

Saint John's Catholic Church

6420 Linway Terrace
McLean, VA 22101

(703) 356-7916

February 1, 1991

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hookey
6811 Dillon Avenue
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hookey,

I have received your letter of January 23. I regret to inform you that I am not able to give you a letter of permission to have your child baptized at the PAX Community or by the Reverend James Hug, S.J.

When the PAX Community severed its relationship with Saint Luke's, it separated itself from the approbation of the Bishop and, therefore, from proper ecclesiastical structure. I have checked with the chancery office of the Diocese of Arlington to see whether the Bishop has subsequently given his permission for the activities of the PAX Community. I have been assured by the Chancellor that the Bishop has not and that, in fact, in meeting with the leadership of the PAX Community, the Bishop explicitly expressed his disapproval of the current situation and asked that the members of the PAX Community return to their proper parishes. Therefore, participation in the activities of the PAX Community, whether by clergy or by laity, is not a legitimate expression of Catholic unity and discipline.

Your request highlights in a concrete way the precise difficulty brought about by a group of people "doing their own thing". I would urge you, therefore, in accord with the advice of our Bishop, to sever your ties with the PAX Community, to participate in the Church's life and worship fully here at Saint John's, and to make proper arrangements for your child's baptism here at Saint John's within the legitimate structure of the Church.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Ley

Reverend Richard J. Ley
Pastor