



Anglican Church in North America

Provincial Office
800 Maplewood Avenue
Ambridge, PA 15003

Office of the Archbishop
367 Athens Highway
Judah Crossing – Building 650
Loganville, GA 30052

Ph (724) 266-9400 • Fax (724) 266-1129

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach

April 15, 2021

The Reverend Mother Superior Miriam
The Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province
242 Cloister Way
Greenwich, NY, 12834

Dear Mother Miriam,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with abundant joy that I welcome you and all the Sisters of your community into the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). I am thrilled that you will be part of the Anglican Diocese of the Living Word under the episcopal leadership of Bishop Julian Dobbs. It has been the prayer of many that vowed religious communities are formed and cultivated within our Province. Your contemplative life of prayer and service and fidelity to the Gospel and the Anglican tradition has been a light to the Kingdom for over 150 years. It will, no doubt, continue to be of great edification to the people of the diocese and the greater ACNA.

You join many in the Province who understand the sacrifices and challenges made in order to stand firm in the faith handed down from Christ through the Apostles and the Church. While the decision to leave may have been evident, it has not come without great heartbreak for many. Jesus Christ tells us that following Him will bring division (Luke 12:41-53), even within one's household; and that anyone who loves his family more than we love Him, we have denied the faith and are worse than unbelievers (1 Timothy 5:8). Saying goodbye to one's church family can be just as painful, even when the family has long since *left us*. Many have lost beloved friends, sacred places, established traditions, and financial stability. Though our charge as followers of Christ to follow him at all costs is clear.

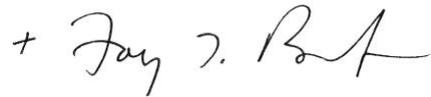
We can rest in the words of Christ, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my

account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12)".

Thank you for your witness to the Truth. Thank you for standing firm in the Faith. You have my full support and blessing as you make the transition into the Anglican Church in North America. I look forward to a visit to your community when the COVID pandemic has passed.

Glory to God in the highest!

Your Servant in Christ Jesus our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay T. Beach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach
Archbishop and Primate

CC: The Rt. Rev. Julian Dobbs, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of the Living Word
The Rev. Canon Wesley Jagoe, Archbishop's Canon and Chaplain