him as a fellow CREDO participant, presence at Living Stones, among the tiny bishops, and in so many other groups of advocacy and support around the church. He gave sacrificially of his own being, and we have all been immensely blessed.

The Diocese of Northern Michigan will continue in my own prayers. I know that I met Jesus in Jim Kelsey, and I will trust that the Spirit will continue to bless us all with the abundant gifts and comforting presence of God.

May Jim rest in peace and rise in glory, and may the tears of all who mourn find solace and comfort in the palm of God's hand.

Shalom,


Katharine Jefferts Schori

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