**NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHICAL**

**The Right Reverend Keith Lynn Ackerman**

VIII Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy (Retired)

Episcopal Vicar Diocese of Quincy

Vicar of St. Timothy Church, Fort Worth, Texas

Keith Lynn Ackerman was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania August 3, 1946. On August 19, 1967 he married Joann Bevacqua at St. Mary’s Church (Episcopal) in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have three children: Keith, who is C.O.O. at Union Gospel Mission, a Ministries based corporation in Fort Worth; Renée, who is Chairman of the Fine Arts Department, Theater Teacher and Director at Haltom High School in Haltom City, Texas and Lynne, who is an Assistant Principal in the Dallas ISD. They have four grandchildren; Helen Elizabeth, “Ellie”; Bryan Dominic, “Dominic”; Natalia Renée, “Talia”; and Betty Nicole Rae.

Keith Ackerman earned a B.S. in Psychology from Marymount College in Salina, KS in 1971 while working at the St. Francis Boys’ Home in Ellsworth Kansas, a home for delinquent boys. He did graduate studies in Psychology in Salina, Kansas. He went on to receive a M.Div. from Nashotah House, Wisconsin, in 1974 and a D.D. from the same institution in 1994. Ordained to the Diaconate in 1974 at Nashotah House, he was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood the same year in Long Island by Bishop William Davidson of the Diocese of Western Kansas.

Father Keith served as a Curate at the Church of the Transfiguration in Freeport, New York from 1974-1976 and instructor and coach at the parochial school. In 1976, he was called to be Rector of St. Mary's Church, Charleroi, Pennsylvania in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. There he established five outreach ministries for the unemployed and a Christian Counseling Service. He served as President of the Charleroi Clergy Association and was awarded the distinguished "Christian Associates Ecumenical Award" of Western Pennsylvania as a result of his involvement in union labor and management negotiations which resulted in saving a steel-related business. He founded St. Elizabeth Chapel in Bentleyville, PA. He was presented the Bishop of Pittsburgh's award for Excellence in Pastoral Care. Active in Diocesan life, he served as President of the Standing Committee and as Deputy to General Convention. Much of his ministry in Pennsylvania involved working with and counseling the unemployed. An active leader of retreats, he taught in several institutions including Chichester Theological College in Chichester, England and Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was an occasional guest lecturer at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA. In the media, he had a weekly column in a local newspaper, two radio broadcasts per month and was a regular guest on a radio show, and a substitute host for a Pittsburgh TV show.

In 1989, Father Ackerman was called to be Rector of St. Mark's Church in Arlington, Texas in the Diocese of Forth Worth. There, in Arlington, he served as president of the Ministerial Association and was presented the "Minister of the Year" award. In the Diocese of Forth Worth he served as a member of a number of committees, was a Deputy to General Convention twice and served as President of the Standing Committee.

Fr. Keith Ackerman was elected Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Quincy on January 8, 1994, and was consecrated June, 29, 1994 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in the See city of Peoria.

During his Episcopacy a significant emphasis was placed on the spiritual life of the Clergy and Lay Leaders including the Diocesan School for Ministry. While he was immediately thrust into an international, national and regional ministry that included great ecclesiastical chaos, he sought to establish order based on the principles of the Anglo-Catholic Revival and the Oxford Movement. These principles included a passion for ministering to the theologically marginalized, worship as a fore-taste of Heaven, the conversion of the culture, and Christ’s Sacramental presence in the home, in the neighborhood, and in “the market place.”

During his fifteen (15) years as Diocesan Bishop of Quincy, he served as one of the first “Flying Bishops” in the Episcopal Church, serving at one time eighteen (18) churches outside the geographical Diocese from California to Rhode Island. He oversaw what he lovingly called the “Refugee Program” whereby men who were not considered to be appropriate candidates for ordination in their own dioceses due to their orthodoxy were sponsored by him, mentored by him, ordained by him, and then sent to posts from the East Coast to the West Coast as well as several overseas countries.

In an attempt to revitalize the Diocese of Quincy in the year 2000 he instituted a “Jubilee Year” policy whereby all debts to the Diocese owed by parishes and missions were forgiven, and immediately began a capital campaign. The campaign finances allowed for a full-time youth missioner whose task was to evangelize youth and establish youth programs in all parts of the Diocese and beyond. Donations to the campaign provided for the establishment of a Diocesan Center for Ministry and Mission which was designed by Joann Ackerman and accomplished by a man who eventually joined the Church — a principle that Bishop and Mrs. Ackerman had used while in parish life; engaging people in the life of the Church so that they draw closer to Christ Himself.

In 1995, Bishop Ackerman welcomed and incorporated in to the life of the Diocese for all Christians the Ecumenical Order of St. Benedict, an orthodox Monastic Order from Puerto Rico. As the Order grew in size it grew in prominence as a spiritual center for countless people. There in 1999, The Bartonville Agreement was crafted as a model of the reunion of various Anglican Jurisdictions. Several of the monks served on the Bishop’s Staff with the Abbot as the Bishop’s friend and confidant. The Abbot of St. Benedict’s Abbey succeeded Bishop Ackerman as the ninth Bishop of Quincy. Bishop Ackerman serves as Bishop Visitor of the Order.

During his Episcopacy, Bishop Ackerman has served as Patron, Bishop Visitor, or Bishop Protector of thirteen (13) different Religious Orders, Societies, or Institutions.

In addition to serving as Vice-Chairman on the Board of Nashotah House Seminary, he also served in the Pastoral Counseling Department at City Square in Dallas where most of his therapy was done in Spanish. He is a Member of the College of Bishops of the Anglican Church in North America, serving on their Ecumenical Committee and the Liturgy Committee. At the formation of the ACNA he was on the Archbishop’s Council.

He retired as Diocesan Bishop on November 1, 2008 and moved to Keller, Texas in March 2009.

In “retirement”, Bishop Ackerman continues either to offer oversight to or serves on the Boards of numerous Religious Orders, Societies, Institutions and Organizations.

In 2012, he was appointed by the Bishop of Fort Worth as Vicar of St. Timothy Church in Fort Worth.

He served as President of Forward in Faith, North America and has served on the executive council of Forward in Faith International.

He is author of numerous articles and books including *To God be the* *Glory* a book written by the Bishop and his wife, Joann.

He and his wife along with a Board of Directors have purchased The Parish Press originally from the Cathedral in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Their desire is to continue the excellent Anglo-Catholic literature that is so fondly remembered by many in the Church.

He is a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, friend and counselor advocating for the poor, the homeless, the dispossessed and those discriminated against for their Faith.

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