



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

September 20, 2023

Incumbents and People of Algoma

As you may know, today the *1 Million March 4 Children* rally, an undertaking with the resolute objective of removing from schools the inclusion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in curricula and related considerations such as pronoun usage, and the elimination mixed bathrooms - what organizers claim is “gender ideology” and “LGBT indoctrination in Canadian schools.”

The organizers of this national demonstration are encouraging students to participate in a nationwide school walkout. Additionally, marches are planned for cities across Canada. The Synod office learned late Tuesday afternoon that two of these cities are within the Diocese of Algoma: Sudbury and North Bay.

Counter-protests have been planned in many places by a broad coalition of educators, religious leaders, labour leaders, and other citizens concerned about the importation into Canada of culture-war battles prominent south of the border.

You may be aware of such initiatives in your community. I hope these counter-protests serve as a compelling gospel witness to the wider public, and that they afford people the opportunity to realize the protest organizers do not speak for all religious people, including all Christians.

My prayer is that each of us, tomorrow and each day, will embody the love and Kingdom we see embodied in Jesus Christ, caring for all children and their families, particularly those most likely to experience pain and face heightened intimidation as a result of today’s event. I pray we will resist all forms of bigotry and hate, and that we will love even those who fail to show love.

The Sudbury *1 Million March 4 Children* begins at Tom Davies Square, 11:00a.m.. North Bay’s demonstration starts at 11:00a.m., City Hall.

We live in the conviction that all of us without exception are created in the image and likeness of God. We also believe that how we treat others, particularly the marginalized and most vulnerable, is how we treat Jesus.

As members of Christ's Body, let it be our resolute objective to live in a manner that reflects Christ's love.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a small cross symbol above the name "Anne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma