

Note to the members of the Electoral Synod from the Diocesan Administrator:

Material has circulated in the Diocese concerning one of the candidates in our election, the Reverend Dr. Byron Gilmore. Similar material was circulated in the diocese of Toronto when the Reverend Mr. Gilmore stood for election there as a suffragan bishop earlier this month. Prior to that Toronto election Archbishop Johnson and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto posted a Note on their diocesan website dealing with this. This Note said *“With respect to Byron Gilmore, letters have been sent to all the parishes in the Diocese accusing Byron of being incompetent to be elected by virtue of the time he spent as a student at Grenville Christian College. The Archbishop, the Chancellor and the Nominations Committee do not agree (with what has been said). The Diocese takes great exception to these comments.”*

The background to this is that the Reverend Mr. Gilmore was called as a witness in a lawsuit involving Grenville College and some of its former students. *“As one of twelve witnesses called by the defence in a hearing in 2012, he gave evidence in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice based on his own experience as a student at the school in the late 1970s.”* It should be made very clear that Mr. Gilmore was not being sued but was a witness in this trial which was a civil and not a criminal proceeding. No accusations were made against him in the course of this trial that he had conducted himself in anything but a proper manner.

The Archbishop, the Chancellor, and the Toronto Nominations Committee considered the matter and found that the Reverend Mr. Gilmore was fully qualified to be a candidate in the Toronto election. The Algoma Election Process Committee has also considered the matter and comes to the same conclusion that Mr. Gilmore is fully qualified to stand as a candidate for election as Bishop of Algoma.

If there are any questions about this they should be directed to the Diocesan Administrator.

If you come across this material we would ask you not to transmit it further or discuss it with others which would only serve to turn it into damaging gossip.

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