

**Canon Falby steps down as chancellor**

**Laity receive Order for service**



**Anglicans rally for homeless**

# The Anglican

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## Church plans to help refugees

Millions displaced by war in Syria

BY STUART MANN

AS the tide of refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East grows, a church in Toronto is doing its part to help. St. Matthew, First Avenue, has been raising money and awareness in the parish in the hopes of sponsoring a refugee family from Syria.

"Jesus would do it immediately and would want his people to do it," says the Rev. Ajit John, incumbent. "If we're not going to do things like this, why do we even gather on Sundays?"

According to the United Nations, 6.5 million people have been displaced within Syria and another 3 million have fled to neighbouring states such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. About 12 million people in total in the Middle East have been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence or persecution. Many of those have been Christian.

Two speakers in the diocese recently raised concerns about the plight of Christians in the Middle East. The Rev. Nadim Nassar, an Anglican priest from Syria who visited Toronto in October, said



Members of Matthew 25:35 at St. Matthew, First Avenue. Front row from left: David Demson, Kathryn Gray, David King, Jenn King, Peter Newell, Aubrey Duffy and Hiro Kishibe. Back row from left: Adriel Driver, the Rev. Dr. Catherine Sider Hamilton and the Rev. Ajit John. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

there is "no future" for Christians or any other religious minorities in the region as long as the warring factions continue to be

armed. The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew White, nicknamed the Vicar of Baghdad for his ministry in the Iraqi capital, painted an equally

grim picture, saying that thousands of Christians have fled Iraq while many others have been

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## Ads invite seekers at Christmas

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

FOR the second year in a row, the diocese invited seekers to church for Christmas using social media advertising. This was the fourth time the diocese has bought ads on Facebook before a major holiday, and its second time using Twitter ads.

The ads, which ran from Dec. 17 until Christmas Eve, used the same message as last Christmas: "Celebrate with us! This Christmas, find peace, beauty and joy at your local Anglican church." Each ad also included a photo of a wooden crèche hanging in a Christmas tree and linked to the diocese's Find a Church web page.

One benefit of social media advertising is the ability to measure how people respond to an organization's message. Facebook and Twitter both track how many times a post is shared, liked and clicked on, also called "engagements."

The diocese's Christmas ad was seen more than 304,000 times on Facebook and received 408 engagements, compared to 31,000 views and 335 engagements on Twitter. While Facebook reached more people, Twitter users were more likely to respond to the ad.

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## New chancellor for diocese

Canon Clare Burns takes on major role

BY STUART MANN

WHEN Canon Clare Burns was growing up, her mother and father made it clear to her and her brothers that it was their responsibility to give back to the community. In doing so, they were taught, they would get much more back, in terms of happiness and fulfillment, than they could ever give.

Canon Burns took the message to heart. Throughout her life, she has given her time and talents for the betterment of others. This has included a five-year term as the Children's Lawyer for Ontario,

representing thousands of children in legal cases. She has also sat on the board of directors of several non-profit agencies.

Now she's about to give back in the biggest way yet – by serving as the chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto. Although a volunteer position, it is one of the most demanding in the Canadian church, requiring countless hours of work on often difficult and sensitive subjects. But she's not fazed by it.

"It's a big commitment, but I would say that we, as a group, get back so much more than we give," she says, referring to the three-

person team that is made up of the chancellor and two vice chancellors, Robyn Ryan Bell and Canon Paul Baston. "It's a way to use my legal skills in the advancement and protection of a faith community that means everything to me."

Canon Burns was installed as chancellor at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1, becoming the first female chancellor in the history of the diocese. Before that, she served as a vice chancellor for the past 12 years, working alongside Canon Bob Falby, who retired

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Canon Clare Burns, the new chancellor of the diocese, greets guests at the Archbishop's Levee at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

# Church pushes ahead with efforts to sponsor family

Continued from Page 1

killed or forced to convert to Islam. Both speakers pointed out that Christians have been living in the Middle East for two millennia and that Syria and Iraq have been the settings for some of the most important events in the Bible.

Mr. John says his congregation had had a "burden on their hearts" for refugees, particularly Christians in the Middle East and north Africa, for the past three or four years. But it was the Syrian civil war that prompted them to take action.

Moved by the devastation, the church formed a small group (its name is Matthew 25:35) and invited a speaker from AURA to visit the congregation. AURA is a charitable organization that has been helping refugees settle in Canada for almost 30 years. It is funded by

the diocese through FaithWorks and by the Toronto Conference of the United Church.

"They know the lay of the land and have done this before," says Mr. John. "They work on a shoestring budget and they're very committed. It's inspiring to hear them talk. That was a really good connection to make."

The congregation learned some sobering news. Hosting a refugee family would not be easy or inexpensive. To sponsor a father, mother and three children would require about \$27,000 up front. "For a small, growing parish, it's a stretch," says Mr. John.

It would also take a lot of patience, they learned. It could be months or even years before the sponsored family arrived in Canada, and even then there would be no guarantee that the family would attend the church or stay

connected to it. The congregation would have to find an apartment for them, take them to doctor's appointments and manage dozens of other tasks to help them get settled.

Undaunted, the church decided to push ahead. Through craft and bake sales and other fundraising activities, the congregation expected to collect about \$5,000 by the end of 2014. For Advent, they created special envelopes in which people could indicate gifts and pledges for the project.

They also contacted nearby churches, to see if they wanted to contribute funds. By Christmas, none had made a firm commitment. Mr. John, however, remains optimistic. "Personally, I think we'll be able to do it alone," he says. "I think God can do great things."

He says the church's efforts to



Members of St. Matthew, First Avenue, sing Christmas carols in the Toronto neighbourhood of Riverdale on Dec. 21. The church's efforts to sponsor a refugee family have energized the congregation, says the Rev. Ajit John, incumbent. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

sponsor a family have had an energizing effect on the congregation. It has deepened people's understanding of the Gospel and strengthened their relationship with Jesus Christ, who became a refugee shortly after his birth, according to the Gospel of Matthew.

"It's the sort of issue that brings people together tremendously," he says. "They see the news clips of children being gassed and shot, and realize this is something they can do. It moves people beyond being silent observers. That's turned out to be

very energizing. We've noticed in the intercessions that people are praying for refugees and the homeless more often".

The church plans to invite a speaker in January who has firsthand experience of the refugee camps in Syria, and other ideas are in the works. "There's a lot of money to be raised, but I've heard all kinds of encouraging things from people who say there is nothing that God can't do," says Mr. John. "These are very encouraging signs. People are saying we can do it."

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# Canon Falby retires as chancellor

## Helped steer church in turbulent times

BY STUART MANN

**I**n his understated way, Canon Robert Falby succinctly sums up the history of the Anglican Church in the past two decades. "It's been an exciting time to be an Anglican," he says.

As chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto for all of those years, he not only witnessed that history but had a hand in shaping it.

His contributions to the Anglican Church at the local, diocesan, national and international level have been remarkable. But as he got set to retire as chancellor on Dec. 31, it was the people he met along the way that he remembered the most.

"I'm sorry to give up the frequent contact with all the church people I've dealt with over the years – they're all good friends," he says. "When you leave these positions, it's the people you miss more than the work."

As chancellor of the diocese since 1992, Canon Falby advised two diocesan bishops – Archbishop Terence Finlay and Archbishop Colin Johnson – on matters of canon law. But his contributions to the church went far beyond that.

He played a pivotal role in negotiations with the federal government that resulted in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The settlement committed the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United church-



Canon Robert Falby addresses the diocese's Synod in 2013. He has become the diocese's chancellor emeritus. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

es to contribute to a fund to compensate the victims of abuse at the schools. A portion of the funds helped to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Canon Falby also spoke the sentence that helped galvanize the church's response to the tragedy of abuse at the schools. At a meeting of General Synod, a Synod member questioned the wisdom of Primate Michael Peers' apology to indigenous people, made in 1993. The Synod member asked if the apology had created a dangerous legal liability.

Canon Falby calmly replied that he didn't think it did, then

added, "But whether it did or not, it was the right thing to do." Synod sat in silence for a moment and then rose as one in sustained applause. His comment helped turn the debate and became one of the defining messages of the church as it sought to address the legacy of the schools.

In 2005, Canon Falby was again called upon to serve the Canadian church at a difficult time. Due to issues involving same-sex blessings, the Primates of the Anglican Communion had demanded that Canada voluntarily withdraw its members from the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC). Canon Falby was chosen as one of three

people to present the Canadian case to the ACC, even though he was not a delegate to it.

At the international level, he was one of eight chancellors from around the world who were invited to produce ground-breaking work on identifying and codifying the general principles of the canons and canonical structures of the Anglican Communion's provinces and dioceses.

In recognition of his contributions, he was made a lay canon of St. James Cathedral, Toronto, in 2002, and was given the Anglican Award of Merit in 2004, the highest lay honour of the church. From 2007 to 2010, he served the

Anglican Church of Canada as deputy prolocutor and then prolocutor, the senior lay officer of General Synod. He received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Trinity College, Toronto, in 2013.

"It's been an enormous opportunity and I've really enjoyed it, not just from a legal perspective but for the opportunity to meet new people and get to know all the ins and outs of the ministry of the Anglican Church," he says, looking back over the past 22 years.

"I think lay people should be prepared to contribute to the church, and hundreds of thousands of them do in different capacities," he says. "I was lucky enough to have one of the best opportunities to fulfill that element of stewardship."

Archbishop Colin Johnson announced Canon Falby's retirement at the December meeting of Diocesan Council. "It is my regret to receive Bob's resignation, but I do so with great thanksgiving for the real ministry he has given to the church," he said. "We owe him a great debt of gratitude."

He said Canon Falby brought compassion and understanding to the decision-making process. "It wasn't just a strictly legal interpretation he brought but asked how is this going to affect the church? How is this going to affect the person or the parish? That sensitivity of interpretation of the canons has been a hallmark of his chancellorship."

He announced that Canon Falby would become the chancellor emeritus of the diocese, and Council members gave Canon Falby a standing ovation. Canon Clare Burns, a vice chancellor of the diocese for the past 12 years, has succeeded Canon Falby as chancellor.

## New chancellor

Continued from Page 1

from the role on Dec. 31 and is now the chancellor emeritus.

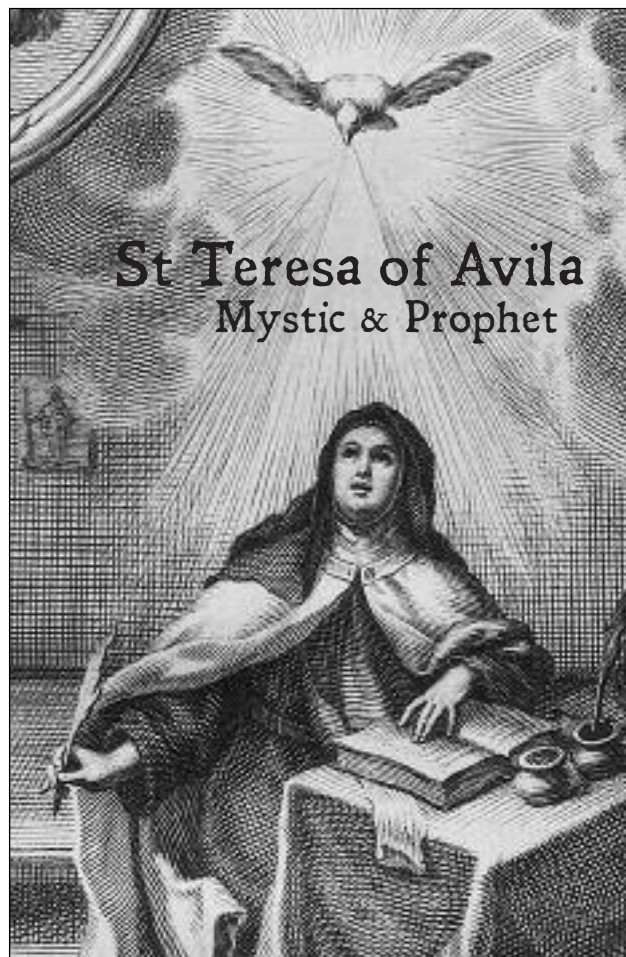
As chancellor, Canon Burns will assist Archbishop Colin Johnson on matters of canon law at Diocesan Council and Executive Board. She will chair the diocese's Trusts Committee, which reviews requests from churches for major building projects or repairs to buildings. The committee also administers the Baker and Carlton funds, two legacies that provide money for the improvement of Sunday school spaces and repairs to rectories. She will also help to review the salaries and working conditions of senior diocesan staff, review the policies and procedures of the diocese and facilitate pre-Synod meetings.

She points out that it's not all hard work, and some moments are deeply moving. One such moment happened several years ago when she took part in the re-consecration of Trinity, Streetsville, after it had been destroyed by a

fire. "The feeling of joy in the congregation, and participating in that moment of rebuilding, is the reason why I've remained vice chancellor for 12 years," she says. "It was an amazing moment. You could feel God working in the room. There's a lot of joy in what we do."

Canon Burns and her family attend The Bridge service at St. Paul, Bloor Street and St. John, Elora, where they have a country home. Outside the church, she practices law at WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto. She is a graduate of Osgoode Law School and the London School of Economics.

Archbishop Johnson says he is looking forward to working with Canon Burns. "Clare brings a high level of clarity and interpretation of the canons and a real engagement in the ongoing pastoral life of the church. She understands the church and is part of the church. And she has a good sense of humour."



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# Our faith calls us to engage



This year marks the 40th anniversary of my father's election as a Member of Provincial Parliament. On that election night, I was interviewed by a young reporter for the largest newspapers in the riding.

"What is he personally getting out of this?" I was asked.

"He's in this because he believes that he can make a difference to the people he'll be serving," I replied.

"No, but what's he really in it for?"

"He believes in the duty of service. He is altruistic." I don't think the reporter knew the word. The interview never made it to press.

My father served for 15 years and I was very proud of him. I campaigned for him, even though Dad and I did not agree on a number of issues. We had some very loud arguments, including the pivotal role of one of my episcopal predecessors in an election where many of his friends had lost their seats. Politics and faith present some interesting challenges.

True or false? "In Canada, there is a separation of church and state."

The answer is: It depends. There is no legal or constitutional separation of church and state in Canada as there is in the United States' Constitution. Over the course of Canadian history, the relationships have been complicated. The first Bishop of Toronto was a member of the Executive Council

## ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

and Legislative Council of Upper Canada – essentially the Cabinet and the precursor to the Senate – while active as a priest and then bishop. Canon Cody was for a time the provincial Minister of Education as well as rector of St. Paul, Bloor Street. In the 1980s, three priests of the Diocese of Toronto served at the same time in the House of Commons, one representing each of the three major parties (a very Anglican balance, wouldn't you say!). Two of those men died this past year – Dan Heap and Roland de Corneille – while Reg Stackhouse is still very much active in retirement. Anglican laity have served in all levels of government and three of the last four Governors General (and at least 20 of the 28 who have served) have been Anglicans.

On the other hand, the long connection between the church and the government on Indian residential schools was hugely problematic and has caused deep, lasting pain.

But in current policy and practice in the last few decades, there clearly is a much more marked separation – interestingly, more so here than in the U.S. It would be hard for an American presidential candidate to be successful if not photographed going to church regularly; not so with a Canadian prime minister. And compare the official commemorations of the 9/11 tragedy in Ottawa, Washington, New York and London.

By law, not-for-profit organizations – churches fall into that category – can spend a maximum of 10 per cent of their revenue on political advocacy, and then only if it aligns with their mandate and is non-partisan. We fall well within that. This is being interpreted more narrowly and, at times, restrictively. For example, the Canadian Revenue Agency recently deemed that a major Canadian charity could operate programs to alleviate the effects of poverty directly but not to advocate for policies to eliminate it, which is absurd!

I believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the vows we make at our baptism compel us to engage with our government and the political system as an essential part of our Christian witness. Our faith gives us a particular lens through which to view the world around us. It shapes how we participate as citizens in the decisions about the way we live in this world, how others are included, and what priorities we set.

Five Marks of Mission were developed by the Anglican Communion to indicate ways in which we join in the mission of Christ to the world. At least three of those Marks have a political dimension, as well as a service orientation:

- To respond to human need by loving service.
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of

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### In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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# Why Black History Month?



I begin this article by quoting Rosemary Sadlier, who is the president of the Ontario Black History Society. She wrote, "When the contributions of people of African descent are acknowledged, when the achievements of black people are known, when black people are routinely included or affirmed through our curriculum, our books and the media, and treated with equality, then there will no longer be a need for Black History Month."

Many in Canada and in our diocese join in the annual celebration of Black History Month in February. There is an annual diocesan Black Heritage Service that is held on the last Sunday in February at St. Paul, Bloor Street at 4 p.m. The first service was held at St. James Cathedral in February 1995. Some parishes in our diocese also hold similar services during the month.

The question has been asked of me and others, "Why do we have to designate a month called Black History Month?" Answers vary, but fundamentally it can be summed up in the quotation used at the beginning of this article. Although considerable progress has been made in race relations through the years, racism – subtle and not so subtle – still exists in many of our institutions, including the church. Prejudice and bigotry are very present with us and are manifested in the way others are treated because of their age, race, sexual orientation or whatever makes them different.

There are persons who support the observance of Black History Month and believe that it is important for such a celebration to take place. There are others, including persons of African heritage, who do not share these sentiments, and who believe that such an observance minimizes the importance of black history.

## BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP PETER FENTY

Since 1926, Americans have recognized black history, first known as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." There have been black people in America since colonial times, but it was not until the 20th century that they began to be included in history books. Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a PhD Harvard graduate, was the person responsible for the celebration of Black History Month in the United States. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915. It is believed that Dr. Woodson chose the month of February because of a number of African-Americans who celebrate significant achievements in that month. It is also suggested that he wanted to honour Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, whose birthdays were in February and who were in the forefront of ending American slavery.

In Canada around 1950, the railroad porters within the black community, on learning about what was happening in the United States, were inspired by these celebrations. However, it was the Ontario Black History Society, founded in 1978, that became the pioneering body for such a celebration in Canada. It successfully lobbied the federal government to have February declared as Black History Month, and in December 1995, Parliament officially recognized February as Black History Month. The first black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Hon. Jean Augustine, introduced the motion.

The objective of Black History Month is to provide information about black history, culture and heritage. The hope is that sharing such knowledge will inspire confidence

among black people about their cultural heritage. Black History Month fundamentally highlights the history and contributions of black communities and black individuals, past and present. Making this history known enables many in our communities to learn of the significant contributions made by persons of African heritage to the development of their communities and the world.

Often some of the names of people of African heritage with whom this month is associated include Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and Desmond Tutu. Our own Canadian personalities include Lincoln Alexander, Michaele Jean, Deborah Cox, Rosemary Brown, Keith Forde, Harry Jerome, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and Ann Cools, to name a few.

Black History Month is an opportunity for us in Canada to recognize the past and present contributions that African-Canadians have made to the life of this country in areas such as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, sports, religion, politics and human rights.

In our diocese, many of our members are Afro-Canadian and Caribbean people who have made and are making significant contributions to life and witness of our church. I believe that the Anglican Church of Canada is the richer because of its diversity, the result of many people from many lands, including persons of African heritage.

It is my hope that the sentiments of Mary Sadlier will become our reality, when the contributions of people of African descent are acknowledged, their achievements known, black people are routinely included or affirmed through our books and the media, treated with equality, and assume leadership positions by virtue of their competencies and qualifications. When these are acknowledged, there will no longer be a need for Black History Month.

# I can't believe how fortunate I am

*Mia Biondi, a registered nurse, is the coordinator of the PROS program (Providing Resources, Offering Support) at All Saints Church, Sherbourne Street in Toronto.*

**PROS is a comprehensive care program for trafficked individuals in Toronto, funded by the Diocese of Toronto.** I spend about half my time working directly with clients, including those who have been trafficked or experienced trauma. I work holistically to meet their biological, psychological, social and spiritual needs. I also assist at our two drop-in programs for women and am excited to start a third that will focus on building capacity. My other duties include outreach, research, community education and political action.

**Unfortunately, there is very little awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Canada among healthcare providers.** For this reason, I recently submitted a resolution to the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) to advocate for community prevention, as well as for protocols for nurses to identify trafficked individuals in healthcare settings like emergency rooms. We have also asked the RNAO to lobby for more funding for aftercare. It is my hope that I will be able to present this resolution at the RNAO's upcoming annual general meeting, and gain the support of other members.

**One of the best parts about working at All Saints is that I get to know the clients.** I recently attended the Christmas service at All Saints, where I saw many of our clients in a different light. It was a powerful service and completely inclusive – including a blessing done by a client in another language. It has made me reflect on how big a role spirituality plays in our clients' lives, and makes me appreciate how our clergy are able to meet spiritual needs in an accessible setting.

**Recently, a client asked me to assist her in reaching an educational goal.** Being able to facilitate this type of case-management is one of the best aspects of my job. The most difficult aspect of this position is the darkness of the subject matter.

**I grew up outside of Chatham and completed my BSc at the University of Guelph, my PhD at McGill, and my BScN at Western University.** During this time, I won several awards, in-



Mia Biondi outside All Saints, Sherbourne Street in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

cluding an HIV/AIDS Biomedical Research Award, and the Excellence in Professional Nursing Practice from the Council of Ontario University Programs in Nursing. In addition to acting as the PROS coordinator, I am a research fellow at the University Health Network, where I work on Hepatitis C, an issue that largely affects marginalized populations.

**Before moving to Toronto, I volunteered with the London Anti-Human Trafficking Committee, and I wanted to continue this type of work in Toronto, but wasn't sure how.** Sometimes I can't believe how fortunate I am to be able to do clinical work at All Saints and research at the University Health Network, in two areas that I am passionate about. I believe that this is only possible because of the tremendous leadership of both of my supervisors, who have supported me in connecting these two worlds. I think that being given the autonomy at All Saints to take the program in a certain direction will be a career experience that is difficult to top.

**As a child, I remember praying for people to find their vocation, and thought how important a prayer this was.** As an adult, I have also struggled to find a vocation, knowing that my main goal was to serve God and try to effect change, but not being sure exactly how to do it.

During my undergraduate studies, I went on two outreach trips to sub-Saharan Africa, and spent much time reflecting and journaling on why I was there. After seeing HIV affect so many, I did a PhD studying HIV drugs, but something was still missing. I decided that I would pursue nursing so that I would be able to provide that front-line care, while applying my research skills to a clinical setting. During my nursing education, I had placements in hospital-based settings but quickly realized that these types of positions were not for me. After completing my BScN, I knew it would be difficult to obtain a position in the community, but I had faith that God had a plan for me. I had been volunteering at All Saints, and only a few weeks after becoming a registered nurse, the PROS position came up – a position that would allow me to combine all my previous knowledge and training.

**The next major project I am working on is to implement a TELUS Health Electronic Medical Record (EMR) at All Saints.** With this, we will be one of the first RN-led drop-ins to have this type of system. An EMR will allow us to document pieces of a client's history over time, while tracking progress, even if a client does not want to give her or his full name. We will also be able to customize assessment tools for our drop-in setting

and anti-human trafficking initiatives.

**I have to say that I never**

**thought I would get a position that I was so passionate about this early in my nursing career.** In five years, I hope to be able to continue to work with street-involved individuals, but to have obtained the Nurse Practitioner certificate so that I will be able to provide more clinical case-management for difficult-to-reach populations.

**My favourite passage from the Bible is Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** I was introduced to this passage by a member of the spiritual care team at a long-term care facility. I owe so much of my understanding on how spirituality affects health to this chaplain. During our time together, we reflected on the lack of resources in long-term care, and when I asked her how she dealt with this on a daily basis, she said she used a lot of prayer and dedicates an extra hour every day to the facility. I think the passage reflects trying to understand inequalities in our world.



**ASH WEDNESDAY  
DISCOVERY DAY  
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH**

AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

February 18, 2015  
9:00am - 3:30pm

Children and youth, ages 6-14, of the Diocese of Toronto are invited to attend a day of fun and learning at the Cathedral.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO REGISTER, PLEASE SEE THE CATHEDRAL WEBSITE OR CONTACT CHRIS D'ANGELO, CDANGELO@STJAMESCATHEDRAL.ON.CA. ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED. PLEASE REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 10.

[www.stjamescathedral.on.ca](http://www.stjamescathedral.on.ca)

**The Diocese is on  
Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.**

**To connect, visit  
[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)**



# Laity receive Order of the

‘We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people’

*The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. In 2014, the recipients came from the following deaneries: Oshawa, Mississauga, Eglinton, Huronia and Tecumseth. They were presented with their medallion at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, on Jan. 1.*

#### **Ted Aldridge, ODT**

*Christ Church, Oshawa*

Mr. Aldridge has served on committees of the diocese for many years. As the long-time chair of the Planning and Development board, he oversaw the building and renovations of many churches. He also served on Area Council for a number of years, adding his wisdom and voice to the needs of Trent-Durham. He is currently serving his parish as churchwarden.

#### **W. Gordon Baker, ODT**

*St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South*

Since joining the parish in 1977, Mr. Baker has served as churchwarden, Sunday school superintendent, lector, chalice bearer, choir member, envelope secretary and greeter. Almost always on a weekly basis, on seeing something to be done, he quietly and unobtrusively does it. As well, Mr. Baker serves the wider community, volunteering at the Mississauga hospital several times a week. His faithful commitment has inspired others to also step forward to help serve.

#### **Norah Bolton, ODT**

*St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto*

Ms. Bolton has had a long association with her parish as chorister, churchwarden, Sunday school teacher and chair of a capital campaign. She is one of the parish's lay delegates to Synod and a member of the York-Credit Valley Area Council. At the diocesan level, she is a member of the Executive Board and Diocesan Council. She has also served as a volunteer for the diocese's Congregational Development department. She has been a member of a national task force of the Anglican Church of Canada and has attended four provincial synods.

#### **Helen Bradfield, ODT**

*Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto*

Mrs. Bradfield has helped to facilitate virtually every aspect of parish life, from worship to music to special events. She has been the church archivist for almost 15 years and has been instrumental in helping to record and preserve its history. She has also given back to the broader community, serving the Bishop Strachan School, Trinity College and the Diocese of Toronto.

#### **Charles Brown, ODT**

*St. Hilary, Cooksville*

Mr. Brown initiated and oversees the St. Hilary's Gardens, which have won awards from Communities in Bloom. The gardens serve as a visible outreach to the community and an entrance to one of Mississauga's main gateways. Mr. Brown initiated and oversaw the development of the Charlie Martin Memorial, which honours

one of Canada's most decorated non-commissioned officers of the Second World War. Mr. Brown is a lay reader, a leader in the men's fellowship group, and an associate with the Order of the Holy Cross.

#### **E. Patricia Brown, ODT**

*St. Hilary, Cooksville*

Mrs. Brown is president of the parish's Chancel Guild, president of St. Hilary's Day Care, a former churchwarden and member of Synod, co-ordinator of the church's Worship Assistants and co-ordinator of the annual Outreach Walk. She is a companion of the Order of the Holy Cross and a past chair of the diocese's Doctrine and Worship Committee.

#### **Donna Cansfield, ODT**

*St. George on-the-Hill, Toronto*

Throughout her life, Ms. Cansfield has dedicated herself to the public service of others. In 2003, she was elected as MPP for Etobicoke Centre and served in a number of key posts, including Minister of Transportation, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy, during which time she shepherded in the Energy Conservation Responsibility Act. She has a passion for community service, particularly children, senior citizens and hospice issues. She is a long-time member and current churchwarden at St. George's.

#### **Margaret Cincurak, ODT**

*St. Thomas, Brooklin*

Mrs. Cincurak was nominated by the parish for her outstanding volunteer activities over the past 50 years. Her contributions are many and varied and include positions of leadership, planning, fundraising, worship and outreach. In all of these, her commitment and involvement have been exemplary.

#### **Ronald Coles, ODT**

*St. John, East Orangeville*

Mr. Coles has given a lifetime of witness to Jesus Christ through his life and in the workplace. He has provided faithful service to the church as an altar server, AYPAs member, lay reader, churchwarden, Synod member and pastoral visitor in parishes wherever he and his family have lived, including St. John's. His ministry includes being a friend and confidant of many clergy, especially in the early days of their arrival.

#### **Janet Coombs, ODT**

*Parish of Coldwater-Medonte*

Mrs. Coombs was nominated by the congregation of St. John, Matchedash, for her long, faithful service and for providing key leadership as churchwarden, Sunday school teacher and board member over the past 34 years. Through difficult days in the life of St. John's, she has been a beacon of hope and perseverance."

#### **Philip Creighton, FCA ODT**

*Christ Church, Deer Park*

Trained as an accountant, Mr. Creighton worked in some of the largest accounting firms in the country and decided early on to specialize in the not-for-profit sector. That group, which includes churches, educational and social service agencies, have



Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto gather for a picture at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1.

accounting needs that are much different from large corporations. In recognition of his expertise and service, he was named a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, its highest award. For many years as a member of the Audit Committee, he has ensured that the financial records of the diocese meet the highest accounting standards.

#### **Arthur Downes, ODT**

*St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto*

Mr. Downes is a retired Justice of the Peace with extensive community involvement. He has been a lay member of Synod, an Ontario Hospital Association director, a Humber College lecturer, Senegal's honorary Consul General for 16 years until 2009, and the founding chair of the board of directors of Doctors Hospital Foundation, now Kensington Foundation. Mr. Downes was among the first community members to develop and implement liaison committees between the black community and the Toronto Police Service.

#### **Patrick Dugan, ODT**

*Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto*

Mr. Dugan has been an integral part of the church since 1974, when he brought his joy, dedication, talents and love of God to the congregation. In addition to being a vibrant leader within the congregation, he has donated countless hours of labour over four decades to the maintenance and upkeep of the church, as a contractor and master carpenter.

#### **Launi Elliott, ODT**

*Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa*

Mrs. Elliott was nominated by the parish not just in recognition of her many years of faithful service, but also in gratitude for the witness of her life – her faith, her character, her prayers and her conduct. Her example encourages the congregation to be more faithful in its own walk with Jesus Christ.

#### **Thomas Fitches, ODT**

*St. Clement, Eglinton*

Mr. Fitches has been the organist and director of music at St. Clement's since 1973. He trained in Oshawa, Toronto, and Croydon, England, at the Royal School of Church Music. He has performed on the CBC, at Roy Thomson Hall and is the accompanist for the Elora Festival Singers, with whom he has made a number of recordings. He is a past president of the Toronto Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and was awarded the college's Distinguished Service Award in 2008. He brings warmth, humility and friendliness to the parish. In 2008, St. Clement's parish bell was named in his honour: Faithful Thomas.

#### **Diana Heath, ODT**

*Church of the Messiah, Toronto*

Dr. Heath has provided her parish with exemplary leadership in many areas, including pastoral care and healing ministries, worship, music and education. Since joining the church in 1975, she has epitomized servant leadership with unflagging energy.

#### **Michael Hudson, ODT**

*St. James Cathedral, Toronto*

Mr. Hudson photographs people and

# The Diocese of Toronto



PHOTO BY SIMON CHAMBERS

events in the life of the diocese and his pictures have appeared in many publications, including *The Anglican*. From royalty to little children, archbishops to street people, Mr. Hudson captures the collective ministry of Anglicans in the diocese and shows it back to them. He sees the world through the eyes of the camera in remarkably perceptive ways. An award-winning photographer, Mr. Hudson has experienced the life of the diocese in ways that very few others have.

#### **Kenneth Hudson, ODT**

*St. John, Blackstock*

Mr. Hudson has provided outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in support of the church and the community. He has earned the respect and gratitude of the congregation, the community and his peers.

#### **Lori Johnson, ODT**

*St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West*

Ms. Johnson's leadership skills, giving spirit, pleasant demeanor, willingness to go the extra mile and openness to the inclusion of all who enter the church's doors have endeared her to every member of St. Francis. She loves to sing her heart out in praise to God as a member of the choir and as a soloist on special occasions.

#### **Charles Jordan, ODT**

*St. Andrew, Alliston*

Mr. Jordan is a faithful servant of the Lord and an inspiration to parishioners through his substantial and dedicated ministry, both at the Retreat House and the church. He is a man of deep faith and a generous

donor of his gifts and talents. He is a staunch supporter and encourager of others, and is often sought for his wise advice and counsel by clergy and laypeople alike. As a master craftsman, his contributions have enhanced the church's physical plant. As the Retreat House Café cook, coordinator and confidante, he has touched many lives.

#### **Ellen and Samuel Lam, ODT**

*St. John, Willowdale*

Dr. Samuel and Ellen Lam were nominated for their philanthropy and visionary leadership in Canada, Hong Kong and Ireland. Dr. Lam is the president and chairman emeritus and Ellen is a member of the board of governors of the Mon Sheong Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of Chinese culture, heritage, language and philosophy through caring for the elderly, encouraging the young and providing programs and services in response to the needs of communities. They were founding members of St. John's Chinese church and have provided key support to the diocese's outreach ministries to Mandarin-speaking people. Dr. Lam was a member of the executive committee of the Bishop's Company and Mrs. Lam was a member of Diocesan Council.

#### **Nancy LeGresley, ODT**

*St. Martin, Courtice*

Mrs. LeGresley has provided faithful service as an organist, choir director, baker and inspirational friend. Along with her husband, she was one of the first parishioners of St. Martin, Courtice, when it was an outreach of St. John, Bowmanville.

#### **William Lowe, ODT**

*St. Peter, Erindale*

Mr. Lowe was nominated for his humble and devoted service over his lifetime. His devotion to the church, grounded in his love of Jesus Christ, has shone forth over decades of leadership as head of the servers' guild, as sacristan, pastoral visitor and lay reader.

#### **Esther Lucas, ODT**

*St. Martin, Bay Ridges, Pickering*

Mrs. Lucas was nominated for her tireless work in following Jesus' commandments to love God and love her neighbour. She has helped the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the sick, and those in need. At the age of 90, she continues to follow those commandments. She shines the light of Christ to everyone she meets.

#### **Hazel McCallion, ODT**

*Trinity, Streetsville*

Ms. McCallion was nominated for her exemplary service to the community and the church. She was first elected as deputy reeve of Streetsville in 1967 and later as its last mayor. When it was amalgamated, she served on council and then as mayor of Mississauga, a position she held for the next 36 years, until her retirement in 2014. Many years ago, she served as the national president of the Anglican Young People's Association. She credits her faith with giving her energy.

#### **Robert McClellan, ODT**

*St. Leonard, Toronto*

During a long and distinguished career in the insurance industry, Mr. McClellan has held many volunteer positions, making a mark both in the industry and society. He is treasurer of the Toronto Construction Association and served on the board of directors of CCA, TCA and the National Association of Surety Bond Producers. He has also assumed volunteer roles in a number of community groups, including the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts of Canada, the King Bay Chaplaincy and his parish. He is one of the leaders of FLAME, inspiring and strengthening men's expression of faith in Jesus Christ.

#### **Gladys McClellan, ODT**

*St. Leonard, Toronto*

Mrs. McClellan has served the Anglican Church of Canada at the international, national, diocesan and parish level. She has provided diligent service for more than 60 years.

#### **Harold McGary, ODT**

*All Saints, Whitby*

Mr. McGary epitomizes the Christian view of a good and faithful servant. He taught Sunday school in the 1960s and served as a reader, a sidesperson and a churchwarden. He is an accomplished woodworker and the church boasts many examples of his talent and expertise. For more than half a century, he has worked quietly and without fanfare to help the church in any way he could.

#### **Marilyn Metcalfe, ODT**

*St. George, Pickering Village, Ajax*

Mrs. Metcalfe was nominated for her outstanding service in growing parishioners' faith and deepening the parish's understanding of prayer, Christian meditation and spirituality. She has been a respected leader within the community for decades. Her voice and insight reaches to every aspect of parish life.

#### **Clifford Moon, ODT**

*Church of the Ascension, Port Perry*

Mr. Moon was nominated for passionately communicating the importance of an Anglican church in Port Perry and has been instrumental in keeping its doors open to everyone. He has not only ensured that the integrity of the buildings has been addressed but he has been a great ambassador of Anglicanism in the community.

#### **Susan Tremayne-Moon, ODT**

*Church of the Ascension, Port Perry*

Ms. Tremayne-Moon was nominated for her devotion to the parish in many different roles, especially her untiring efforts in helping to rebuild the church in the last three years and making it a viable parish. Her lifelong Anglican values continue to be expressed by her in building up the parish.

#### **Israel Newell, ODT**

*Trinity East, Toronto*

A systems analyst with the Toronto District School Board, Mr. Newell's contribution to the church is not through computers or technologies but in dealing with people, often people who have been deeply marginalized. A man of deep evangelical faith, he has been involved for years in the diocese's Community Ministries board, which is now the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, following Christ's call to minister to all of his people. He was a lay member of Synod for eight years.

#### **Billy Ng, ODT**

*St. Elizabeth, Mississauga*

Mr. Ng lives out his faith through his willingness to serve and the way in which he continuously shares his passion for Anglicanism. Since he joined the parish in 1996, Billy has served in numerous positions, both in ministry and administration. He has been a churchwarden, lay reader and mission chair. Mr. Ng's pragmatic approach and ability to facilitate compromise gives the St. Elizabeth family a much needed, down-to-earth perspective. This has been invaluable during the church's first, and now second, phase of its extension project, as well as the day-to-day running of the church. His example is one to which all St. Elizabeth parishioners aspire.

#### **Ann Orser, ODT**

*Parish of Washago-Price's Corners*

Mrs. Orser was nominated by the congregation of St. Luke, Price's Corners for her lifelong faithful service as a member of St. Luke's and as a key leader of the ACW. She is a wonderful example of quiet and steadfast Christian ministry in her home, her neighbourhood and her church. Through many challenging years where the survival of her home church was in doubt, her resolute and positive spirit helped St. Luke's to move into a more stable future.

#### **Peter Paterson, ODT**

*Holy Trinity, Thornhill*

Mr. Paterson is a philanthropist who believes that one should give of both one's time and money. His liturgical ministry among the gathered community comes alive in practical service to the church's garden and his intense passion for the marginalized in the local community and city. If Holy Trinity were ever to develop a parish encyclopedia, Mr. Paterson's picture would be next to the section entitled "The Baptismal Covenant".



Archbishop Colin Johnson with three of the 52 recipients of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. Left, with Ellen Lam, ODT, and Dr. Samuel Lam, ODT. Above, with Arthur Downes, ODT. On right: the medallions that are given to each member. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



## 'Their light shines, their works glorify'

Continued from Page 7

### **Sarah Peake, ODT** *St. Bride, Clarkson*

Ms. Peake has been a member of choirs, Bible study groups, youth groups, events and activities in the Anglican Church her entire life. She has served as a member of the diocese's Ministry Reallocation Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Meadowvale West Church Centre. She is currently the Associate Registrar at Humber in Toronto.

### **Geoff Pring, ODT**

*St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering*  
Mr. Pring is a faithful, loving, and long-time member of St. Paul's church family. He has served as a lay reader for over 35 years. He sings in one of the church's worship teams, trains the servers, leads worship, and exemplifies in word and deed the life of a humble follower of Jesus. He and his wife Joy are a great blessing to the church community.

### **Barbara Reckord, ODT**

*Church of the Incarnation, Toronto*  
Ms. Reckford was nominated for her advocacy for the ministry of healing in the diocese. Her deep faith and commitment have been demonstrated in her work to establish a healing centre and in the training of clergy and laity in the exercise of Christian healing. This work has led to the majority of the parishes in the diocese actively engaged in this ministry. She is an associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and a spiritual director.

### **Edna Evelyn Reid, ODT**

*Parish of Coldwater-Medonte*  
Mrs. Reid was nominated by the congregation of St. George, Fairvalley for her 66 years of faithful service as a member of the ACW, as well as her inspiring life of professional and volunteer service to those in her community. Her particular gift to the church has been her ministry of invitation, hospitality and pastoral care. She reaches out in Christian love to all she meets and is held in deep affection and high regard by both her church community and the Oro-Medonte area, where she has lived and worked for almost all of her 96 years. She epitomizes the Gospel call to see and serve Christ in each person.

### **Donald Sabean, ODT**

*St. Matthew, Oshawa*  
Mr. Sabean was nominated for his faithful service over the past 50 years as a lay

reader and also as an on-call chaplain at Lakeridge Health-Oshawa. He lives out his Christian faith in all he does – at work, in his family life, in his friendships and at the church.

### **William Saunderson, FCA ODT**

*St. Clement, Eglinton*  
Mr. Saunderson began his career as a chartered accountant with Clarkson Good (now Ernst & Young). In 1971, he founded Sceptre Investment Counsel Ltd. He was elected MPP in 1995 and served as Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. He has extensive experience as a board director. He is the chair of RDI, the Canadian Osteopathic Education Trust Fund, the Diocese of Toronto Investment Committee, and the Trinity College "Strength to Strength" Endowment Campaign. He is also a board director for the Royal Ontario Museum Foundation and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the University of Ottawa Pension Investment Committee and the Shaw Festival Governor's Council. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a recipient of their Award of Outstanding Merit.

### **T. Leonard Skidmore, ODT**

*St. Paul, Uxbridge*  
Mr. Skidmore was nominated for his outstanding work, dedication, strong sense of community and faith. For close to four decades, he has devoted countless hours to the parish, particularly the bricks and mortar of the church. St. Paul's truly appreciates all the time, energy and willingness to pitch in wherever needed to take care of the church.

### **Grace Stephens, ODT**

*St. Luke, East York*  
Ms. Stephens has been a long-time, dedicated volunteer in her parish, where she has had numerous leadership roles. She has been a lay member of Synod for more than a decade and has been involved in Social Justice and Advocacy work, particularly as a member of the diocese's Housing Committee. Additionally, she has served tirelessly on the Agenda Committee for both diocesan Synod and General Synod.

### **Alma Stoneman, ODT**

*St. Clement, Eglinton*  
Ms. Stoneman was nominated for her un-

canny ability to empathize with those who reach out to her for help; her listening skills are treasured by many people within and outside the church. She can comfort with a touch of her hand or a gentle word and give hope and encouragement to those who need it most. Her generosity of spirit comes from her faith in Christ, and she has been an encouragement and example to many.

### **Vern Taylor, ODT**

*Parish of Washago-Price's Corners*  
Mr. Taylor was nominated by the congregation of St. Paul, Washago for his years of leadership as a churchwarden and for sharing his practical skills to maintain the property. He is an inspiring and sunny presence in the community. When the congregation thinks of Mr. Taylor, these words from scripture come to mind: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

### **Danny Thomas, ODT**

*Church of South India, Toronto*  
The Church of South India has recently entered into a formal relationship with the Diocese of Toronto due in no small measure to the tireless efforts over an eight-year period of Danny Thomas. Mr. Thomas is a key leader and current churchwarden and choir master at CSI Toronto. Using his considerable negotiation skills, he was able to find a balance between South Indian traditions and the Diocese of Toronto's requirements that has created both mutual respect and trust. Mr. Thomas helps the young people of CSI deepen their awareness of their traditional spirituality, language and culture. He serves on the York-Credit Valley Area Council as well as the diocese's Intercultural Committee and is a passionate voice for the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### **David Toyce, ODT**

*Trinity, Streetsville*  
For 18 years, Mr. Toyce served as the president and chief executive officer of World Vision Canada, the largest humanitarian relief and development agency in the country. He has had a significant influence on public policy in this area and has spoken at the World Bank, the United Nations and with heads of state, always focusing attention on the well-being of the

world's children. He has travelled the world, seeing first-hand the challenges children face in some devastating situations of poverty. He is the author of *The Power of Generosity* and holds three honorary doctorate degrees.

### **Judith Ann Tutty, ODT**

*Trinity Church, Port Credit*  
Ms. Tutty was nominated for her constant selfless giving to the church and the neighbourhood with humility and grace. While she provides strength, leadership, wisdom and refined skill to every area of parish life, she deflects praise and passes it on to the people with whom she works and with whom she builds teams. She has a deep personal faith in Christ, which is evident in her life choices, words and actions. She lives out the Gospel mandate by serving others joyfully and lovingly, always prepared to forgive and to laugh.

### **Donald Walker, ODT**

*Parish of Coldwater-Medonte*  
Mr. Walker was nominated for his long and faithful service to the church, holding many key positions, including being a churchwarden, for over 30 years. He is an example of quiet, competent and steadfast leadership, and of a spirit of friendly cooperation. His ministry reminds the congregation of the Christian teaching of Paul: "Render service with enthusiasm as to the Lord, not to men and women" (Ephesians 6:7).

### **Lilian Wells, ODT**

*St. Cuthbert, Leaside*  
Dr. Wells has made a significant contribution to the life of the parish. Her service as churchwarden and envelope secretary show the trust the parish has placed in her. Her current major parish responsibilities as a lay reader and as president of the ACW's executive show her continued dedication to the parish.

### **Gloria Wiebe, ODT**

*St. James Cathedral*  
Ms. Wiebe was nominated for her service as a parish nurse; she developed the parish nursing program at St. James Cathedral. This provides health care monitoring not only to the regular parishioners of the cathedral but also to the hundreds of guests at the weekly drop-in, many of whom are under-housed, underfed and under-served.



# Anglicans rally for homeless

## Deep freeze puts vulnerable at risk

BY STUART MANN

**ADVOCATES** for the poor and homeless, including an Anglican priest and a member of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, took part in a press conference on Jan. 7 outside the streetcar shelter where a man died a day earlier during Toronto's first deep freeze of 2015.

The shelter, located at the corner of Yonge and Dundas streets, is a short walk away from the homeless memorial outside Holy Trinity, where the names of hundreds of men and women who have died on the city's streets or in homeless shelters are listed.

"I would just ask you to imagine dying here," said the Rev. Maggie Helwig, the incumbent of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, Toronto, to those attending the press conference. "Or imagine dying in a truck in a parking lot, in the dark, cold and alone" she added, referring to another man who had died in the city's west end on Jan. 5.

"I am tired and sick at heart and do not want any more of my people to die this way," she said. "People are dying because the wait list for affordable and supportive housing in this city is hundreds of thousands of people long. People are dying because the emergency shelters are at capacity night after night."

Ms. Helwig, who is the chair of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, urged Toronto to issue extreme cold weather alerts earlier, before temperatures reach -15C. According to the city's protocols, an alert is made when the temperature hits -15C, not including the windchill. At that point, additional services are provided for homeless people, including the opening of drop-in warming centres and the provision of more shelter beds.

She said the city has been dragging its feet in revising its cold weather protocols, resulting in



Flowers lie in the streetcar shelter where a man died in Toronto on Jan. 6 as temperatures plunged. At right, the Rev. Maggie Helwig speaks to the media. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

needless suffering and death. "We cannot go on like this," she said. "It took a Twitter campaign and a sit-in at the mayor's office to get the (warming centres) open, and as far as we know no one died on the streets last night. That's a pretty sad situation when that's your standard for a win."

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, a parishioner of Holy Trinity and a former member of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, said the city should automatically create more beds as soon as shelters reach 90 per cent capacity. Right now, she said, most are running well above that.

However, she said calling cold weather alerts earlier and creating more shelter beds are just Band-Aid solutions. "We need to be looking at housing and prevention and income support so that we don't have more and more people entering the system and we can start emptying the shelters instead of continuing to build new ones. Until we have enough income for people and until we're building housing that people can afford to live in, this problem is



not going to go away."

Ms. Gulliver-Garcia, who was homeless for a short while as a teenager, says people of faith are called by God to take action. "If you look at the teachings of Jesus, he's talking about protecting and taking care of your neighbour. If I was outside and homeless, I would want someone to take care of me. If we're not doing that with the most vulnerable in our society, we're failing as Christians."

She says people can advocate for change by taking small steps. "Write a letter to your city coun-

illor. Write a letter to the mayor asking to open more shelter beds. Write a letter to the province to increase the minimum wage and income supports. Write to the federal government and say it's time to get back in the business of building affordable housing. It's about synergy and the efforts of people. As faith communities, we're a loud voice if we want to be."

Anglicans are helping out in other ways. One of the city's warming stations, run by Margaret Fraser House, is located in

the parish hall of All Saints, Sherbourne Street. The station is open to men and women overnight, and in the day they can go around the block to the church's drop-in, which is located in the nave. At both locations, they are provided with food and other necessities.

"We've been busy the last couple of days, there's no question about it," says the Rev. David Opheim, incumbent of All Saints. He says the church has been handing out as many warm clothing items as it can get. "On Monday, we had a couple of pews full of winter coats and they were gone within the first hour. We've had all sorts of people drop by to donate sleeping bags and coats. Anything that people can give to us, we can certainly hand out. We can sure use them." (Donations of warm clothing can be made at the church, which is located at the corner of Dundas and Sherbourne streets.)

A few churches in the diocese run or contribute to Out of the Cold programs, providing overnight accommodation to hundreds of homeless men and women every winter. Many more provide food and warm clothing through their parish outreach. Through their donations to Faith-Works, the diocese's annual outreach appeal, churches, corporations and individuals give more than \$1 million a year to agencies and ministries that help the poor and homeless. The diocese recently tithed \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing in Scarborough.

Archbishop Colin Johnson said the death of the two men is a tragedy and the ongoing struggle to house and care for the marginalized is an issue that affects the whole of society. "The fact that there are people who are without shelter on some of the coldest nights of the year, leading to their deaths, is, frankly, a sin of our society, of which we need to repent and amend our own lives so that it doesn't happen."

Continued on Page 10



Sign inside the streetcar shelter. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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## BRAND NEW YEAR

Bishop Peter Fenty offers a warm New Year's greeting to Evadne Wilkinson and her son at the annual Archbishop's Levee, held at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. At right, Bishop Linda Nicholls greets a guest. The event included a celebration of the Eucharist, a receiving line to greet the bishops, a ringing of the cathedral bells and festive music. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



## Issues should be discussed

Continued from Page 4

creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (See more about the Marks at: <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/five-marks.cfm#sthash.CSOLhF6m.dpuf>.)

Our diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy work (along with the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) is a key resource to help us analyze the issues, educate us, build partnerships and assist us to advocate for appropriate alternatives to the existing state of affairs. This includes not only getting Anglicans to engage in direct outreach ministries to the vulnerable in our society – we have done a lot of very good and needed work in this! – but also to engage in the longer term effort to change the policies and struc-

tures that either cause or perpetuate the problems in the first place.

Policy is as critical as programme; advocacy needs to be hand-in-hand with ministry.

There are inevitably different possible solutions and different ways of both understanding and addressing the problems, which is why open discussion and healthy debate within our parishes on these matters is an essential part of our Christian duty. Complex issues are not solved only by experts. In fact, solutions to complex problems require imagination, creativity, determination and changed attitudes because expertise does not yet exist.

That is the reason that, over the last few years, we have proposed a motion on a social jus-

tice issue to be discussed at annual parish Vestry meetings. While it is helpful to have the motion passed or amended – I can use this data when I meet with members of government, for instance, to indicate the level of support that I represent – that is not the most important thing. For me, it is to have the issues discussed and people of all persuasions commit to learn more, understand better and act responsibly and faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ.

As Anglicans, we know that we need to wrestle with how we interpret our faith and that there will often be competing conclusions. There is, however, no such thing for an incarnate Christianity as faith without politics, although there might be politics without faith.

## LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email [editor@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@toronto.anglican.ca). The deadline for the March issue is Feb. 3. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar, at [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

## Worship and Music

**FEB. 1** - Choral Evensong for Candlemas, 4 p.m., with Schola Ecclesiam, followed by refreshments and discussion with choir director Clem Carelse on "Carols then and now," the music and traditions of this ancient feast. At St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto.

**FEB. 18** - Litany by Candlelight, 6 p.m., with Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday. Light supper at 6:30 p.m. and, at 7 p.m., the first in a Lenten series on "Angels and Demons." The Rev. David Burrows explores whether angels are a key component of Christian belief and what part they play in our life today. The series runs on Wednesday evenings from Feb. 18 to March 25 at St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto.

## Conferences

**MAY 1-3** - The AWARE Peterborough Team extends an invitation to all women to join them for the 2015 AWARE conference at Elim Lodge on Pidgeon Lake. It is a time to relax, renew and enrich your soul. The conference provides a great speaker, uplifting music and plenty of fellowship. Women are also invited to attend the Gathering Day at St. Peter, Cobourg on April 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.awarepeterborough.com](http://www.awarepeterborough.com).

## Forum

**JAN. 11-FEB. 8** - The 19th Forty Minute Forum series at St. Clement, Eglinton, begins with a talk by Henry S. Kim, director of

the new Aga Khan Museum, from 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., in Canon Nicholson Hall, 70 St. Clements Ave., near Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue. All welcome. No admission charge. On Jan. 18, the speaker will be Terry Fallis, talking about his hit satirical novel, *The Best Laid Plans*. On Jan. 25, opera star Ben Heppner will reminisce about his career. On Feb. 1, Thabet Abdullah of York University will speak on the roots of religious extremism in Iraq. On Feb. 8, physician Dr. Ritika Goel will discuss why Medicare needs to provide pharma care and insurance for the uninsured.

## Pancake Suppers

**FEB. 17** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave. (Chester subway station), in the parish hall. Enter via Hampton Avenue. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Contact 416-436-1344 or visit [www.stbarnabas-toronto.com](http://www.stbarnabas-toronto.com).

## Card Parties

**JAN. 20** - No Frills Card Party, 1 p.m. at Church of Christ the King, 475 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke. Wheelchair access through south doors. Call 416-621-3630.

**FEB. 10** - Valentine Luncheon and Card Party, 12 noon at Church of Christ the King, 475 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke. \$20 per person. Bring your own cards. Wheelchair access through south doors. Call 416-622-7616.

## Auction

**MAR. 28** - Church of Christ the King, 475 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke. Wheelchair access through south doors. Tickets \$5 for entry and refreshments. Cash bar. For tickets, email [wmarrett\\_2@bell.net](mailto:wmarrett_2@bell.net). Registration at 6 p.m., auction starts at 7 p.m. You must be registered to participate and space is limited.

## Diocese runs ads

Continued from Page 1

The diocese spent \$300 on Facebook and \$200 on Twitter.

The goal of the ads was to encourage seekers to visit the website and ultimately their local Anglican church, but they also helped to promote the diocese's presence on social media. The

diocese gained five new Twitter followers and a new Facebook fan directly from clicks on the Christmas ads.

Follow the diocese on Twitter at [@anglicandioTO](http://@anglicandioTO) or like us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/torontoanglican](http://Facebook.com/torontoanglican).

# Anglicans involved in efforts to provide affordable housing

Continued from Page 9

Affordable housing and homelessness has been one of the social justice priorities for the diocese for more than 10 years. Anglicans have passed vestry motions calling on the provincial government to make affordable housing a priority. They have met with their MPPs to discuss the need for improved affordable and supportive housing infrastructure. They have also supported

the work of several ecumenical, interfaith, and secular justice organizations. In addition, the diocese has provided direct support to housing initiatives through its relationships with several Faith-Works Ministry Partners.

In his letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne in September of 2014, Archbishop Johnson reminded the government that "Anglican parishes throughout the diocese

have long been actively involved in supporting our neighbours who are homeless or precariously housed through the development of affordable housing projects on church lands, advocating for increased funding for supportive housing, or supporting Out of the Cold programs."

Ryan Weston, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, said the diocese remains

committed to working with the government to put an end to homelessness. "While timely emergency responses remain critical to keeping people safe and warm in the short-term, particularly during extreme weather events, a long-term strategy to combat homelessness and marginalization requires commitment and investment from all three levels of government to

build and improve affordable housing stock throughout our region, including safe and supportive housing for those living with addictions or mental health concerns. The diocese will continue to remind all levels of government of our commitment to living out our baptismal vow to 'seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.'"

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  8. Bishop Philip Poole
  9. St. Matthew and St. Aidan, Buckhorn
  10. St. Michael, Westwood
  11. St. Stephen, Chandos
  12. St. Thomas, Millbrook
  13. The Chapel of Christ Church, Lakefield
  14. The Chapel of St. Mark, Warsaw
  15. Peterborough Deanery
  16. Advent
  17. Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
  18. Ash Wednesday
  19. Jeremiah Community
  20. Order of the Holy Cross Priory
  21. Parroquia San Esteban
  22. Parkdale-Toronto West Deanery
  23. St. Chad
  24. St. Matthias, Bellwoods
  25. St. Hilda, Fairbank
  26. St. John, West Toronto
  27. St. Martin in-the-Fields
  28. St. Mary Magdalene

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- IN MOTION**
- Appointments**
- The Rev. Maggie Helwig, Incumbent, St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, Jan. 1.
  - The Rev. Paul G. Walker, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Atonement, Alderwood, Toronto, Jan. 1.
  - The Rev. Ruth Adams, Honorary Assistant, St. Barnabas, Peterborough and St. James, Emily, Nov. 30.
  - The Rev. Carol Langley, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Streetsville, Jan. 1.
  - Major The Rev. Canon David Warren, Regional Dean of Notawasaga Deanery, Jan. 1.
  - The Rev. Ben Phillips (Diocese of Rio de Janeiro), Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Streetsville, March 15.
  - The Rev. Liska Stefko, Associate Priest, St. Timothy, North Toronto, Feb. 1.
- Ordained to the Priesthood**
- The Rev. Jeff Stone was ordained a priest at Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, Toronto, on Jan. 4.

- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey was ordained a priest at Grace Church in Scarborough on Dec. 14.
  - The Rev. Andrew MacDonald will be ordained a priest at St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto, on Feb. 8 at 4 p.m.
- Retirement**
- The Rev. Steven Smith has retired. His last Sunday at St. Luke, Peterborough, was Jan. 25.
  - The Rev. Marg Tandy has announced her retirement. Her last Sunday at St. Mark, Port Hope, will be Feb. 22.
- Vacant Incumbencies**  
*Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe, [mconliffe@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:mconliffe@toronto.anglican.ca).*
- Trent Durham**
- St. Matthew, Oshawa
  - Lakefield College School
  - St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough
  - St. Luke, Peterborough

- York - Credit Valley**
- St. Matthias, Bellwoods
- York - Scarborough**
- Christ Church, Scarborough
- York - Simcoe**
- Grace Church, Markham
  - Parish of North Essa
  - Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach
  - St. Margaret of Scotland, Barrie
- Death**
- The Rev. Roland De Corneille died on Dec. 30. Ordained in 1952, he served in the parishes of St. John, West Toronto, St. Andrew-by-the-Lake, St. Lawrence, Toronto, Port Perry and Brooklin, Trinity, Streetsville, St. Patrick, Willowdale, St. Hilda, Fairbank, St. Paul, Runnymede, St. Jude, Wexford, and St. Jude, Bramalea. He was director of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue from 1962 to 1970, worked with B'Nai Brith Canada, and was a Member of Parliament from 1979 to 1988. His funeral was held on Jan. 3 at the Church of the Incarnation, Toronto.



**READING THE BIBLE**  
 BY THE REV. CANON DON BEATTY

## Paul played central role

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. This title was given to Paul by the early church and it continues to describe his ministry to this day. How could someone who was raised to have nothing to do with Gentiles come to be their primary recruiter for the Christian faith? We will look at his life, and then his writings as they are found in the Christian Bible, for an answer to this perplexing question.

Paul was born in the diaspora (that is, the Jews who had migrated from the Holy Land into various parts of the Roman Empire). He was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, located on the southwestern coast of modern day Turkey. He was brought up in a strict orthodox Jewish home and probably learned his trade as a tent-maker while residing in Tarsus. His parents may have been Roman citizens, which meant they were probably wealthy and had some important job in that area. Although he may have known Hebrew, his native tongue was Greek. At some point, he moved to Jerusalem; Luke suggested it was to study with Gamaliel, one of the most influential rabbis of the first century.

We know more about Paul than any other writer in the Christian Bible. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke commits the last half of the book to Paul's mission work (see Acts 13-28); it could have been called the Acts of Paul the Apostle. Thirteen of the 21 epistles in the Christian Bible are credited to the pen of Paul. The Letter to the Hebrews was written anonymously. Some in the early church assumed it was written by Paul, but that view was discredited and the epistle has remained anonymous through the centuries.

There is much discussion among biblical scholars about the authorship of many of Paul's 13 epistles, but I believe he was the original author of each. During the next few months, I will endeavour to give my reasons for this belief. Remember, there were no computers or printing presses. Every word had to be written by hand. We possess no original manuscripts today. All are copies of copies, and sometimes the copyist may have added his own comments.

It is important to note that the early churches thought enough

of Paul to keep his letters and then to provide copies of them to other churches. I don't believe Paul was writing theology. His letters are usually in response to problems in the local churches. Each situation was different, and his letters were in reply to those differences.

He was a creative thinker and demanded thinking followers. He was also limited by the structures of his age. He believed that the local Christian community must be one, with no distinction between rich or poor, slave or free, male or female. Paul loved each local community that he established but castigated them when necessary.

We first meet Paul at the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Stephen was one of the elected deacons, chosen to serve the needs of the widows and orphans in the early church. Most of these deacons quickly became preachers of the Gospel. Stephen was speaking at one of the leading synagogues in Jerusalem when he was accused of blasphemy. This led to his stoning. Paul was there, representing the Sanhedrin, and gave permission for the execution. He was called Saul, his Hebrew name at that point.

I think that was the real beginning of Paul's conversion. As he watched Stephen die in peace and forgiveness, I think this deeply affected him. His first reaction was to lash out at the church. It was blaspheming the word of God. How could a convicted criminal who was put to death on a tree be the Messiah? (See Deuteronomy 21:23.) This was inconceivable for Paul, so he went out and persecuted the church, dragging Christians before the Sanhedrin.

Many Christians fled from Jerusalem, and Paul obtained orders from the chief priest to follow these unbelievers to Damascus and drag them back to face the Jewish court. Here Paul has an encounter with the risen Christ and is changed from persecutor to apostle. This is recorded in Acts 9:1-9.

What follows is quite a story, one that we will examine in some detail in the months ahead. Enjoy the dialogue.

*The Rev. Canon Don Beatty is an honorary assistant at St. Luke, Dixie South, Mississauga.*



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER. Give it to a friend.**

# Writer meets Christians who fled from Iraq

## Refugees remain hopeful

BY THE REV. BOB BETTSON

**WHEN** Christians in Mosul, Iraq, were faced with the choice of either converting to Islam or death at the hands of ISIS, which had taken over the country's second largest city last year, most fled.

Among the first nations to open its borders to the refugees was Jordan. A group of religion journalists from North America, including this writer, met some of them last October at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Amman.

We were welcomed by Father Khalil Jaar, who told us that he considered the Christians from Mosul to be guests, not refugees. He believed that any country would be lucky to receive them. Many were well educated and dedicated to their faith.

The courage of these people, who left with little more than the clothes on their backs, was inspiring. Many of them told stories of heartbreak and loss.

Brothers Sief and Jacob Jebrita ran a small videography and photography business in a village just outside of Mosul. Six weeks after ISIS took over the village, they received a letter ordering them to stop work because what they did was forbidden under Islamic law. The brothers and their families were forced from their homes. They witnessed intimidation. A soldier ripped an earring out of a girl's ear, causing it to

split open, because jewelry was not acceptable under ISIS. They saw men killed for refusing to convert to Islam and women sold into slavery. Two of their neighbour's children were killed.

They said there is no going back to Mosul, not only because of ISIS but because the relationship between Muslims and Christians has been shattered by the violence. Years of peace between the different religions and sects is over.

But the refugees had not given up hope. They prayed nightly and discussed their dreams for the future as they began to rebuild their lives. A common belief was that out of suffering could come good, thanks to their faith in God. Said one older woman: "Do you want a clearer miracle than this? We have lost everything, but we did not lose our faith."

Fr. Jaar was a vocal and enthusiastic advocate for his guests. He worried about finding winter accommodation for them. The church was trying to find apartments for them in Amman. He has publicized their plight and is seeking funds to house and feed them. The children are attending classes at the school attached to the church. The refugees have communal meals twice a day, after noon and in the evening. The food is served from a makeshift kitchen.

We also met Father Nabil Haddad, a Jordanian Christian who is



**Christian refugees at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Amman, Jordan. They say there is no going back to Iraq, as the violence has shattered the peace between Muslims and Christians. PHOTOS BY THE REV. BOB BETTSON**

working for peace and reconciliation with Islam. A Melkite Catholic priest, Fr. Haddad says Jordan's Christians, who make up the oldest Christian community in the world, have much to contribute to peace and reconciliation, despite being only two per cent of the Jordanian population. "We have been here since the day of Pentecost and we need to share with our Muslim brothers and sisters," he said.

He announced a new initiative called Karama, using the Greek word for dignity. He believed that Judaism, Christianity and Islam – all faiths coming from Abraham – could find common ground by talking about dignity and respect for all humanity. "I grew up like



an Arab Jordanian child, but in a devout Christian family. Islam is a part of our culture and civilization. But I learned to be a witness for Christianity."

Since 2001, he has been especially active in interfaith work,

trying to help Muslims and Christians work together through education. "We are a people of faith, love, mercy and respect. It is so rewarding to conquer someone's ignorance with a Christian message of love."

## Church builds app for those on the move

*In this series, we look at how the diocese's Our Faith-Our Hope campaign is helping individuals and parishes re-imagine the church.*

BY THE REV. DR. RACHEL KESSLER

**LIKE** many parishes, Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto, seeks to equip our parishioners to practice their faith outside Sunday morning. For the past several years, we have used our weekly e-newsletter, blogs, podcasts and social media to build relationships with a highly mobile, active parish community.

We received a \$12,000 grant from Our Faith-Our Hope to produce a mobile app, the next logical step in our communications strategy. We launched "Grace Matters" for both Apple and Android devices on Sept. 7, 2014. Since then, it has been downloaded more than 1,000 times by users in Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom.

### OUR FAITH OUR HOPE

The app is divided into several sections, such as an introduction to Sunday readings, readings for morning and evening prayer, and upcoming events. The core features, however, are the resources provided to individuals and families for cultivating faith practices at home. This includes, for example, simple blessings that can be said at the table, as well as videos and resources gathered from across the Internet with the goal of bridging the gap between church and "everyday" life. Online Bible study tools give users the opportunity to access scripture on the go, in any number of translations. More importantly, the app includes links to a number of video resources that bring many popular Bible stories to life for children. We hope the app will

help connect our congregation to some of the great material being produced throughout the church, such as the national church's Community blog and the new Spirit of Invitation videos produced in our own diocese.

One of our major goals is to keep the app up to date with the current liturgical season. So far, the most popular aspects of the app are the introduction to the Sunday readings and the various Grace media collected under the "Watch and Listen" category.

Many aspects of the app are not exclusive to Grace Church. We hope that we can offer the app as a resource to be used by Anglicans throughout the diocese and beyond. We are grateful to the Our Faith-Our Hope campaign for giving us this new opportunity for the building up of God's church.

*The Rev. Dr. Rachel Kessler is the associate priest at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto.*

## BRIEFLY

### Time to update subscription list

Churches in the diocese will have received their subscription list for *The Anglican and Anglican Journal*. Please take the time to update it and send the changes back to the office of the *Anglican Journal*, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, Ont., M4Y 3G2 or email the changes to circulation@national.anglican.ca. Keeping your list up to date reduces mailing costs, helps the environment and ensures that new parishioners are connected with the diocese and the wider church.

### Sisterhood elects new Reverend Mother

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine has elected Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas as the next Reverend Mother. She will be the seventh Reverend Mother in the 130-year history of the sister-

hood. Her installation will take place in May. Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert, SSJD, will retire as Reverend Mother at that time. After some sabbatical time, she will take up new duties in the sisterhood.

### Bishop's Company Dinner set for May 7

The next Bishop's Company Annual Dinner will be held on May 7, beginning with a reception at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square followed by a dinner at the Toronto Marriott, Eaton Centre at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be V. Prem Watsa, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings.

### Eucharist honours refugee sponsors

Archbishop Colin Johnson is thanking parishes in the diocese that have offered refugee sponsorship during the past 10 years of his episcopacy with a special celebration of the Eucharist on Feb. 1 at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral. All are welcome.