THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

September 24, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are excited to announce that beginning October 1 and continuing until the consecration of the new bishop in February 2027, Bishop Justin Holcomb and Bishop Doug Scharf will be serving as Bishops Assisting in the Diocese of Florida. During this period, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Florida will remain the Ecclesiastical Authority. As bishops of the neighboring dioceses of Central and Southwest Florida, Bishop Holcomb and Bishop Scharf are entering into this new role in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, with the long-term hope that our three dioceses will sustain a strong missional relationship.

We are grateful to Bishop Chip Stokes, who will continue to provide sacramental support in the form of parish visitations and ordinations, and to Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves, who will continue to facilitate a process for healing and trust-building across the diocese. Bishop Scharf and Bishop Holcomb will provide support for the Standing Committee, resource the Commission on Ministry, offer pastoral care for clergy and congregations, and perform other canonical duties that require the office of the bishop.

It is our fervent prayer that this season of mutual ministry and shared mission will bear much fruit and strengthen our three dioceses for a vibrant future.

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf
Bishop of Southwest Florida

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb
Bishop of Central Florida

The Rev. Justin Yawn
President of the Standing Committee
Diocese of Florida

325 N MARKET STREET • JACKSONVILLE • FLORIDA • 32202-2796
PHONE 904.356.1328 • FAX 904.355.1934 • WWW.DIOCESEFL.ORG