

21 November 2008

Hello Dioceses of Western Tanganyika and Gloucester! I bring you greetings in the name of Jesus Christ from the Diocese of El Camino Real, located here on the Central Coast of California. I am very pleased to create this video message as we begin our companion relationship together. It was wise of you Michael, being the liturgist among us, to consider setting aside time to sign our agreement and create messages of welcome and celebration. Indeed, at our diocesan convention on November 7th and 8th, of which you just saw a recording, we wholeheartedly approved our participation in what we know and trust will be a challenging, life-giving and wondrous gift of relationship with you.

At this summer's Lambeth Conference I met bishops, Michael and Gerard, and we began there, and have been since, engaged in the work to which the Archbishop of Canterbury has called us: conversation and communion. I am so grateful to have met you both and to have shared so much inspired conversation through email these past couple of months. I believe we embody what it means to be communion, and I am richly blessed by that. I have of course enthusiastically shared the news of this blessing with my diocese, as I know has also happened in Gloucester and Western Tanganyika, and now look forward to drawing others into the work the Holy Spirit is doing among us – continuing in mission, relationship-building and Christian friendship. In El Camino Real we are eager and excited to meet you and members of your dioceses, getting to know one another better. We so look forward to the visits we will share throughout next year to our respective countries, and certainly, we are already preparing for your visit here to El Camino Real.

Please be assured of our prayers for each of you, for the unique challenges of your dioceses, lifting you up where you need God's help, and rejoicing with you in times of success and celebration. In turn, we are confident of your prayers for El Camino Real and we give thanks for them.

May God bless you!

+Mary

Bishop Mary's pages: <http://www.edecr.org/obispo/>