



Dear Diocesan family,

How humbling it is to be a nominee for bishop coadjutor and ultimately the ninth bishop of our diocese. You have raised me up. You have supported and encouraged me throughout much of my life and through my vocation as priest. Thank you.

Now is a time of great opportunity in our diocese. We have a legacy of ministries that enable us to share the love of Christ with those nearby, with the incarcerated and with those in distant places. Our smaller parishes and missions have a passion and commitment to Jesus that is fervent and palpable. Our larger churches offer a breadth of programs and resources and a spirit of generosity that benefit us all.

In this season, God is calling us to come together like never before, as followers of Christ: to dream and to heal, to practice a radical welcome and love for each other as we cast wide the net, ensuring a safe space for increasing diversity in our diocese and for all God's people. We live in a world facing many challenges, not just locally and within our diocese, but within our country and the wider global community. Jesus is bringing new life and inspiration to his creation. We will discover and articulate together a vision for growing and strengthening our churches and for sharing the love of Christ in an increasingly unchurched world. Grounded in holy scripture and in the breaking of bread, we will continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and to follow Jesus.

Leading a small congregation and mission church, facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles, has taught me to rely more fully on God than on human strength and will. Even and especially in this pandemic time, I have seen the Spirit move powerfully, bringing together people with an urgent desire to make a tangible difference in their communities and a deep hunger for a very real relationship with the living Word Jesus. Challenging times are a sacred crucible for transformation as we offer ourselves to God with abandon – knowing He never disappoints. In my essays, you will find some of the possibilities bubbling up for me. Whether elected or not, I look forward to dreaming together as we embody Jesus' Beloved Community.

In the weeks ahead, let us pray for one another, for the Diocese of Florida and for God's holy catholic and apostolic Church.

In Christ's love,
The Rev. Cn. Beth Tjoflat