

SOCIETY OF JESUS



OREGON PROVINCE

A Message to our Supporters

Peace of Christ!

On February 17, 2009, the Society of Jesus, Oregon Province (The Jesuits) filed to reorganize under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

In spite of all the good work by Jesuits and our colleagues to carry on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, both in the past and present, we are at a crossroads due to the actions of a few people that have caused a great sadness for so many in our Church. These actions have resulted in great sorrow as well as pain and humiliation for the many Jesuits who have faithfully kept their vows and humbly served God's people.

Our concern must be for those who have suffered and who are in need of healing. We have searched for ways to adequately respond to the claims of misconduct and we have been transparent and cooperative throughout the process.

It is my desire to respond in the most appropriate way to all those who have suffered. Because of our limited resources, I made a very difficult decision. I have asked that a petition for a Chapter 11 reorganization of the Oregon Province be filed in the United States Bankruptcy Court. We expect through this process to reach an agreement with our creditors that will lead to an approved plan for reorganization for the Oregon Province.

I and the leadership of the Oregon Province believe that this decision provides the best opportunity for healing, justice and fair compensation for those who have suffered. It is also the best way to continue the Oregon Province's mission in the Northwest.

For your companionship and friendship, I extend my gratitude as well as my prayers and support. We are as dependent on you now as we ever were. I know these coming months and years are not going to be easy for any of us. But at the end, I am convinced, lies the bright, shining hope of Resurrection.

I ask for your continued prayers for those who have suffered. Please pray for me, for the Jesuits you know and love, and for all who are involved in this reorganization process. Please pray for healing in our province. Let us continue to trust that the Lord will guide us through this difficult time in our history.

Yours in Christ,

Patrick J. Lee, S.J.
Provincial