



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Bishop

May 3, 2022

Dear friends,

May 8th is the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday. In John's Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who knows us and calls us by name, and who loves us and guides us along life's way. It is a blessing for each of us to be known and loved by the Good Shepherd.

In Sunday's Gospel, we will hear Jesus say that the sheep of his fold hear his voice and follow him. There is a beautiful unity of *hearing and doing* in these words that binds the sheep to the shepherd. In our lives, we are similarly bound to Jesus in a lifelong relationship with him, invited to participate in the Good Shepherd's mission and ministry of disciple making and loving service in the world. We see the transforming love of the Good Shepherd in our church as faithful followers are raised up to bear witness to the love of Christ by leading holy lives.

When Jesus prays with and for his disciples, he prays that they may be consecrated, or made holy to God. This holiness of living is an 'interior fire, a passion for living in and for God'¹ and is a way of life we are all called to emulate. Some of the Good Shepherd's followers are called to lead holy lives by serving in various lay ministries within the Church. Others are called to ordained ministry, serving as deacons, priests, or bishops to be living, sacramental images of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, devoting their lives in a particular way to the service of God's people.

As you will see in the accompanying letter, I am calling Anglicans around the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario to turn to the Good Shepherd in prayer in a particular way on May 8th that God will continue to call people to serve in the church.

I invite you to pray especially for those within our diocese who are discerning a call to ordained ministry or who are beginning their theological studies for formation, education and training in lay or ordained ministry, and for those graduating this year. Pray for theological schools and universities as they continue their important work of preparing students or enriching them for ministry in the church. In particular pray for Thorneloe University, Wycliffe College, Trinity University College, Huron University College, St. Paul's University, the Niagara School for Missional Leadership and the Bishop Thomas Corston School for Ministry.

Pray for those who are presently making their way through Algoma's Postulancy process, and for candidates awaiting ordination to the diaconate (Norm Blanchard) and the presbyterate (Beverly van der Jagt and Ann Camber). Pray for those ordained within the last two years - Kate Scott, Val Paterson, Susan Montague Koyle, Katherine Walker and Ann Camber.

I invite you to remember in your prayers all those who are in positions of leadership with respect to the discernment of vocations to ordained ministry in Algoma - our Diocesan Archdeacon Jay Koyle, the deanery Pastoral Chaplains, Bishop Victoria Matthews (TBNS), the Rev. Canon Bob Elkin (Algoma), Archdeacon Linda White (Temiskaming), Rev Heather Manuel (Muskoka), The Rev. Canon Diane Hilpert-McIlroy (Diocesan), members of the Postulancy Committee for Algoma, and those from Algoma who serve the wider church on the Advisory Committee for Postulants for Ordination in Ontario. Pray for committees within our parishes who are asked to prepare letters of recommendation for applicants to the Postulancy Committee.

Pray for those living in religious communities, especially the Sisters of St. John the Divine and the Society of St. John the Evangelist.

Pray for clergy everywhere that through their life and witness they may serve as wholesome role models to their parishioners encouraging those they sense have the gifts needed for ministry in our Church in these changing times, and pray by the gift of the Holy Spirit they will continue to be worthy of their own vocation and calling.

Offer this blessing prayer for the clergy of your parish.

"Almighty God, our heavenly Father, fill the heart of your servant(s) (N) with eager love in caring for your people; joy in affirming all that is good in this community; courage in challenging all that is mean and destructive; and unceasing thankfulness in celebrating your Holy Mysteries among them. Give them a vision for preaching, faithfulness in teaching, diligence in visiting, empathetic listening in pastoral care, compassion in declaring your pardon for the penitent, and the peace which passes understanding in their daily walk with Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen." ²

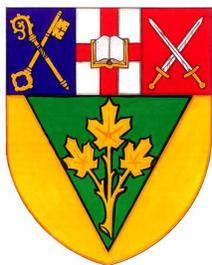
Finally, pray for me, that I will in the name of Christ, the shepherd and bishop of our souls continue to encourage and support all baptized persons in their gifts and ministries, nourishing them from the riches of God's grace as I pray for them without ceasing.

In the loving name of the Good Shepherd,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Anne: Algoma". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

1. Peterson, Eugene, H. (2007) *The Jesus Way: A conversation on the ways that Jesus is the way*. William Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids Michigan.
2. Webber, Christopher, L (2004) *Give Us Grace: An Anthology of Anglican Prayers*. ABC Publishing Toronto, Ontario.



The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Metropolitan

Friday, April 29, 2022

Dear friends in Christ:

“The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

I greet you in this Easter season with these familiar words, praying that we become that eastered people who recognize more and more the reality of the risen Christ in our daily lives and in one another.

This is an invitation for Anglicans in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario to include particular intentions in their intercession for vocations on May 8th, commonly referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday. We believe that all are called to serve God according to the gifts God has given them for their particular context and we give thanks for the ministry of the baptized, praying that on Good Shepherd Sunday we will hear God’s call on our hearts in a fresh new way.

God also calls people to serve in a particular way through ordered ministry in the church. This invitation to prayer comes at a key moment in our church and in the province as we move beyond the pandemic in a changing world and church.

Guided by the leadership of Bishop John Chapman and Bishop Susan Bell, we are currently preparing for a conference at the end of June centred around ordained vocational discernment. The “Pathways to Partnership Conference,” facilitated by Archbishop Colin Johnson and Susan Graham Walker, will bring together representatives from each of the seven dioceses in Ontario as well as from each of the theological colleges, universities, and schools for ministry.

With wise and prayerful leaders taking their place alongside others - with both vision and realism, we pray we will see signs of new possibilities and hints of the new creation within the church and within the academy. We hope to forge new partnerships so that in the future we may better support the needs of our parishes in dioceses around the province.

On Sunday, May 8th, I invite you to join with those preparing for the conference, and for those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry that our Church, ‘under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of word and sacrament’ and that we may uphold them in their work for the growth of God’s kingdom. The Ember Day collect on page 395 in the BAS or the Common of a Pastor on page 435 would all be most suitable for this occasion.

May we all, by grace, continue to grow into the full stature of Christ as we hear the Good Shepherd calling us all by name to be his disciples.

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Metropolitan of Ontario