

Archbishop Anne names three Honourary Canons at the upcoming Synod

Archbishop Anne is pleased to announce that Garth O'Neill, Ken Lawson, and Jane Mesich will be installed as Honourary Canons of St. Luke's Cathedral at the opening service of the 51st Synod of the Diocese of Algoma on Wednesday May 10th at 7pm.

Each of these individuals, called by God at their baptism, serves our diocese faithfully, and brings with them extraordinary gifts of knowledge, wisdom, and understanding - along with a big dollop of patience and good humour. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Garth, Ken, and Jane on their upcoming installation and assure them of our prayers and good wishes in the future.



Chancellor Garth O' Neill

Garth and Brenda, his wife, have been active members of Gathering Table (formerly St John the Evangelist) since making Thunder Bay home in 1991. They often say their three daughters, Kate, Emma, and Beth were raised by the church ("it takes a village") and give credit to their church family for the amazing people their daughters have become.

Garth has been a warden, a member of numerous church committees, and the choir. At the Diocesan level, Garth initially served as Registrar at the encouragement of then Executive Archdeacon Harry Huskins, from whom, together with Bishop Stephen Andrews and then Chancellor Michael Bennett, he learned much about the Diocese and its place within the wider Anglican church.

Garth serves as Chancellor of Algoma under Archbishop Anne Germond and works closely with Diocesan staff on matters arising across the Diocese. As Diocesan Chancellor, Garth serves on the Diocesan Executive Committee.

Garth founded O'Neill Associates, a labour and employment law firm, in 2018.



Ken Lawson

Ken Lawson, married to Maureen, has served in a number of positions in the Diocese of Algoma since the 1970s. Along with Maureen and their children, Jeff and Brian, they attended St. Luke's Cathedral where Ken quickly assumed a position on the St. Luke's Advisory Board. The rest, as they say, is history. Ken went on to serve as the Rector's Warden, the People's Warden, and a Synod delegate. He was present for the election of Bishop Peterson in 1983.

A lawyer by profession, Ken worked at Lawson Law Office in Sault Ste. Marie until his retirement in 2018. In that capacity he served as the Diocesan Registrar for six years until 1991, as the Diocesan Chancellor from 1991 to 2009, as the Diocesan Solicitor in the late 1970s and from 1990 to 2018.

Ken's expertise and years of experience in handling the many property matters of the diocese led Archbishop Anne to invite him to assume the role of Diocesan Property Co-Ordinator in 2019 following his retirement from his law practice, a role he continues to this day. In 2020, she invited him to be her Lay Appointee on the Executive Committee.

In his spare time, Ken and Maureen enjoy spending time with their children Jeff and Kate, Brian and Amy, and their grandchildren Darcie and Nolan, Maggie and Alice. If you are ever looking for Ken on a Tuesday afternoon, in the winter, you will find him at the skating path in downtown Sault Ste. Marie with his grandchildren.



Jane Mesich

Jane Mesich, married to Mark, has served as the Diocesan Treasurer since 1997. A Chartered Accountant by profession, Jane attended Laurentian University and was a resident at Thorneloe University, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce. She brings the expertise of her accounting background into her role as our Treasurer, but also her lifelong experience of being what she calls a 'cradle Anglican'.

Jane's role as the Treasurer is more than a job – it is her calling and her vocation. She stewards Algoma's resources effectively and efficiently, constantly reminding us that being mindful of our resources now will ensure there is a Diocese one hundred years from now.

As a child Jane's parents Henry and Helen Weir brought her to St. Luke's Cathedral where she was raised in the faith. She participated in the Cathedral's Girl's Auxiliary and Anglican Youth Movement and through their many activities in parishes around Algoma came to know the breadth and length and diversity of our vast diocese. Jane and her husband Mark were married at St. Luke's Cathedral and Jane served as the parish treasurer there under the incumbency of Dean Lawrence Robertson.

Jane and Mark raised their children James and Catherine in the church, and over time were drawn to St. Matthew's Church in the Sault as their spiritual home. Through the encouragement of their parents James and Catherine became key youth leaders in Algoma, especially at the annual Youth Synod gathering at Camp Manitou.