



FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE | the SCP
CHRIST CHURCH NEW HAVEN | 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

We welcome you to Christ Church New Haven for this, the Inaugural Conference of the Society of Catholic Priests in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. The response to the formation of the Society has been surprising and deeply rewarding. Your energy, thoughtfulness, and desire to deepen our service have carried this project from vague possibility to rich potential.

This past year has seen multiple developments that underscore the need for such a Society at this juncture in the life of the Church. The recent Vatican initiative, the breaking away of churches and bishops, and the pressures of continued financial distress all point to the crucial moment which Anglicanism faces.

Jeremy Taylor, writing in the seventeenth century, stated,

It is not the differing opinions that is the cause of the present ruptures, but want of charity; it is not the variety of understandings, but the disunion of wills and affections; it is not the several principles, but the several ends, that cause our miseries...we, by this time, are come to that pass, we think we love not God except we hate our brother, and we have not the virtue of religion, unless we persecute all religions but our own.

The Society of Catholic Priests is devoted to sharing our faith in the triune God; to renewing our love of brother and sister; to rediscovering a common will and affection; to discerning those principles which inspire our worship, call us to service, and echo across tumult and time; to repairing ruptures and growing in charity.

These ends are not accomplished by proclamation, self-promotion, or busyness. They are rooted in a centered spirituality that calls us to calm, reins in anger, and raises our eyes to the heavens. As we come together for this inaugural conference, it is our hope that we can find that which binds us together, brings us joy, enriches our understanding, and gives glory to God. We welcome you to Christ Church and pray that our time together may bear rich fruit as we share this sacred space and worship in the beauty of holiness.

Yours in Christ,

Fr David Cobb &
Robert Hendrickson