



COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY, EASTERN PROVINCE

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II Tuesday of Easter, April 14, 2021

The Most Reverend Michael Curry  
Episcopal Church Center  
815 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Presiding Bishop Curry:

The Lord is risen, alleluia!

I write, on behalf of the Chapter of the Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province, to express our deep sorrow and regret over the way a loyal and faithful Bishop of the Church, William H. Love, was treated by the disciplinary Panel and your office. Is there any wonder, sir, that Bishop Love wished to continue his ministry within the Anglican Church of North America? The Sisters of the Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province, still have the honor of the Loves' friendship and affiliation with us as Associates of the Community. We are happy for them because they can now minister in a Christian environment that believes wholeheartedly in the Bible and the traditional teachings of the Church as expressed in the Seven Ecumenical Councils. He is, of course, still welcome to celebrate the Eucharist with the Sisters in St. Mary's Chapel.

The question we have been asking ourselves for more than a year now is "What is the relationship of the Community of St. Mary, Eastern Province with The Episcopal Church?" We have existed within the Episcopal Church since 1865. General Convention has authorized two days of lesser feasts honoring our Mother Foundress Harriet Starr Cannon and the four Sisters of St. Mary martyred in 1878 in the Memphis yellow fever epidemic. The present canons of the Church, Title III, Canon 14, make it clear that we, as a recognized Episcopal Religious Order, are not a parish nor an adjunct of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany and/or General Convention, but are connected to the larger Church through our Episcopal Visitor. Today the Sisters of the Eastern Province continue their contemplative vocation and outreach ministry alongside Christ the King Center, Diocese of Albany, and the Diocese of Northern Malawi, Mzuzu, Malawi.

When I reflect upon the 25 years of my life as Mother, I see several important trends. Accepting Malawian women into our American novitiate was an exceptional act of faith in the vowed life of poverty, chastity, and obedience according to the Rule of the Community of St. Mary, but it is also a continuation of our stability in unceasing praise of God, intercession, and service for his Church.

We are giving you notice, sir, that the Sisters of the Eastern Province have voted to leave TEC and have petitioned to be registered in the Anglican Diocese of the Living Word. We believe that in so doing we stay within the rich tradition of HISTORIC Anglican doctrine and worship rather than acquiesce to the cultural maelstrom many present-day Christian denominations try to accommodate.

Faithfully yours in the Risen Christ,

Mother Miriam, CSM, MBA, STM