



Announcements from the Bishop, May 14, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

I have been giving regular reports to Diocesan Council and to Episcopal Council and I realize that I have failed to send the news on to all of you. Some of what follows will not be news to all of you, but at least there will be a record of some sort! Please do make life in this Diocese a subject of prayer – and especially those going through changes and undertaking new challenges.

The Archdeacons and I attended our annual Residential Meeting this past week where we had time to discuss and pray for the work of the Diocese and plan and review the strategic plan that is being developed.

- The clergy Silent Retreat led by Bishop Victoria Matthews was a meaningful time away for all who took part. Over 50 priests and deacons attended, along with two ordinands, **Tyson Røsberg** and **Geert Jan Boudewinse**.
- The Parish of the Resurrection, St. Andrew and St. Mark have agreed on a new name: **All Saints by the Lake**.
- The Forum on Anti-Trafficking on March 13th was very successful, with at least 150 people in attendance. Thank you to **St. Matthias** and especially to **Penny Rankin, Elaine Bilodeau and Patrick Wheeler**. A letter to you all from Penny Rankin and me will follow.
- **The Right Rev. Annie Ittoshat** was elected Suffragan Bishop in the **Diocese of the Arctic** March 29th and was consecrated March 31st. She leaves at the end of June. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to an episcopal ring for her. You will have a chance to see Annie at Synod.
- **Epiphany Church** has begun an evening service on Sundays, every second week, in Inuktituk with a member named **Annie Pisuktie** taking leadership with the help of the **Rev. Brian Perron**.
- **The Lenten Mission Outreach** event was a success. Thank you to **Lee Ann Matthews** and to all who led and enabled the participation of the youth.

- **Bishop Bruce Myers** and I wrote a letter to Premier François Legault about Bill 21. I believe that I emailed you a copy.
- **The Rev. Jean-Jacques Goulet** retired at the end of December and, after a little rest in the sun, has accepted a half-time position as Incumbent of **St. Cuthbert's, St. Hilda's and St. Luke's**, Montreal, as of May 1st.
- **The Rev. Amy Hamilton** has resigned as Associate at the Cathedral as of May 1st and is taking a 4 month leave of absence.
- **The Rev. Gwenda Wells** retired from St. Barnabas Church, St. Lambert January 1st and will be filling in part-time at the Cathedral while a new Associate priest is sought.
- **The Ven. Linda Borden Taylor** is serving as interim at St. Barnabas Church, St. Lambert.
- **Bishop Barbara Andrews** has invited me to attend the Assembly (Synod) of the Territory of the People May 31st to June 2. **The Ven. Michael Robson** will accompany me from the **Diocesan Partnerships Committee**. Our Primate, Fred Hiltz and Archbishop Melissa Skelton will also be present. I will preach on Jerusalem Sunday and would be glad to take any spare souvenirs of Jerusalem if any of you have anything you want to share with them.
- **St. Peter's, TMR and St. Mark's, St. Laurent** are looking at a new name for their merged parish. While they have been worshipping together from time to time, the first official Sunday together will be June 2nd. Please keep them in your prayers.
- **The Rev. Canon Steven Mackison** has accepted a new appointment as Incumbent at the Church of the Redeemer in the Diocese of Toronto. His last Sunday here will be June 23rd and he resigns officially as of July 31st.
- I have appointed **the Rev. Andy O'Donnell** as the new incumbent of **St. Stephens with St. James in Chambly**, effective August 1st. His last Sunday in the Regional Ministry of Bedford and Stanbridge East will be June 30th.
- **L'Église de la Nativité** has voted to sell their building on Cobourg Street in Montreal North and to move to St. James' Church in Rosemere, in August. The congregation comes from across all of Montreal and many actually live off the island. I will be with them in August to celebrate in their new home. Please pray for them in the transition.
- **The Ordinations of Deacons** will be Sept. 29th at Christ Church Cathedral at 4pm. I remind you that your support and presence is required. The colour will be white.
- **The Ordination of Priests** will be August 24th at 2pm in the Laurentians at St. Simeon's Church, Lachute (colour red) and Sept. 29th in Cathedral at 4pm (white).
- **Captain The Rev. Alain Brosseau** has been deployed overseas to the Ukraine and covets our continued prayers.
- **The Rev. Dr. Donald Boisvert** is home and is receiving palliative care. Please keep him and his husband Gaston in your prayers.

- After a day of retreat on March 26th led by Archbishop John Holder, retired bishop of Barbados, **the House of Bishops nominated** five people to be considered for Primate for General Synod's vote in July: **The Right Rev. Linda Nicholls, The Right Rev. Michael Oulton, The Right Rev. Jane Alexander, The Most Rev. Ronald Cutler and the Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson;**
- The House of Bishops issued a message inviting the prayers of the church for the upcoming General Synod.
 - General Synod 2019 will bring three important issues before the Church: The proposed revision of the marriage canon; a primatial election; and indigenous self-determination, in addition to other areas of our common life together.

We know that the consideration of same-sex marriage has been painful and caused deep concern across our Church. Although we are not of one mind on this matter the House of Bishops, in Christian love, affirms:

1. That Indigenous Peoples will seek God's direction on these matters in their own way and in their own time.
2. That we have two views of marriage that are held by the faithful of the Anglican Church of Canada.
3. That clergy be protected for holding, teaching and, with permission, exercising either view of marriage.
4. That we commit to remain in communion, living together with respect.

In light of these affirmations we invite the Church to join us in prayer for the work of General Synod 2019 that we may bear with one another in unity and love under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit.

Our one-day Diocesan Synod will soon be meeting and I look forward to seeing you all on **June 15th at the Cathedral** for the Eucharist at 9am and in Fulford Hall afterwards for the meeting. Please do ensure that you and your delegates register as we will be supplying lunch. We will welcome **Archbishop Ron Cutler** as our speaker on "The Challenges of Evangelism: to what are we inviting people?"

Yours faithfully,

+ Mary

Please find a few additional reports on the next page which may be of interest to you.

The Bishop around the Diocese

Here is a report on some of my visits and activity in the past few months and those upcoming.

- Jan. 6th – Feast of the Epiphany, St. John the Evangelist, Montreal, 10:30
- Jan. 14 – 17th – House of Bishops retreat to prepare for nominations for Primate
- Jan. 20th – St. Mary's, Kirkland 8am and 10:30
- Jan. 20th – Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Church of St. Andrew and St Paul Presbyterian, 3415 Redpath, Montreal
- Feb. 3rd – Bishop Stewart Memorial Church, Frelighsburgh
- Feb 24th – Confirmation, St. Mark's, St. Laurent
- March 8 – Pension Committee meeting in Toronto
- March 9 – Strategic Planning day with Diocesan Council and Martha Asselin.
- March 14th – Attended a Zoom meeting with Wycliffe College on Church Planting, especially organized for bishops. Good program there.
- March 25-29 – Attended the House of Bishops meeting; Archbishop Fred Hiltz' last meeting. A farewell dinner and presentation of gifts was made with each bishop invited to give something from our diocese and a contribution to a purse: Montreal gave two handmade Mohawk gifts and a Celtic pectoral cross (representing the early Anglican population in Montreal) along with a cheque.
- April 4th – On Refugee Rights Day, I attended Action Réfugiés 25th Anniversary.
- April 7th – Confirmation at St. Lawrence, LaSalle
- April 7th – Diocesan Youth Event: Lenten Mission Outreach
- April 13th – St. Peter's, TMR held a Reunion Supper before their anticipated merge with St. Mark's, St. Laurent.
- May 5th – Attended the 40th Anniversary of the Christian Commemoration of the Shoah at Christ Church Cathedral which was begun by Dean Ronald Shepherd.
- May 6th – Diocesan College Convocation, St. George's Church, Place du Canada:
 - 3pm Melanie Delva, Reconciliation animator for ACC will speak
 - 7pm Convocation
- May 7-10th – Archdeacons' Residential Meeting
- May 12th – Preached at St. Mark's Church, St. Laurent
- May 14th – Annual General Meeting, Action Réfugiés
- May 15th – AGM Fulford Residence
- May 15th – PWRDF Fundraiser in co-operation with the Royal Victoria Hospital
- May 19th – Service and dedication of plaques, St. James, Foster
- May 26th – First Communion and Confirmation, St. Jax
- May 25 – Visiting retired Archdeacon Maurice Bate
- May 30th-June 2nd – Territory of the People Assembly, St. John the Divine, Quesnel, BC.
- June 6 – 8th – Bishop in residence at the ACPO conference, Saint John, NB.
- June 9th – Confirmation 10:30 am and 9:00am service, St. George's, Place du Canada

- June 13th Gala Celebration for Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, Temple Emmanu-El Beth Sholom
- June 15th – Diocesan Synod
- June 16th – Visit and Service 11am, Grace Church, Sutton
- June 30th – Service 10:30am, Lac Marois
- July 10 to 16 – General Synod, Vancouver
- July 17th to August 9th – Vacation and family wedding
- Aug 4th – St. George's, Place du Canada
- Aug 11th – St. Lawrence Lasalle 50th Anniversary service. Bishop Peter Fenty to preach
- Aug 18th – 16 Island Lake Union Church service

The General Synod Pension Plan

I am a member of the General Synod Pension Committee. Here is a brief report on the health of the Plan. Also, the Ontario government has finally changed the funding rules for our plan and we are now considered completely funded.

- How is the pension plan doing?
 - The pension plan is focused on long term investing and on that basis we are doing well.
 - We did take a 4th quarter hit in 2018, which has recovered substantially in the first two months of 2019.
 - We have lots of confidence in our Trustees who manage an excellent investment team
 - We are currently funded at 128%
 - How does the Pension Plan address ESG?
 - We are being guided by the report of the Responsible Investing Task Force, whose work we participated in.
- What is the outlook for the Pension Plan?
 - Trustees have adopted a broadly diversified investment strategy and this has served us well.
 - Trustees, along with our advisors have been working on the sustainability of the plan.
 - Trustees and the Pension Committee will bring a proposal to General Synod to create greater flexibility and opportunities.