

**Statement of Solidarity
with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saltillo, Mexico**

Regarding the Diocesan-Endorsed Forum on Sexual Diversity by Accepting and Welcoming LGBTQ Catholics with 'The Church Is Your Home'

TO: The Most Rev. Jose Raul Vera Lopez, O.P.
Bishop of Saltillo

FROM: The Ministers, People and Congregations
assembled at the 25th Convocation of the Alliance of Baptists

In recognition of the bold and powerful declaration by the bishop of Saltillo, Jose Raul Vera Lopez, O.P., in allowing official diocesan sponsorship of the Fourth Sexual Diversity, Family and Religion Forum, which takes into account the dignity and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered persons.

It is with respect and admiration that the Alliance of Baptists recognizes and applauds Bishop Lopez and the Diocese of Saltillo for their efforts to illuminate the path of acceptance and understanding of the LGBT community. The message and faith promulgated in the diocese of Saltillo will not only affect the spiritual lives of those within Bishop Lopez's jurisdiction, but also of those in neighboring dioceses and will also advance the conversation on human sexuality within the Catholic Church.

In a time when episcopal ministers may fear public ridicule and unfounded accusations, Bishop Lopez has taken to heart the Gospel of Jesus Christ in proclaiming: *"Jesus founded the Church to bring in those on the outside, for those suffering exclusion and rejection.... so that they find the love of God."*

The Alliance of Baptists in Convocation would like to extend its prayers, encouragement and voice with Bishop Lopez in his work to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to the Diocese of Saltillo as it continues listening to the Holy Spirit seeking to discern its role and impact on the souls it is called to shepherd.

As Baptists for a changing world seeking to re-imagine, re-ignite and re-engage the people of God, we stand in solidarity with Bishop Lopez and the Diocese of Saltillo and invoke the Holy Spirit to continue moving in, with and through the Body of Christ.

Written and Submitted by the Rev. John P. Luft

Formal address for recipient:

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