



Patrick W. Bell

Priest, Bishop, trustworthy friend and valued companion in faith. A seventh generation native of your home state of Washington and self-described 'simple farmer', your spiritual journey took you far from where you were raised, but led you right back to your home. You have been a beloved parish priest, and now serve as Eighth Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Eastern Oregon.

You have earned degrees from Whitworth College and Fuller Theological Seminary, after which you became a Pentecostal minister and professor. After some time, you desired to be ordained into the Episcopal tradition of your youth, earning a diploma in Anglican Studies from Seminary of the Southwest, and eventually completing the coursework for your doctorate of Ministry from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

In 1989, you were ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Rustin Kimsey at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Ontario, Oregon, where you served as a faithful leader for 13 years. In 2002, you were named rector of St. Luke's in Coeur d'Alene, Oregon, and in 2016 you were consecrated Bishop of the diocese of Eastern Oregon. Upon your ordination, you reflected upon your vision for the Episcopal diocese of Eastern Oregon, "to reinforce people's confidence that they are loved."

You displayed leadership by being active in Coalition 14, which helped to amplify the voices of rurally situated dioceses in the Episcopal Church, and by addressing the need for bivocational priest education by bringing the Iona Initiative to Eastern Oregon.

Gretchen Kimsey, widow of the Fifth Bishop of the diocese of Eastern Oregon, and your close friend, said, "I had the privilege of preaching at Patrick's ordination to the Episcopacy. In my remarks I referred to the wonderful book titled *The Velveteen Rabbit*. In the story, the Skin Horse tells the Rabbit about what makes one become real; 'You become', says the Skin Horse. 'It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily.' For Patrick, his life has known challenges and failures which have refined and polished him, creating a person gentle of spirit, strong in faith, trustworthy in all things, and a companion along The Way. He is real and he is loved."

In recognition of your faithful service and steadfast leadership and commitment to the people of Eastern Oregon and beyond, the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest presents to you the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.

Austin, Texas

May 22, 2018