



The Episcopal Church

IN SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

The Right Reverend Dr. Gregory H. Rickel will be installed as the Assisting Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida on Tuesday in Holy Week during the Chrism Mass.

Bishop Rickel was baptized and raised United Methodist, but found The Episcopal Church through his Roman Catholic education. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Arkansas in 1984, and earned Master degrees in Health Services Administration and Interpersonal and Organizational Communication also from the University of Arkansas in 1987 and 1993 respectively.

During graduate school, he worked as a Disability Determination Examiner for the Social Security Administration and as Youth Director for Trinity Cathedral in Little Rock, AR. He went on to be the Associate Administrator of Saline Memorial Hospital in Benton, AR, and served seven years in that capacity before heading to the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, where he received his Master of Divinity in 1996. In 2002, he received a Doctor of Divinity from the University of the South.

Bishop Rickel was ordained to the diaconate in July 1996. He was ordained to the priesthood on the feast day of the Confession of Saint Peter the Apostle in 1997. Both ordinations were presided over by the Right Reverend Larry Maze, Bishop of Arkansas. He served as Intern Curate at Saint Peter's in Conway, AR, and after two years in that position became Vicar for three more. He then accepted a call as Rector of Saint James in Austin, TX, an historically African-American parish and now, deeply and proudly, multicultural. He served there for seven years before being elected the 8th Bishop of Olympia (Western Washington State) in May of 2007. He was consecrated to that role on the Feast of the Holy Cross on September 15, 2007.

Bishop Rickel met Martha (Marti) Porter when they worked together serving the elderly in a Springdale, AR nursing home. They have known each other now for 40+ years. They were married in Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, AR, on May 26, 1984. Marti is a Nurse Practitioner with a specialty in Psychiatric Nursing. She is also a tenured professor at Seattle Colleges. They have one son, Austin, 26, who resides in New Orleans, LA, and works in the logistics profession for large seagoing ships.

Bishop Rickel will be available as a consultant to the Congregational Vitality Ministry and to the Stewardship Ministry of Congregations in our diocese. He is also available as a supply priest on Sundays. Bishop Rickel looks forward to working for and with Bishop Eaton and all the people of the Episcopal Church in Southeast Florida.