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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update March 2019

NEWS FOR MARCH 2019

1. **Vestry Motion Campaign - Please report back**
2. **Creation Care Resources for Lent and Earth Sunday**
3. **Fast for Bill C-262 this Ash Wednesday**
4. **Events this Month**
5. **Save the Date: Respect Justice Camp and Fall Outreach Conference**
6. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

1. Vestry Motion Campaign - Please report back!

Thank you to all the parishes who have reported passing this year's Social Justice Vestry Motion. If you passed the motion at your Vestry this year, please let us know! Since each parish was invited to craft its own version of the motion, please send a copy of what was passed in your parish to me at egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca. In addition, please let us know if there's anything we can do to help your parish implement the initiatives committed to in your motion.

2. Creation Care Resources for Lent and Earth Sunday

Since Earth Day (April 22) falls on Easter Monday this year, the Diocesan Creation Matters Committee is creating resources that can help you and your parish recommit to respecting the integrity of creation and renewing your care for the earth from Lent through Earth Sunday in Eastertide. From a Lent calendar for individual reflection, action and advocacy, to Earth Sunday reflections, hymn suggestions and prayers, including new resources from other Anglican dioceses and ecumenical organizations across Canada, we invite you to visit our [Environmental Resources](#) page to see all that we have to offer. New material will be posted throughout Lent.

One of these resources is the "Give It Up for the Earth" Lenten postcard campaign from Citizens for Public Justice, which invites Christians to pledge to reduce their own carbon footprint while calling on the federal government to end public financing of fossil fuels. We've already distributed 250 postcards to parishes in our Diocese, but you can order them directly at <https://www.cpj.ca/fortheearth>

3. Fast for Bill C-262 this Ash Wednesday

Bill C-262, an act to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is

final reading in the Senate. If you haven't already done so, please send Senators a message of support for the bill [here](#). Many Christians across Canada are also planning to fast and pray for the passage of this bill on Ash Wednesday (March 6). Consider joining them.

4. Events this Month:

- March 5: Faith and Welcoming Communities Forum, North York

This forum aims to encourage knowledge sharing and collaboration between faith groups and social service agencies so we can better work together to create more welcoming communities for newcomers. It will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5 at the Korean Canadian Cultural Association, 1133 Leslie St., North York, ON. Free, but please [register](#).

- March 16: Housing Crisis Workshop and Panel, Millbrook, ON

On Saturday, March 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m, St. Thomas, Millbrook (16 Centre St., Millbrook ON) is hosting "The Housing Crisis - A Way Forward?" with presenters Christian Harvey (Warming Room, Peterborough), Maisie Watson (Peterborough Housing Corporation) and Sarah Burke (Habitat for Humanity, Peterborough & Kawartha Region. Lunch (including vegan and gluten-free options) is included. The event is free, but registration is required. To register, please email nate@nexicom.net or call 705-932-1231.

- March 28: Building Bridges for Social Justice, Toronto

On Thursday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the interfaith coalition Faith in the City is hosting a workshop on relationship building between faith communities for social justice. The workshop will be led by Deborah Littman, former lead organizer for the Metro Vancouver Alliance. It will take place at Social Planning Toronto, 2 Carlton St., Suite 1001, Toronto ON. Light refreshment will be provided. Free, but space is limited; please register before March 20 by email to [Israt Ahmed](mailto:Israt.Ahmed).

- March 28: Restorative Justice Housing Ontario launch, Toronto

You are cordially invited to the launch of "Restorative Justice Housing Ontario", an initiative to provide housing and support for men and women exiting the correctional system, on Thursday March 28 at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Toronto. Doors will be open for refreshments at 4 p.m. with program to follow from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Please RSVP by March 22 by [email](#) or call 1-888-293-9540.

- March 31: Supporting Refugee Claimants, Toronto

Unlike sponsored refugees Refugee claimants must apply for refugee status after their arrival in Canada. Many of them may seek assistance from local churches as they face this and other challenges. How can your parish help support them through this process? Immigration and refugee lawyer Paul VanderVennen will address these issues in a workshop on Sunday, March 31, 2019 from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter & St. Simon, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. All are welcome.

- April 1: Creating Homefulness: A Challenge for Faith Communities

How can faith communities collaborate on practical ways to end homelessness? You are invited to an opportunity to identify needs, solutions, and opportunities at a gathering together with housing advocate Michael Shapcott, to be held at the Diocesan Centre, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto on Monday, April 1, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Space is limited, so please [register](#).

5. Save the Date!

- "Respect" Justice Camp, August 13-19, 2019, Windsor ON

Justice Camp is a week of intensive theological engagement and immersive learning for Anglicans aged 18 and up, hosted every few years by a different diocese of the Anglican Church of Canada around a different theme. This summer, the Diocese of Huron will host "Respect" Justice Camp in Windsor from August 13-19. Registration opens soon. To learn

more, visit <https://justicecamp.ca/>

- Diocesan Outreach & Advocacy Conference, October 19, 2019

Planning is well underway for our annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference, to be held Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Havergal College (1451 Avenue Road, Toronto ON). This year's theme is "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope." Registration will open later this spring: please plan to attend!

6. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle - March 2019

March 3, Last Sunday after Epiphany - *Pray for* the Parish of Lloydtown, its support of the King Township food bank, Christmas in King community initiative, and Pikangikum water project;

for the Parish of Minden-Kinmount, its Thrift Shop, and the outreach initiatives it supports. *and for* the Mission to Seafarers, Toronto, and its ministry of pastoral and practical care to seafarers from around the world.

March 10, Lent 1 - *Pray for* the Church of the Nativity, Malvern, its afterschool, summer camp and youth programs, Seniors' Community Lunch, and support for the local Indigenous community, Malvern Coalition and TAIBU Community Health Centre;

for Our Saviour, Don Mills, its ongoing support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry and Food Bank, Haven Toronto men's drop-in centre, Sistering women's shelter, and for Moorelands Community Services baby layette program; *and for* the Parish of Penetanguishene and its community breakfast program.

March 17, Lent 2 - *Pray for* the Church of the Redeemer, Toronto, its weekday meal program and other supports for homeless and marginally-housed people, its Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, Creation Matters group, and refugee resettlement program; *and for* the Church of the Resurrection, Toronto, its community garden, monthly Common Table, support of Sanctuary, the Scott Mission, and Dale Ministries, refugee sponsorship, and Side Door youth drop-in centre;

March 24, Lent 3 - *Pray for* St. Aidan, Toronto, its Out of the Cold program, community lunches, refugee sponsorship, and Truth and Reconciliation education and action; its mental health support group; youth service/learning trips to Nicaragua and the Yukon; and its support of St. Stephen's breakfast program, Moorelands camp, the Grace Pascoe Food Bank, and the East End Refugee Committee;

for St. Andrew, Scarborough, its monthly Neighbourhood Lunch, support for foster children and their communities in Haiti and Zimbabwe, "We Care" Christmas bags for the homeless, and support for such programs as the St. Jude, Wexford, Food Bank, All Saints Community Centre, and the Pikangikum Water project;

and for the St. Andrew Japanese Congregation, Toronto, its support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry and St. Monica's, and outreach in the Japanese Canadian community.

March 31, Lent 4 - *Pray for* St. Anne, Toronto, its monthly community dinners and interfaith refugee sponsorship project;

for St. Athanasius, Orillia, and its support of the Good Food box.

and for St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto, its support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry and Community Food Bank, All Saints' Community Centre, Moorelands Camp, and other community projects.

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, consider liking our [Facebook page](#).

In faithful witness,

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