



Episcopal Diocese

— OF CENTRAL FLORIDA —

October 26, 2024

Dear Diocesan Family,

It is with deep sadness and a profound sense of loss that I share the news of the passing of our beloved assisting bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Dabney Smith. He died early this morning and is survived by his wife, Mary Wallis Smith, and five adult children.

I am profoundly grateful that Bishop Dabney chose to return home to the Diocese of Central Florida upon his retirement, following 15 years of faithful service as bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida. Though with us only nine months, his wisdom, faith, and tender-hearted care left an indelible mark on me, our diocesan staff, and all those he ministered to. Personally, I grieve the loss of a mentor and a friend.

Please join me in lifting up Mary and their entire family in prayer. We are committed to supporting them in every practical and pastoral way possible. Let us pray:

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Dabney. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Information regarding funeral arrangements will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

In Christ,
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb