



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Bishop

Holy Cross 2015

Dear Friends,

‘Lift Up Your Hearts’ – celebrating God’s generosity

I am thrilled and grateful(!) to be able formally to announce the beginning of our gratitude initiative, ‘Lift Up Your Hearts – celebrating God’s generosity’. As I have already said in my Charge to Synod in May, we have a lot to thank God for in our diocese, and so I am issuing a call for every congregation to participate in coordinated acts and expressions of thanksgiving.

For the period covering 4 October until 1 November, we will undertake an effort that involves everything from Sunday worship to weekday prayers at home, and from Bible study to outreach into our communities. A small group has been busy creating and polishing a variety of resources that should give every Anglican and every Anglican parish tools to help deepen our understanding of what gratitude is and the role it plays in the healthy Christian life. We are very excited to share these resources with you now!

We have prepared two packets of material: one for parishioners, and another for parish leaders and clergy.

- ✘ **The Resources for Parishioners** contains Bible studies and devotional material. Here you will find a prayer card for young families; a selection of bedtime prayers for young children; a system for daily devotions for adults; and table prayers that can be said at mealtime.

- ✘ **The Resources for Parish Leaders and Clergy** includes a complete set of readings and prayers to be used on each Sunday during the programme, along with musical settings and hymn suggestions. Leaders will also find ideas for parish and community activities designed to help us share the joy, and preachers will find materials to assist them with sermon preparation.

This is a novel initiative in the Church, and it has begun to attract attention from beyond the Diocese. While we release these resources now with the fervent prayer that God will use them to help us all grow in gratitude, we would ask that credit be given to the Diocese of Algoma in any copying and distribution of material.

I would, finally, like to express my profound appreciation to the dedicated and gifted crew that worked hard to design and produce these outstanding resources. These include: The Reverend Kelly Baetz ('Sharing the Joy'); Mrs Jayne Coy (devotional materials); The Reverend Dr Jay Koyle (worship and music resources); The Reverend Patrick McManus (Bible studies); The Reverend Dr Tim Perry (sermon materials); and The Reverend Pamela Rayment (format and design).

It is fitting that, as we launch this enterprise, we do so with gratitude for God's greatest gift:

Almighty God,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
was lifted high upon the cross
that he might draw the whole world to himself,
may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption,
have grace to take up our cross and follow him,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Gratefully yours,

+ Stephen