



ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY ■ POST OFFICE BOX 32180 ■ OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73123

405/721-5651

September 28, 2009

Mrs. Mariam

Dear Mrs.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your petition of September 18<sup>th</sup> which you delivered to my door. I have since been away on retreat. Consequently my delay in responding after calling you.

In response to you and the others who petitioned for my sponsorship of an Oklahoma Catholic Community organization, I must decline. We already have a very active Catholic Charities which has been vilified recently. We also have canonically established parishes where our Catholic life and ministry should be practiced. The organization your group proposes seems to be a reaction that would continue to divide our Catholic community.

In the very beginning of this controversy, I made it clear that, while I personally do not support the Oklahoma Sponsoring Committee, I saw good people on both sides of the issue. Since then I have clearly stated my direction in the current issue of the *Sooner Catholic*. I hope you will read it and that your concerns will be addressed. Please share this response and my prayers for all other signers of your petition.

Be assured of my continuing prayers and may God bless you always.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

+ *Eusebius J. Beltran*

Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran  
Archbishop of Oklahoma City

EJB/cd