
Archbishop's Charge to the 52nd Session of the Diocese of Algoma Synod

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

“With joy you will drink deeply from the wells of salvation.”

Isaiah 12.3

May 8, 2025

It is a great joy for me to welcome you to the 52nd Session of the Diocese of Algoma's Synod and my fifth as your bishop.

Over the years I have come to appreciate the importance of Synods in our ecclesiology. Scott Sharman who serves as the Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada tells of a well-known anecdote about a time that someone asked Archbishop Desmond Tutu what he thought, as a Bishop in South Africa, about how something so broad and diverse as the global Anglican Communion was able, for the most part, to stick together.

He replied, “well... we meet.” It's kind of humorous in its simplicity, but it really is true: the Lambeth Conference, the Primates Meeting, the Anglican Consultative Council, the General Synod, the House of Bishops, Provincial Synod, Diocesan Synod, all the way down to the Annual Parish General Vestry Meeting, and of course, our common worship.

How do we stay together? By the spiritual practice of being together. Together, on the way. Together as synod.

The word ‘together’ is key here as each member of the Synod is valued and each person's view respected. Much good and vital work goes into creating agendas for Synods – working out themes and content and invited guests. We wonder about how we will accomplish all that needs to be done in just a few days. But all that work, all those preparations are just words on a page, reports, committees, resolutions, charges, and worship bulletins.

It's only when we come together as God's faithful people that a Synod becomes a living organism – brought to life by us, the members of synod, as we listen well to one another, worship and pray together, engage in deep conversation, lively debate and thoughtful response. There are plenty of stresses too. It's up to us working together as members of Synod that will make our Synod life giving, fulfilling and hopeful.

Unlike some synods which are purely legislative, Algoma's are a little bit like mini conferences where in addition to the business of synod, we offer opportunities for spiritual growth and formation and the life of the church as we gather in scripture circles or breakout rooms, or listen to guests in plenary.

Congratulations to the newest deacon in our church, Dean Jobin-Bevans. May your ministry be long and rich and fruitful.

I would also like to acknowledge invited guests – our Assisting Bishop Michael Oulton, Dave Csinos from the Atlantic School of Theology and Su McLeod Youth Engagement Facilitator from Alongside Hope. Dave will deliver the keynote address on inter-generational faith formation in parishes today, and Su will participate in Breakout Sessions and facilitate conversations on aspects of youth ministry.

We welcome Michelle Hauser, Communications director from the Anglican Foundation of Canada, who has done a masterful job of guiding our work for the launch of the Anne Germond Legacy Fund, Ryan Weston, Lead Animator and Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice, and Larry Day, our insurance broker from Dawson and Keenan-Gallagher.

We are truly blessed that Dr. Roberta Bondar, world renowned trailblazing astronaut, neurologist, physician, educator, and wildlife photographer, will be gracing us with her presence and offering a keynote address on Friday evening at the official launch of the Bishop's Dinner and the Anne Germond Legacy Fund. A lifetime member of our Cathedral and a great friend of our Diocese, I am beyond delighted to be welcoming this gracious and learned woman to our gathering this week.

1 ALGOMA'S LIVING WATERS

You will notice a strong water theme flowing through Synod this year. It is in the Synod theme, in the artwork by Helen Mary Carter and the pottery bowl by Karen Nisbet, and in our worship through words prayed, spoken, heard and sung. It has been captured beautifully in the logo for the Legacy Fund. I hope each of you has a water bottle in your possession!

Almost all of you will have travelled past several bodies of water to get to Baawaating, the 'Place of the Rapids' today. Lakes like Muskoka, Rosseau, Joseph, Nipissing, Ramsey, Huron, Superior, Temiskaming Shores; rivers named Goulais, the St. Marys, Blind, Batchewana, Mattawa, Moon, Musquash, and the Serpent; rushing waterfalls named Kakabeka, Rainbow, Chippewa, Agawa Canyon; bays like Georgian and Pancake, North Bay, Old Woman and Honey Harbour, each one contributing to the wild and untamed beauty of this vast diocese.

Each body of water is different, with its own characteristics and own way of flowing or holding water, just like the varying congregations from which we come. Thank you for bringing a small container of water from a source near your home for our opening worship today. We are many, we are diverse, but our lives all flow from the same source and when we come together to break bread, or sit at the meeting table, or feast at the fellowship table we are one with that life giving source.

It was the waterways that first brought the gospel message to our shores. The Royal Family gifted our second bishop, Bishop Edward Sullivan with The Evangeline, a yacht to go from place to place. The writing desk Bishop Sullivan used is in the bishop's study at Bishophurst, along with the small cannon that he fired to announce his arrival in a community.

I like to think this announcement was more than just letting folk know he was in town; that they should get to the church to make ready for worship. He was being an evangelist, a messenger, a sentinel, reminding the community that it was time to gather around the good news of salvation.

Does this not remain at the heart of who we are as a people still called to do the gathering work of Christ so that his newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes, churches and communities?

'Water' is everywhere in the Scriptures, literally and figuratively. Water represents the primordial elements as described in Genesis 1, where *"the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters"* (Genesis 1:2). It signifies the life-giving force that God imparts into creation.

Water is also one of the richest words in John's gospel, and like a swiftly flowing river is found from start to finish in an invitation to us to participate in something life-giving and eternal.

In the first chapters of John's good news, water is associated with the grace of Jesus' baptism, and ours. It's there in the miracle at Cana, and the invitation to Nicodemus to be born anew. Water will bring healing to the disciples through foot washing. On the cross, water will flow from Jesus's side, mingled with his blood.

It is something of a paradox then, that the *"One who gives the calm of lakes and pools, the freshness of brooks and streams, the majestic depths of seas and oceans, the glory of pounding surf, the might of the Niagara and the tinkle of the garden fountain, the One from whose being flows the gift of water of eternal life – this is the One who is dying of a terrible thirst on the cross for the love of his lost sheep."* Fleming Rutledge.

This love, so amazing, so divine freely given, asks something of us in return, that we drink deeply from the life-giving stream.

2 SYNOD THEME

"With JOY we will draw deeply, from the wells of salvation."

Isaiah 12.3

I chose these words from Isaiah for my motto this year with the word 'Joy' really speaking to me as I think about the way in which Algomites carry out their baptismal ministries' day after day, week after week, year after year. Joy is at the heart of being Christian, and is, as St. Paul notes, one of the fruits of the Spirit. He further observes that there is no law against this wonderful characteristic.

Little did I know when I chose this verse from Isaiah for my motto how uncertain and challenging 2025 would become, and how apt it would be. We are in a time of intense global upheaval. The world is grappling with intensifying conflicts, from Ukraine to the Middle East, that are reshaping global alliances and fueling humanitarian crises. Amid this turbulence which is marked by nationalist rhetoric, erosion of democratic norms, and isolationist policies, there is a straining of international relationships. There is increased polarization at home and deepening global instability at a time when unity and responsible leadership are urgently needed.

To top it off, this has been a very difficult winter across Algoma with record accumulations of snow in some areas and most recently an ice storm that resulted in extensive damage to trees and properties and power outages affecting thousands of homes, businesses and some churches.

I think this passage speaks well to our present context in the church and in the world. These words were written over 2,700 years ago at a time when fear was very real. In any time of uncertainty, we are urged to fix our eyes on God's power and goodness, finding peace and strength in God, not merely as a distant promise, but as a living, active reality.

These words are the perfect ones for us to hear when the world is crashing down around us, when our minds are jaded and our spirits discouraged. It is often in the place of absolute helplessness and brokenness that hope and even joy can emerge.

It's a reminder that God is our salvation! This is as necessary an ingredient for life as water is. It is into the fountain of life in the triune God that we draw deeply from this year. Jesus is the wellspring of life, offering the gift of Living Water to everyone who comes and asks for it.

3 THE JOYS OF MINISTRY IN ALGOMA

"Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

Teilhard de Chardin

Thank you, Algoma, for the joy I discover at every table I join, be it the table of Eucharist, meeting or fellowship. There is always laughter there and joy in being in one another's company. Being joyful isn't something that we work hard at to achieve, it's a quality that just shows up when we're together. I love it when I walk into a church kitchen ahead of a confirmation or ordination to find volunteers preparing a lunch or a tea or an outreach dinner, enjoying one another's company before the main event.

I have experienced this joy in seeing vocational deacons Norm Blanchard, Joyce Foster and Elizabeth Kingston flourish, and in the ordinations of Thomas Ferris, Paul Baskcomb, Jan Latham, Deb Everest, Catherine Hazlitt and Dean Jobin-Bevan. There has been joy in witnessing the reaffirmation of more than 80 new confirmations or individuals renewing their commitment to Jesus through the renewal of baptismal promises or reception into the Anglican Communion.

In every corner of Algoma, it has been a special joy to see new immigrants or international students with their own depth of experience in the church and profound faith who are revitalizing our parishes. It gladdens my heart to see that some have been appointed to leadership roles in our church.

There has been joy in deanery days in Thunder Bay North-Shore and Temiskaming, at a community BBQ on the deck of a rectory on Lake Muskoka, in a Lunch and Learn in the basement of a church in Sudbury, in the sod-turning of an apartment complex where a church in Sault Ste. Marie once stood, in one of Bishop Michael's book studies, on a pilgrimage with our Cathedral Choir in the UK, and in multiple other ways and places.

There has been joy in strengthened relationships with our full communion and ecumenical partners in the Lutheran and United Church. This year on June 10th the United Church will celebrate their 100th Anniversary *Deep, Bold, Daring*. We offer our hearty congratulations to the United Church of Canada and pray for God's abundant and gracious blessings in the years to come.

There is joy in seeing parishes continuing to raise up, support and strengthen lay leadership for the ministry of God's church as wardens and treasurers, lay readers, pastoral care visitors and those who have a heart and a thirst for outreach and social justice issues. The new lay readers manual which has been prepared with great thought and care will be the subject of a Breakout Room Session with Dean Jay Koyle and the Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers Alison Weir.

Through grants offered by our partners in the Anglican Foundation of Canada we embarked on an ambitious project 'ReStorying the Church' and held two successful sessions with enthusiastic participation from those who attended. Through 'Say Yes! To Kids', I have seen summer camps being able to purchase new equipment, thus enriching the experience of young people, and joy as parishes have undertaken infrastructure or innovative projects they dreamed about. The latest is the Elmsdale Explorers. Thank you, Anglican Foundation for your ongoing support of our church locally, and around the country.

Joy flows because of who we have become in Jesus, because we have drunk deeply from the living waters freely offered, even though what we're doing involves work, sometimes lots of it.

4 ANNE GERMOND LEGACY FUND

It has really been a joy to work with the members of the **Anne Germond Legacy Fund** Committee as we have been preparing for the 'official' launch of the Episcopal Fund at Friday evening's banquet. Bob Elkin and Jock Pirrie serve as co-chairs, while the deaneries are represented and well served by Ed Swayze, Terry Ames, and Anne Wilson. And we have been ably supported by Synod office staff and Michelle Hauser from the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Canon Ed Swayze will be speaking about the historical roots of the episcopacy in our church as well as the ministry of a bishop during a plenary session on Friday. In his presentation he will outline why we believe having the office of bishop fully funded and supported for the future is a good thing to do. This is not only about meeting financial needs; it is about safeguarding our ability to be responsive, resilient, and present to our communities in times of both challenge and celebration.

Our vision is that the banquet on Friday is but a beginning of something that grows in the coming years. I am honoured to have the fund named after me, but it isn't about me, it's about planting seeds now to ensure a strong foundation for the episcopacy so that it will continue in Algoma long into the future. Thank you for supporting the Anne Germond Legacy Fund in whatever way you can. Each gift will make a difference.

5 WHEN THE WELL RUNS DRY

**"The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none,
And their tongue is parched with thirst." (Isaiah 47:17)**

Jesus promises that those who "drink" from Him will never thirst again.

But what do you do your well has run dry?

When we lived in Sudbury we were in an area where there was no city water. We, along with our neighbours, had wells that supplied fresh clean water for all our needs – washing and bathing, cooking and watering. It was perfect until it wasn't. One day our neighbours called and asked if they could use our shower, our washing machine, our hose for watering, and if they could have some for cooking, because their well had run dry. Just like that their lifeline and water source had ended. In the story of our faith wells provided the ability to live.

This is why the work that Alongside Hope is doing in Kenya in partnership with the Utooni Development Organization (UDO) to install shallow water wells with hand pumps in nine communities in Makueni County, Kenya, is so vital. Wells mean water and water mean life. What do you do when the well runs dry?

What do you do when the spring rains do not fall and there are years and years of drought?

What do you do when you live in Marsabit, Kenya, when the only well you have is shared with elephants and they destroy it every single night?

What do you do when the land is so parched that the ground begins to crack, and there is not even a bucket of water to help the seeds grow?

What do you do when you have been out in the boat fishing all night and come up empty handed?

What do you do when you encounter a season in church land where it seems everything is dried up and barren, and the water that once flowed and satisfied is seemingly nowhere to be found?

What do you do when you put out the 'help needed' sign for a new warden or treasurer, for someone to lead a youth or children's program, or form a new committee, and you come up empty-handed? What do you do when you can no longer offer a much-needed food ministry because there are simply not enough volunteers to run it?

What do you do when offerings have dropped to the point that you may have to choose between paying bills to keep the lights on or having a paid clergy to support the ministry of your parish?

As I look around Algoma, I see all too easily the fragility and the difficulties we face. Be it rising insurance costs, dwindling or non-existent reserves, aging volunteers, beloved parishioners called home to glory.

What do you do to fix it? Because after all, we all like to fix things, don't we? Keep striving to the point of burnout? Give up hope? Close the doors?

What we are experiencing is the present reality in many dioceses within our church from coast to coast to coast.

6 THE NEW REALITY

At General Synod 2023, the then Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, announced the formation of a Primate's Commission, highlighting the need for the church to respond to the challenges it is facing in the 21st Century.

Over the last eight months in my capacity as the Acting Primate I have been engaged in the Commission's work which aims to guide the church toward a unified vision for the future, encouraging cooperation among all levels of the church – national, provincial and diocesan.

In their Final Report entitled '*Creating Pathways for the Transformational Change of the General Synod*', which will be presented at General Synod 2025, the Primate's Commission identifies six key pathways or areas of focus for transformation. These pathways address organizational structure, management, inclusion and diversity, communications, walking in partnerships with the Indigenous Church and ministry in remote northern communities.

In the report there are some startling statistics. According to Dr. Neil Elliot, statistician for the Anglican Church of Canada, membership in Anglican parishes in 2023 was approximately one quarter what it was in 1967. The average Sunday attendance is 78% lower than in 1967, and there are about half as many paid priests.

The Primate's Commission notes that these figures, along with the significant changes, 'evoke grief, fear and longing. Memories of filled-to-the-brim Cathedrals, along with church expansions to accommodate ever-increasing Sunday Schools and church functions lead to commiseration when contrasted against today's landscape.' (*Creating Pathways*, p.9).

With you I mourn all that we've lost over the years, that despite our best efforts, our churches are less than half full even on high holy days. I grieve that my grandchildren may never have the kind of robust children's program that my own children experienced just twenty years ago, even though there are children in our lives and schools in our communities.

Let me read what the Primate's Commission report goes on to say:

"While the authors of this report honour the memories and the lamentation of the early twentieth century Anglican Church, this nostalgia cannot be a barrier to a spirit inspired, hope filled excitement for the future work of Anglicanism in Canada as the people of God continue to deepen and invite life in Christ in new and diverse ways."

What is God saying to us in this moment? What are we being called to do about it right here and now in the Diocese of Algoma? What will our legacy as leaders in the church be ten, twenty years from now? What will tomorrow's church say about the decisions we made when we were stewards of it today?

I don't have any easy answers for us, but I firmly believe that God uses all our pain and disappointments to shape and form us more and more into the image and likeness of Christ. And I believe, because I have seen it in my own life, that moments of desolation can also be moments of renewal. All we need is a tiny trickle of water, so small, a teardrop of grace flowing from the place of prayer and sacrifice out into the desert.

7 REBUILDING THE WELL

I want to challenge us to look up – to look up to God with a new passion for prayer and Spirit-led planning, so we can prepare for the future.

We have been entrusted with a small portion of the Kingdom of God to tend and care in this moment – may we manage well that which we have been gifted. May we have the vision and courage to join God in the places God is working right now, even if it means letting go of things that mean the world to us. Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains but a single grain, but if it dies it produces fruit.” (John 12. 24)

The church that offers healing discerns its wounds and loss;

The church that faces dying shares life beyond the cross.

To people torn and broken your mercy is revealed;

We praise your name who love us,

The Healer and the healed.

(Common Praise #600)

As the General Synod, more broadly, is being urged through the *'Creating Pathways'* report to consider the resources and structures it needs to assist Anglicans across the country now and into the future, provinces and dioceses will also be invited to examine their own structures and resources to see where and how they can change and adapt to be a simpler church.

To me this means a church that looks a lot different from how it presently looks. It means that the church will have to change in some very significant ways. But, as Neil Elliot notes, 'change is not the same as the end of the church. And that while change may be uncomfortable, being uncomfortable is not the same as the end of the church.' (Pathways p.10)

Now, without presuming the outcome of the resolution coming to General Synod 2025, when the time comes let us accept the invitation and engage in difficult conversations of our own, not being afraid to ask the difficult questions about changes that are needed but still holding onto our core identity. Our strong faith will help us stand under God's sovereignty even though we will be tried and tested. As mature Christians we will be able to wrestle honestly with tough questions because we trust that ultimately God has the answers.

8 THE FIVE TRANSFORMATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO GUIDE OUR WORK.

As the Primate's Commission's work was guided by our Baptismal Promises (BAS page 158-159) and the Five Transformational Commitments of the Anglican Church of Canada, adopted in 2023,

may they also guide ours. At the heart of the transformational commitments is the belief we are a church that **Invites and deepens life in Christ.**

Viewed through the lens of the Transformational Commitments, how can we be a diocese that: • Champions the dignity of every human being; works to dismantle racism and colonialism.

- Embraces mutual interdependence with the Indigenous Church (Sacred Circle)
- Nurtures right relationships among people of faith in local, national and global communities and networks.
- Stewards and renews God's creation; protects and sustains the earth; pursues justice for all.

In everything let us remember the promises of God:

**I, the Lord, will answer them. . . ,
I will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights
And springs in the midst of the valleys.
I will make the wilderness a pool of water
And the dry land fountains of water.”
(Isaiah 47: 18)**

Drawing deeply from this fountain is what makes it possible for God's people to choose a posture of hope instead of despair. To look up instead of down and to believe that because of God's actions in the past that God is present in our lives right now. That God is a God who is for us. Therefore, we can, as individuals and as a diocese TRUST and not be afraid.

9 REBUILDING THE WELL OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

“We believe that children matter to the life of the church. We believe that the church can only be the people of God when members – including the youngest – participate in its life, engage in core practices and exercise their gifts as vital members of the body of Christ.” — David M.

Csinos

Professor Dave Csinos is an Associate Professor of Practical Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology, and the founder of “Faith Forward”, an ecumenical organization for faith formation in children, youth and families. For years he's been leading workshops and helping mainline faith communities understand why historical approaches to Christian Education may need to be rethought. His talk, “Small but Mighty: Unleashing the Power of Intergenerational Faith Formation in Parishes Today” will offer renewed hope and energy to congregations who are struggling to understand where all the young people have gone, especially when we know they are in our neighbourhoods and families.

And let's give a big shout-out to the youth who are here with us at Synod, engaging with us and exercising their gifts as vital and much -loved members of our church.

Personally, I believe that we cannot leave the faith formation of children and youth to something that happens one hour on a Sunday morning. Studies have shown that many young people who are alienated from religion feel this way not because of their church's programs, but because of their family of origin. Faith is formed as much at home around the dinner table as it is in the pew at church.

Home was the place where my faith was seeded, nurtured and watered long before I ever went to church or participated in a youth group.

Growing up, I don't ever remember hearing my parents talking about God or their faith. But what I remember is the way my mother modelled what she believed in her unremarkable life, passing on the baton of Christian values to all three of her children.

We kept Lent and Advent as holy times in our family. While the Easter weekend was one of the busiest holidays in South Africa we stayed home and went to church. My mother would have considered it a scandal to be anywhere else!

The other place where faith was passed on to us was at the family dinner table which we ate together as a family every night. It was a ritual that began with grace. There at the dinner table we shared the daily news and there we welcomed friends and neighbours, strangers and those who had no place else to go for dinner. There we learned that following Christ was a priority for our family.

"The first altar around which primitive people worshipped was the hearth," writes Edward Hayes, "whose open fire burned in the centre of their home. The next altar shrine was the family table, where meals were celebrated and the great events in the personal history of the family were remembered. The priests and priestesses of these first rituals were the fathers and mothers of families." (A Handbook of Prayers for the Domestic Church)

As we struggle with how to get children and youth into our churches, maybe the place to start is not in the church but in the home. Perhaps the change in Christian education needs to be about equipping parents and grandparents and caregivers to play a more active role in the religious education and faith formation of their children by means of conversations, learning the bible together, family devotions and families helping others. This is the reason why I make the request of all confirmands to have a sponsor, someone to walk with them as they prepare for the sacrament.

The body of Christ is the extended family for children and youth. From the earliest days of the church Christians were called, 'brothers and sisters.' Believers understood that to be a Christian meant to be involved in a new family. This isn't just a safety net for those who don't grow up in a Christian home but a new family that focuses our identity as believers.

Some of you might be thinking that none of this applies to you in your context. I want to challenge that notion, especially if you are feeling particularly dispirited about the lack of youth engagement in our church. I urge you to make a point of attending the Breakout Group with Rev. Heather Manuel, Rev. Jeff Hooper and Su McLeod as, through exploring practices of healing, trust-building and co-creation in ministry they help us to rebuild with youth, not just for them.

As we listen to our keynote speaker and engage with the leaders of the Breakout Room on youth ministry, "Rebuilding the Well," may you come away with a new vision for what 'small but mighty' looks like in your context.

10 GRATITUDE

As I draw my Charge to a close, I want to express my deep gratitude to several people who have shared in the gathering work of Christ across Algoma.

Last June, following a time of personal discernment, Liz Hamel, our Administrative Assistant for 18 years made the decision to retire. While many people think of administrative positions as a job or a career, for Liz it was a calling. Professional in every sense of the word, Liz was organized, capable and a very efficient administrative assistant. She was a much loved and valued member of our Synod office team and highly respected beyond the Diocese of Algoma in the wider church. Liz is now happily retired in Souris, PEI, closer to family. I wish her and Norm well as they enjoy this season in their lives, and I give thanks for her dedication and faithful commitment to Algoma.

Canon Ken Lawson, our gifted Property Coordinator retired last July. This work involved a review of every church building and cemetery in Algoma and working with Canon Jane and the deanery officials on the sale of properties or transfer of cemeteries. We are grateful, Ken, more than we can say for the generous way you have served Algoma over the decades, first as our Registrar, Chancellor and Solicitor. It can truly be said of you that more than anyone else in Algoma you know where the dead bodies are buried. Blessings to you and Maureen as you enter the second phase of retirement. To our Chancellor Canon Garth O'Neill, you have the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. Your guidance and good counsel are deeply appreciated, as is the time you devote to this ministry at a moment's notice. Vice Chancellor Amy – it is such a joy to get to know you as you assume the mantle of leadership in the Canons and Constitution Committee.

To the dedicated Synod Office staff, Canon Jane, Jennifer, Carla and Mhora - thank you for your tireless and effective work. There have been many changes in our office, and you just keep going with diligence and care for our church.

Archbishop's Council and Executive Committee continue to lead with faith and clarity in each of your deaneries—I am thankful for your leadership.

To Bishop Michael, your enthusiasm and bold proclamation of the gospel, your companionship and counsel during my time as Acting Primate, have been a gift.

It is my firm conviction that as Anglicans, not only do we meet in Synod, but we participate together in the wider ministry of the church and in the mission of God. It is all God's mission with each one of us assuming a part of that mission which we undertake through the baptismal authority given to us. Over the last several years as I have undertaken additional ministries as Metropolitan, Diocesan Bishop for Moosonee, and most recently as Acting Primate, you have participated in it with me by encouraging and supporting and praying for me in my new roles, and by continuing to do the gathering work of Christ in your own context. Thank you, Algoma, for being a partner with me in the gospel. It is a privilege to serve as your bishop.

As we serve the broader Church together, I'm reminded of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 12: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."* May we continue, each in our part, to build up the whole body in love.

Between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday the Church throughout the world is being invited to join in the 10th Anniversary of the "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative to invite more people to come to know Jesus. Won't you join me in praying for five people every day?

See: www.thykingdomcome.global

Let us pray:

Our Father in Heaven
Hallowed be your name – not mine
Your kingdom come – not mine
Your will be done – not mine.
May your kingdom come here on earth even as it is in heaven.

Faithfully submitted,
+Anne: Algoma