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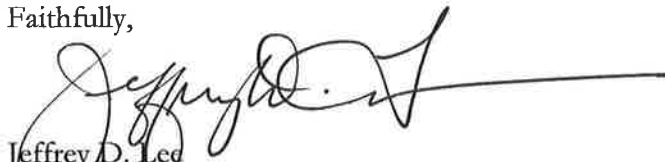
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The heart of the ministry of the Bishop's office is to be a resource for congregational vitality. A healthy diocese is a community of vibrant congregations, just as a vital congregation is a community of spiritually vital members. We have often focused on developing diocesan and parish programs and activities when the greater potential lies in addressing directly the spiritual lives of our members.

Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal seeks to foster new life in congregations by supporting the spiritual renewal of their members. The process begins with a survey of the spiritual convictions and practices of people in a congregation and provides a snap shot of the strengths and weaknesses in the spiritual life of parishioners. This assessment allows parish leaders to develop ministry plans that address the spiritual needs and aspirations of people in the parish.

Episcopal Spiritual Life Renewal is a bold initiative, undertaken first by Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, and now being engaged by 12 congregations in our diocese. Partnering with Church of the Holy Spirit in ESLR are the Diocese of Chicago and Seabury Western Seminary. This is a pilot project that we believe will generate important insight into how we can foster spiritual growth among our members. We consider this a work in progress and will continue to develop the survey and the follow up resources. We welcome your participation and response to this adventure.

Faithfully,



Jeffrey D. Lee
Bishop of Chicago