



ANGLICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BRAZIL

DIOCESE OF SÃO PAULO

Rua Borges Lagoa 172
04038-000, São Paulo, SP.
Brazil



June 6, 2009

Dear Bishop Baxter and the members
of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you at your Diocesan Convention.

It is with great regret that my wife, Elizabeth, and I are not with you at this moment, but as St. Paul said, "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak". Praise be to God that I am well on the road to full recovery. (The doctor says I am 80 % recovered, but I think he is being conservative and that my recovery is well over 90 %.) One thing that I really experienced during my illness was the power of prayer and I thank you deeply for all your prayers.

The Diocese of São Paulo is praying for you during this Convention and giving thanks to God for our companion relationship.

Last year I asked for your prayers for the Anglican Communion and in particular for the Lambeth Conference. I believe that the conference was a success. Not that all the conflicts were resolved, but we, the bishops, came away with the conviction that these problems can be resolved if we address them with prayer and frank dialogue which means talking and LISTENING to God and one another.

Once again, we of the Diocese of São Paulo are extremely grateful for the wonderful support that we are receiving from you for "Casa Dia", our rehabilitation center for youth recovering from drug addiction. In many ways this year is going to be a difficult year for us. "Casa Dia" receives financial support from the municipality to partially cover its operational expenses. However, during the past eight years the amount we receive has not been adjusted to cover the effects of inflation. Considering that inflation in Brazil has been around 5% per annum during this period, we are in effect receiving only about 50% of what we received in 2002 in terms of buying power.

We have also been examining the legislation regarding homes of this type and discovered that we will have to make adaptations to the house so that physically handicapped people can move around the house. Unfortunately these alterations are going to cost between US\$ 20,000 and US\$ 25,000. However, we are launching campaigns throughout the diocese to try to raise this money and I ask you to pray that we will be successful.

On the other hand we have positive things to report. We are in the process of searching for a person to administer "Casa Dia" which, we believe, will lead to more efficient supervision of all the activities of the home and will enable Rev. Carolina to dedicate more time to his ministry and spreading the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ in Araçatuba and other towns in the vicinity.

May our heavenly Father bless you, your Bishop and your diocese.

†Roger D. Bird
Diocesan Bishop