

Dear Companions and Friends,

May the grace and peace of the Risen Lamb be with you. We would like to thank all of you for your love, prayers and intercession. As you can understand, this has been a difficult time for all of us. Questions and concerns have been pouring in from all over, so we wanted to update you at this time.

Due to the tremendous compassion and generosity of Archbishop Lucas and the Archdiocese of Omaha, we are currently being cared for in a retreat center outside of Omaha. It has been a time to pray, to grieve, to reflect and to rest as we try to come to terms with this great loss. We are deeply moved by the love and support that has been pouring in from all of you and we know that this is what is carrying us right now. The Lord promises us in Jeremiah 29:11 a future full of hope. The weeks and months ahead will be a time to heal and discern the future that the Lord intends for us. Please continue to lift us up in prayer. Pray that we will receive the grace to understand His vision and move forward in His will for us.

Many of you are writing to ask if there is anything that we need. Other than your love and prayers, we need your financial support right now. The cost of finding a home for 50+ people is monumental. Like the Israelites in the Exodus, we left with very little. The Archdiocese is helping us to look for a place which would house our community, so that we can continue to live and work and pray together, and from which we can, once again, begin to communicate with all of you on a regular basis. Our monthly expenses will be approximately \$25,000 which includes housing, utilities, food and basic living expenses such as gas and phone service.

VERY IMPORTANT: Checks should be made payable to “Archdiocese of Omaha” with a notation in the memo field for “Intercessor Relief,” and mailed to:

Intercessor Relief
c/o Archdiocese of Omaha
100 N. 62nd Street
Omaha, NE 68132

An urgent reminder: Any donations to “The Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc,” will not be used to support a Catholic organization. If you choose to donate to anyone, personally, whose name does not appear on the list at the end of this letter, you may be running the risk of supporting Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc.

A financial report of donations and expenses will be posted on our website at appropriate times. It is our desire to have full transparency and accountability for all of the generous funds contributed for our support.

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(part of the) *Suppression Statement from Archbishop George Lucas, October 15, 2010*
http://www.archomaha.org/newsevents/pdf/lucas_statement_intercessors.pdf

“From this point forward, The Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc., is in no way associated with the Catholic Church.”

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(Statement from Fr Baxter...with given permission to pass on to former Companions)

The bellwetheromaha web site (www.bellwetheromaha.org) is no longer affiliated with the Catholic Church and should be avoided by all Catholics.

I am working with 48 former Intercessors and will continue to do so as they discern the possibilities of forming a new community. If any one wants to make an “authentic” donation to help the former community members you can let them know that only those checks payable to the “Archdiocese of Omaha” with a notation made in the memo field for "Intercessor Relief" will go to support these former Intercessor members. They can send a donation to:

*Intercessor Relief
c/o Archdiocese of Omaha
100 North 62nd Street
Omaha, NE 68132*

These would be tax-deductable gifts.

Please feel free to forward this to those who may interceded in helping.

Thank you and God bless you.

Fr. Baxter

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Once we settle in, we will need the following items:

- Computers
- Printers
- Cars, trucks, vans
- Possibly some furniture
- Phone cards to assist with long distance calling
- Gift cards so that we can purchase household items

Please understand that we need some space and privacy to grieve and work through all that has happened. We realize that we are all grieving together, and we carry you in our hearts. We realize that many of you have questions and do not understand what has happened. Even to us, this is quite a shock, but **we are all in agreement with the Archbishop and support him 100% in his decision.**

It is very important that you know that the canonical visitation with Fr. James Conn was **not** the reason for the suppression of the public association of the Intercessors of the Lamb, nor was it due to problems with the charism itself. After the canonical visitation, the majority of the community was excited about Archbishop Lucas’ desire to help us grow in various areas of our community life. With the help of Fr. Gregory Baxter, that process was underway and things were actually going well...we began to feel excitement about the future. There are 56 brothers, sisters and priests who, along with the vast majority of our local lay community, remained obedient to the Archbishop throughout that entire process. The suppression came because of the unwillingness of Nadine Brown to cooperate with Fr. Baxter, the Archbishop’s trustee, and the unwillingness of the majority of the “Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc.” civil board to comply with Archbishop Lucas’ directives that would put the civil board in conformity with the Canon Law of the Catholic Church and allow us to move forward as a community within the Catholic Church. We thank those on that board who did comply with the Archbishop.

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(part of the) *Suppression Statement from Archbishop George Lucas, October 15, 2010*
http://www.archomaha.org/newsevents/pdf/lucas_statement_intercessors.pdf

*“Today, for grave reasons, I suppressed the Hermit Association of the Intercessors of the Lamb. The reasons for this suppression are noted in a separate news release, principally, **the refusal of the lay civil board of the Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc., a Nebraska corporation, to acknowledge my authority in making much-needed reforms in the community.** The way of life of some fifty vowed members was in peril due to actions of a handful of civil directors. The vows of the former members have ceased (c. 1194), and they are to set aside the habit and refrain from using the titles “Mother,” “Brother,” or “Sister.” They are no longer considered to be in consecrated life or assimilated to it in the Church. I am providing for the care of the former members in the short-term, and remain committed to helping them in any way I can in the future.*

From this point forward, The Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc., is in no way associated with the Catholic Church. As Archbishop of Omaha, and in view of my authority to govern and guard the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church (c. 835§1), I hereby decree that no liturgical or sacramental celebrations are to occur on any property owned by the Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc., within the Archdiocese of Omaha. Priests, deacons, and lay ministers are to observe this prescription. The chapel formerly known as the Our Lady of Light Chapel on the Bellwether campus in Omaha is no longer a Catholic chapel. Catholic faithful worldwide should be aware that any alms given to the Intercessors of the Lamb, Inc., are not being given to a Catholic organization. Those who previously had scheduled retreats or other Catholic ministry opportunities there should look elsewhere.”

“...Of course, Catholic faithful are always welcome, in virtue of their baptism, to associate together and to pray. I would encourage those companions and associates to continue to pray for the former vowed members of the Intercessor community, for the Church, and for the needs of the world.”

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(part of the) *Archdiocesan News Release, October 15, 2010*
<http://www.archomaha.org/newsevents/pdf/SuppressionRelease.pdf>
<http://www.archomaha.org/newsevents/pdf/SuppressionRelease.pdf>

“According to Deacon Timothy F. McNeil, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Omaha, all Catholic institutions and apostolates in the archdiocese must have a connection to the Archbishop of Omaha. “When the association asked to be recognized as a Catholic entity in accord with Church law, it agreed to recognize the pastoral authority of the archbishop and follow Catholic practices,” McNeil said. “In other words, you cannot make the claim you’re a Catholic organization and at the same time separate yourself from the teaching sanctifying, and governing role of the archbishop.”

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The best sources for accurate updates during this time can be found on the Archdiocese of Omaha’s website on the following link, called “Intercessor Update”: <http://www.archomaha.org/newsevents/intercessors.html>.

In obedience to the directions of our Archbishop, George Lucas, we are asking our former companions and prayer groups to discontinue using all manuals, books and other material published by the former Intercessors of the Lamb community and to discontinue all discernment ministries. Additionally, Archbishop Lucas has asked us to temporarily discontinue our spiritual direction services during this time of reformation and rebuilding. We

encourage you to continue to gather and intercede for the needs of the Church and Her priests, and especially for those of us here in our community who have chosen to remain under the direction of our Archbishop in the hope of discerning the formation of a new community with a chrism rooted in intercessory prayer.

We encourage you to continue journaling daily with sacred Scriptures (i.e. Lectio Divina) and to foster the fruits of contemplative prayer in your lives. Please continue to pray with each other and for each other in your group gatherings. If you would like to stay in touch please do not hesitate to contact us.

Our mailing address is:

Name
P.O. Box 31457
Omaha, NE 68131

Our email is:

intercessorrelief@gmail.com

Our website is:

intercessorrelief.com

We are so very grateful to all of you who have expressed your concern for us and who have sent in donations to assist us so far. Your kindness and generosity to us at this time of great need will not be forgotten!

It is very important for all of us here to let you know that all of the former Intercessor of the Lamb priests have remained faithful to the Archbishop, along with the vast majority of former sisters and brothers. We have listed below the names of all of us who are standing in firm obedience to our Archbishop and to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We are:

Name

Former Religious Name

Father Mark Nolte
Father Kevin Joyce
Father Walter Jong-A-Kiem
Father Christopher Onuoha
Father Michael Voithofer
Father Les Valerio

Father John Mark
Father John Paul
Father Paschal
Father Christopher
Father John Michael
Father Francis

David Hennessy
Charles Beck
Ryan Waddell
Sean Tobin
David Simon
Michael Nolte
Edward Wamala
Deacon Gregory Lies
Anthony Kote-Witah
Matthew Bomm
Thomas Todt
Bob Newell
Bill O'Connor

Brother David Marie
Brother Paul Marie
Brother Francesco Diego
Brother Simon Mary
Brother Noah Michael
Brother Michael
Brother John Marie
Brother Jerome
Brother Anthony of the Lamb
Brother Matthew Thomas Mary
Brother Jeremiah
Brother Raphael
Brother Peter

Agnes Bitature
Angelina Pang
Angela Lee
Antonina Forteza
Barbara Lund

Sr. Cecilia Marie
Sr. Angelina
Sr. Angela Mary
Sr. Mary Antonina
Sr. Barbara

Benedicta Quainoo	Sr. Benedicta Therese
Carmen Ramos	Sr. Pia Therese
Catherine Mackid	Sr. Agnes Anawim
Cecilia Becker	Sr. Maria Rosa
Chris Gerien	Sr. Catherine Marie
Cindy Iglesias	Sr. Carmela
Cristina Guevara	Sr. Mary Cristina
Danielle Tayabas	Sr. Mary Angelus
Danika Boever	Sr. Mary Danika
Elisabeth Ng	Sr. Mary Natalia
Gloria Erickson	Sr. Gloria
Holly Dow	Sr. Holly
Jacqueline Bocklett	Sr. Anna Marie
Janice McGrew	Sr. Mary Hope
Jean Felber	Sr. Jean Michelle
Jenny Mansingh	Sr. Rosalinda Marie
Julianna Koh	Sr. Therese Marie
Kate Casale	Sr. Mary Rose
Kathy Hawkins	Sr. Miriam Agnes
Lily Ogbulafor	Sr. Mary Uchenna
Linda Roach	Sr. Gabriella
Linda Marie Neuhoff	Sr. Elizabeth Marie
Lindsay Brennan	Sr. Lucia Therese
Louella Colburn	Sr. Louise Marie
Louise Edwards	Sr. Louise
Lynne Keating	Sr. Judith Marie
Rebecca Wunderlick	Sr. Rebecca
Rose-Mary Roy	Sr. Rose Virginie
Rita Gatt	Sr. Rita Therese
Rita Bazzi	Sr. Mary Rita
Sherraline Lewis	Sr. Petra
Vilma Gomez	Sr. Evangeline

Those who have decided to return to their homes and to their lives in the world are:

Donna Fleming	Sr. Mary Magdalene
Marianne Bell	Sr. Margaret Mary
Mavis Stowers	Sr. Mary Faustina
Wade Marsh	Br. Francis Ambrose

Once again, we thank all of you who have been so kind and supportive to us during this time of trial. We repeat our promise to pray for you, for your needs and for all the intentions of your hearts.

Gratefully, in the Heart of Jesus and Mary,

Father Mark Nolte
 Father Christopher Onuoha

Father Kevin Joyce
 Father Michael Voithofer

Father Walter Jong-A-Kiem
 Father Les Valerio

