



**The Right Reverend Keith L. Ackerman, SSC, DD**

*VIII Bishop of Quincy-Retired*

*“Ego autem in medio vestrum sum sicut qui ministra*

Grace and Peace from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ

Most Reverend Father, Reverend Fathers and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior,

It is with a great sense of joy that I am able to greet you on this your Fifteenth anniversary. You may not be aware of how so many of us throughout the Christian world hold you in the highest regard, and thank God for your faithfulness in the midst of so many challenges. You may know that fifty years ago I had the privilege of hearing the story of the people of Latvia and their faithfulness from Katrina Catske Wilson, the granddaughter of your first President, Janis Catske. We first met when her husband, Fr. David Wilson and I were in seminary at Nashotah House, a seminary whose first graduate Gustave Unonius is well known in Sweden, the birthplace of my grandparents.

Your Archbishop is a hero among Christians who maintain the Historic Faith “once delivered” and your Bishop, my Apostolic Brother and friend, represents you well as he speaks with such love for you. I am honored and humbled to be his friend. I am, likewise, so very happy to have met your newest bishop and your clergy even though only by Zoom!

I am celebrating my forty-eighth anniversary of ordination, having served first as a parish priest for twenty years and now for twenty-eight years as a bishop. Although born into Anglicanism, I am honored that my father’s family came from Swedish Lutheran roots, and that by God’s grace I am now in an ecumenical relationship with a Swedish born Bishop who serves so faithfully in your wonderful Diocese. He is blessed to be able to lead such courageous and faithful people as you, and I am deeply honored to represent the Anglican Church in North America as one of the founding Bishops. As I look back to fifteen years ago in my own ministry of helping to preserve traditional Anglicanism, I can see your faces in my mind as you were calling upon God’s grace to preserve and further the faithfulness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Latvia. Our common heritage of faithful witness will, by God’s grace, mean that together we will endeavor to further the Kingdom of God in a broken world. In that regard I know that we must work together for the extension of His Kingdom. Even though we celebrate fifteen years, the heritage reaches back to the Upper Room where we remember Jesus breathing upon the Apostles as they prepared to go forth into the world to share the Faith. Today being a Successor to the Apostles offers new challenges, but I believe that God must trust us very much - to put tasks before us that require our dependence upon his grace. Bishop Hanns and Bishop Uldis are my Apostolic Brothers, and therefore you, dear people of the Diocese of Liepāja are much more to me than even the dates of 1922 and 2007, as important as they are, because you celebrate the Faith of two millennia.

I am deeply honored to write to you, and I convey the greetings of the Rt. Rev. Ryan S. Reed, the Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, the Rt. Rev. Jack L. Iker, the Third Bishop (retired), the Most Rev. Ray Sutton, who is the Ecumenical Officer of the Anglican Church of North America, and also our Primate, the Most Rev. Foley Beach. In addition, having now shared all that has transpired with you with my friend, Katrina Cakste, she wishes to convey her own greetings, along with that of her family in the United States. She is a witness to all of us, and the story of the Church in Latvia and the struggle for freedom in Latvia continues to be told. May God's grace continue to fall upon you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Keith L. Ackerman, DD  
Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy (ret)  
Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth