



The Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes
3810 Ridgewood Road, Copley, OH 44321

March 3, 2020

Beloved in the Lord,

In his old age, King Solomon wrote: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). As it was then, so it is today. Time marches on and seasons change, bringing with them challenges and blessings. I write to share with you a personal challenge and a personal blessing during this season of my life.

On Tuesday afternoon, February 25th, I became ill and collapsed in the Atlanta Airport while heading toward my connecting flight to Pittsburgh. My travel itinerary included leading an Ash Wednesday Quiet Day for the students and faculty of Trinity School for Ministry and then continuing to the ADGL to conduct some visitations.

The cause of my collapse was precipitated by a combination of heart ailments, two of which I had been previously aware, and two others that came to light as I was treated at a hospital in Atlanta. By God's grace, the event that "took me down" was **not** a heart attack or a stroke. However, this challenge has made me acutely aware of my mortality and the need to guard my health, the best I can, in this latter season of my life.

To that end, sadly I must step out of my role as the Temporary Bishop of the ADGL. I did not come to this decision lightly, nor was it made unilaterally; I weighed the informed counsel of the physicians who treated me, and will continue to do so, and sought godly guidance from Archbishop Foley Beach and other fellow Bishops.

The following is a paragraph copied from a letter I sent to Archbishop Beach upon my return to Vero Beach:

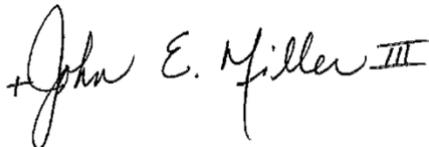
"While I have grown quickly to admire the members of the Standing Committee and the clergy of the Diocese, and have enjoyed immensely the opportunity to perform anew the duties of a bishop, I believe the events of last week served as a "warning shot across the bow." To be totally transparent Your Grace, in the final moments leading up to my collapse in the airport, I grew extremely anxious, wondering if what lie ahead would end my temporal life and set me face to face with Jesus. He knows it is my heart's desire to spend eternity in His presence, yet I do yearn to see my oldest son receive his MBA in April, to witness the birth of my first grandchild in June, and in August, to accompany Joyce on a trip to the British Isles she has dreamed of for 20 years. I'm well aware that there is nothing I can do to assure that I will experience those events; however, I do believe I can be prudent in guarding my health such that I increase the likelihood that I will be present to celebrate those milestones. Furthermore, I owe that to my wife and children who walked into my hospital room with fear that was palpable."

Please know that my heart's desire prior to February 25th was to see the ADGL through this season of transition and to celebrate with great joy the consecration of a new Diocesan Bishop early in 2021. While, I hope the latter is still in my future, I am unable to fulfill the former, although the clergy and laity of the Diocese will remain in my daily thoughts and prayers.

Although my tenure with ADGL was brief, it blessed my life and spirit immensely. Seldom have I worked alongside such faithful and gifted leaders as the members of the ADGL Standing Committee; unquestionably, the Holy Spirit has raised them up for such a time as this. Furthermore, everywhere I visited in the Diocese, I was met with warm fellowship, despite the disappointment and insecurity brought on my Bishop Ron's resignation. In short, serving as your Temporary Bishop, albeit briefly, was one of the most edifying and enjoyable callings the Lord has set before me. I shall miss you deeply.

As diocesan leaders, much work lies ahead as you conduct a search for, and eventually select, a new Bishop. Undoubtedly, it will be a challenging season. However, I remind you of Moses' exhortation to the Israelites as he transferred the mantle of leadership to Joshua: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified..., for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). Embrace that promise. Stand upon it, for your flawlessly faithful God has not left you nor will He forsake you. Join ranks with Him as you enter His preferred future for you and the ADGL. I trust that future is bright for both.

Warmly and gratefully in Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Miller III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

The Rt. Rev. John E. Miller, III

