

From the Bishop

9 July 2019

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

It's a great and glorious thing to address you as "colleagues in ministry." The collegial relationships I am witnessing among you greatly inspires me; I am honored and blessed to join you, walk beside you, and support you.



Thank you for your presence and prayers at the ordination and consecration. Many people poured love and sweat into every detail of the weekend in order to make everything run smoothly, for which I shall have a lifetime of gratitude. Among the highlights of that weekend was walking into the parish hall at St. Mary Church in Falmouth, the Friday just prior to Saturday's consecration, and being greeted by so many of your welcoming faces, and another was saying a poignant farewell to Steve and Gretchen Lane in the cloister by the Bishop's Garden, following Saturday's service.

Friday evening before the ordination and consecration, Presiding Bishop Curry presented me with a framed quotation from the late Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey. I doubt Bishop Curry knew of my interest in Archbishop Ramsey, which makes the gift all the more cherished. Its final sentences continue to repeat in my ear: "Faith is a costly conviction as our God is blazing fire. In Christ crucified and risen, in suffering and victorious love, there is a plan, a center, a purpose." I love the image of Jesus Christ being a center for us all, and I endeavor to serve you always with Jesus as The Center. That said, I also long to hear who Jesus has been and is for you in your life and service.

Bishop Lane's absence at Loring House is indeed palpable. His sage advice and guidance since my election in February and my arrival in May, is a strong foundation for moving forward together. As I develop my "sea legs" with all there is to learn in my new role, I continue to ask for your kind understanding and patience. I feel buoyed and balanced by the tremendous excitement and eagerness I have to get underway, and have trust and confidence that - through active dialogues and interchanges with you along with continuing prayer - our intended path together will unfold and become clear. I know I'll need your help; I offer mine to you.

I have a vision for being in relationship with you that is grounded in the gifts of the Spirit with all their challenge and possibility: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. My prayer is that we nurture these in each other.

And let's have some fun together, too!

On Christ the Solid Rock we stand!

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is set against a light gray rectangular background.

The Right Reverend Thomas J. Brown
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