



Saint Clare of Assisi
CATHOLIC CHURCH

January 14, 2017

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Perhaps you will remember me as the priest who officiated at the wedding of Bryan and Jenny Stirling when the skies opened and we all ran for cover to the porch of the Daniel Island Club. They had hoped for a memorable day and, certainly, the good Lord blessed them with one!

This is a letter I have been meaning to send you for a long time. Bryan has encouraged me to write several times. Now that you are in transition to a new role in government leadership, I hope this greeting will find its way to you.

Here is what I have wished to share with you: In 2009 and 2010, I took a sabbatical and worked as a Development Officer at NPR (formerly National Public Radio) in Washington, DC where I built relationships with major donors. In 2009, the News Department sent out a company-wide email for a series they planned to produce, asking if anyone knew about rising women politicians from our respective home states. I remembered reading something about a S.C. House Representative from Bamberg who was emerging in popularity and forwarded the article to the News Department. Sixteen months later you would assume the highest office in our state and have since ascended to become a strong, caring, and articulate voice admired throughout the entire country.

Please accept my congratulations as you prepare to represent our country at the United Nations. We South Carolinians are so very proud of you. When I learned the news that the President-elect had nominated you, I thought, "excellent choice!" Your grace and intelligence will serve you and us well, especially when you must interact with difficult entities. Bless their hearts.

Count on my prayers for you and your family in the days and years ahead, particularly as you take up residence in a culture that is quite different from the Palmetto State. May our loving God of wisdom, mercy and justice guide and embrace you always.

Sincerely,

The Reverend H. Gregory West, JCL