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20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am humbled and overjoyed that you have taken this time to look at the Catholic Church of the Americas and that we have much to offer you and the people of God. We are not a group of priests who like to dress up a couple of days a year, but we are a group of working priests who, as Jesus did, find those in need of our services and intrude ourselves in their lives.

Therefore, we have done and continue to do all types of ministries, some enjoy active parish work, Franciscan confrontation, Benedictine prayer and education, and yet others as helpers to see that the Catholic Church of the Americas is a well-oiled machine being of service to the Church Universal, bishops or parochial needs.

My personal journey is that I did novitiate with a religious community within the Roman Catholic Church. After this spiritual formation came more studies on dogma, tradition, ethics and doctrine (in the 70s). To be honest with you there was no way I could endorse some of these doctrines and maintain my dignity as a Servant of the Christ. I found that this was true with some of my friend and on June 26, several of us met at the Hartford Covenant and firmly gave birth to and began our traditions and prospect of the future path of the Catholic Church of the Americas. I was elected as Presiding Bishop and have had the honor to serve in this position since 1996.

My vocation was never that of a parish priest. My attempt as such was less than successful. I then became a chaplain the jail system for six years and found niche there. Since 1972,

however, I had been serving as a teacher and in 2018, I decided to retire from Southern University at New Orleans where I had taught psychology and sociology for several years. I am still a curriculum consultant at a few colleges. I continue seeing private patients as well as doing spiritual direction. All, "for the sake of God's reign." Though all ministries have their value and place in the Church, my current obligation is to conduct, organize, make possible rites, and other liturgical separations as part of OUR tradition.

I have set 2017 and 2018 as a time to listen to the Word of God and increase our ranks among the priests, deacons, seminarians, and to nurture the budding vocations that are among us. We are inclusive, therefore, we celebrate the validity of all persons as part of Holy Orders. Even as a child, I used to ask the nuns every year, "Did Jesus die for all of us?" The resounding "Yes" as a response. "Did he die for you?" "Of course." "Then why can't you be a priest- one of God's sacraments?" The responses I got were always quiet and not resounding and, hopefully, put a few minds to really thinking about this. Therefore, there is obviously place for ALL God's children in ALL seven sacraments that He left for ALL of us. Books and books have been written on this thesis. But, think of it as through Denis's teenage mind and see what you think. If you cannot see ordination for ALL persons of God in their diversity, then, you do not accept the unconditional love of God for all his children. And the CCA may not be a good fit for you.

In reading through this website, my prayer is that you see yourself willing to serve the world as beacon that overshadows those churches that are plagued with scandals, discrimination, and internal judgments. We are a scandal-free church and hope that you will join us. The road is long and not easy, but though the pain and suffering, remember that the Spirit is taking care of you in a very special way.

Thank you for your time, cooperation and understanding and I look forward to speaking or hearing from you in your earliest possible convenience. In union of prayers, I remain

Your Humble servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Martel".

+Bishop Denis Martel