



A Letter from Bishop Steven J. Lopes, STD

In Response to the Death of Cardinal William Levada



Dear friends in Christ,

Early Thursday morning in Rome, Cardinal William Levada died peacefully in his sleep, having just returned to Rome from the United States the evening before. Many of you may remember him from his visits here to Walsingham. He was one of the principle co-consecrators at my ordination as your Bishop and preached the homily on that occasion. A year prior, he presided at Choral Evensong here and blessed the Chancery Building. These are but two visible signs of his support and closeness to the Ordinariate and the Cathedral stretching back many years.

Cardinal Levada was Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith when *Anglicanorum coetibus* was promulgated. We recall gratefully Pope Benedict XVI's care for us in that Apostolic Constitution — we must also gratefully remember those like Cardinal Levada who worked closely with the Holy Father to make that vision a reality. What you may not know is that a young Monsignor Levada worked as an official of the same Congregation in the late '70s and early '80s. One of his projects at that time would become known as the Pastoral Provision of John Paul II for former Anglicans. In this role, he was directly involved in the establishment of both this Cathedral Parish and the Parish of Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio. We owe him a great debt of gratitude.

I had the privilege of living with Cardinal Levada for over a decade and serving as his Secretary and Executive Assistant. He ordained me a priest, he sent me away for graduate studies, and appointed me to the Congregation in Rome. He was a pastor, a mentor, and in later years especially, a very dear friend. I will miss him greatly. Please pray for the blessed repose of his soul. Please pray for me as I travel to Rome next week to look after some of the Cardinal's temporal affairs.

Assuring you of my prayers and my blessing,

Most Rev. Steven J. Lopes
Bishop