



STATEMENT FROM BISHOP LYNCH REGARDING BISHOP JOHN B. LIPSCOMB

This morning, November 21, 2007, at 12:00 am, the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida announced on their web-site that their former bishop, John Bailey Lipscomb has decided to leave the church which he served for so long to become a member of the Roman Catholic Church and this diocese. Bishop Lipscomb and his wife Marcie will be entered into full communion within the coming month and will reside within and worship at Nativity Church in Brandon where they currently live.

I have had the blessing to accompany Bishop Lipscomb on this journey for some time as have two of our senior priests with whom he has been in close contact. It is my fervent hope and prayer that both he and his wife will find spiritual peace among us.

Finally, I extended to Bishop Lipscomb's successor in office, Bishop Dabney Smith of the Diocese of Southwest Florida my continued expression of esteem for the Episcopal Church in the United States and my prayers for their local diocese. We promised to renew the close collaboration and mutual support which has marked my relationship with Bishop Lipscomb over the years.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert N. Lynch
Bishop of St. Petersburg