The Episcopal Diocese *of*
Western Massachusetts

Growing in God's Mission: We Are in This Together

Dear Bishops, Clergy, and People of God of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As I write these words, nearly two months have passed since my consecration as Bishop Diocesan of Western Massachusetts. In the fullness of these first weeks of episcopal ministry, one thing has remained firmly in my heart: gratitude.

I write today to thank you for the extraordinary gift you bestowed upon me through the beautiful white vestments presented at the time of my consecration. This gift is both practical and symbolic. It is a reminder of the ministry to which God has called me and of the community that helped form, support, and send me into that ministry.

Each time I wear the vestments, I am reminded of the love, prayers, encouragement, and friendship that I received during my years in Connecticut. I carry those memories with me every day.

For more than twelve years, I had the privilege of serving at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. Together we worshiped, prayed, laughed, grieved, discerned, and dreamed. Together we sought to follow Jesus and participate in God's mission. Those years shaped me profoundly, not only as a priest and dean, but as a disciple.

While my ministry has now brought me across diocesan boundaries, Connecticut remains part of my spiritual home. The relationships formed there, the lessons learned, and the people who walked alongside me continue to be a blessing in my life and ministry.

I am particularly grateful to Bishop Mello for his diligence, generosity, and care in coordinating these gifts. His thoughtfulness ensured that this tangible expression of love from the people of Connecticut became a reality. I am deeply thankful for his attentiveness during the season of transition.

Please know that I continue to pray for the Diocese of Connecticut, for Bishop Mello, for Bishop Ahrens, for the clergy and lay leaders, for the congregations and ministries throughout the Diocese, and for Christ Church Cathedral. I give thanks for the ways God continues to work among you and through you.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for the countless ways you have helped shape the person and bishop I am today.

With deep affection and abiding gratitude,



+Lina

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell, Bishop Diocesan
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts