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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update Summer 2019

### NEWS FOR SUMMER 2019

1. **Register now for Outreach Conference on October 19th**
2. **August Events of Interest**
3. **Season of Creation Resources available**
4. **Federal Election Resources**
5. **Election Conversation with Michael Coren, Sept. 11, Toronto**
6. **Save the Date: Climate Action September 27**
7. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

#### 1. Register now for Outreach Conference on October 19th

Our fall Outreach & Advocacy Conference, "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope" will be held Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd. Toronto. Featuring keynote speaker Thea Prescod, of Sanctuary Ministries, and a wide range of workshops, you won't want to miss this exciting day of learning and networking with Anglicans across the Diocese - register now to get your choice of workshop options! A **special welcome** is extended to youth aged 11-18, with half-price registration, a morning workshop geared especially for youth, and other opportunities for participation in the day's activities. To learn more and to register, please visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference).

#### 2. August Events of Interest

- **Sin Fronteras Monarch Butterfly Project, Aug. 22-Sept. 4**, Gardiner Museum, Toronto. In August 2018, the Davenport-Perth Community Centre in West Toronto ran a KAIROS Blanket Exercise with many Spanish-speaking seniors. The experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada resonated with the seniors, many of whom shared their experiences of being displaced from their traditional territories in due to Canadian mining practices abroad. Using the migratory (and at-risk) Monarch butterfly as a metaphor, members of the community have used ceramic art to tell their stories of displacement, migration, and resilience. All welcome. To learn more, visit the Gardiner Museum [website](#).
- **Stand against Hate, August 31**. Anti-Islam/anti-migrant organization Pegida, a branch of an international far-right organization, has been organizing demonstrations in Toronto and attempting to intimidate local Muslims. Their next rally is planned for

Saturday, August 31. Anyone interested in being part of a non-violent counter-demonstration to show solidarity with our friends and neighbours at Masjid Toronto should contact the [Rev. Maggie Helwig](#) for details.

### **3. Season of Creation Resources available**

Over the last few decades, Christians of various denominations around the world have increasingly come to observe a Season of Creation from Sept. 1 through October 4. At General Synod earlier this month, the Anglican Church of Canada voted overwhelmingly (91%) to "adopt the Season of Creation in the Anglican Church of Canada as an annual time of prayer, education, and action" on creation care, and to "encourage dioceses to engage with the Season of Creation and to develop initiatives, resources, and suitably authorized liturgies for use during the season." Resources to help you observe this season in your own parish will be added to the [Anglican Church of Canada website](#) by early August. Also, watch for a special video statement from Bishop Andrew Asbil on our Diocesan website on August 28!

### **4. Federal Election Resources**

The federal election is less than 3 months away. Our choices as citizens in this election will set the agenda for how we address climate change, protect the environment, welcome refugees and newcomers, and reduce poverty - over the next four years and beyond. Citizens for Public Justice, an ecumenical advocacy organization based in Ottawa, has prepared a free election bulletin which you can download or order from their [website](#).

[GreenPAC](#), a non-partisan, non-profit organization devoted to supporting strong environmental leaders from all parties, is planning to hold 100 debates on environmental issues in 100 ridings across Canada on October 7, 2019. To find out about a debate scheduled in your area, or to register to host one, visit <https://www.100debates.ca/>.

### **5. Election Conversation with Michael Coren, Sept. 11, Toronto**

St. Timothy, North Toronto (100 Old Orchard Grove) is hosting a conversation on "Election issues from a Christian perspective" with best-selling author, columnist and speaker Michael Coren, on Wednesday, Sept. 11 from 7-9 p.m. All welcome.

**6. Save the Date: Climate Action September 27** Young people around the world have begun to participate in the "Fridays for Future" climate strikes started by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg. A particularly significant action is planned for Friday, September 27, during the UN debates on climate action. The GTA chapter of Fridays for Future is planning a local climate action (with police approval), which will have a non-partisan focus on federal climate action and a Green New Deal for Canada. Details to follow in the September SJAC Update!

### **7. Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

**August 4, Pentecost 8** - *Pray for* St. Mary and St. Martha, and its support of a weekly community supper, local food bank, community garden, and partnerships with neighbourhood arts and outreach organizations;  
*for* St. Matthew, First Avenue, and its refugee sponsorship;  
*and for* St. Matthew, Islington, its hosting of an ecumenical Out of the Cold program, its Food Cupboard, and its engagement in social advocacy.

**August 11, Pentecost 9** - *Pray for* St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, its monthly community clothing sale, Good Food Market, after-school reading program, and support of the Lansing Food Bank, Mission to Seafarers, North York Women's Shelter, and Oriole Food Space;  
*for* St. Matthias, Bellwoods, its support of Bellwoods House, John Gibson House, and the Fort York Food Bank, and social justice education and advocacy;

*and for St. Matthias, Etobicoke, and its support for Ingles House and Youth Without Shelter.*

**August 18, Pentecost 10** - *Pray for* St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto, and its Beeton Cupboard and Sunday hot lunch program;  
*for* St. Michael the Archangel, Scarborough, its support of community Out of the Cold and food bank programs, sponsorship of a child in Haiti, and fundraising for the AIDS Committee of Simcoe County;  
*and for* St. Monica, Toronto, and its food bank and neighbourhood advocacy.

**August 25, Pentecost 11**- *Pray for* St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, its weekly community lunch, its men's cooking and support group, its participation in a community Christmas dinner program, and the Churches by the Bluffs Food Bank;  
*for* St. Olave, Swansea, Toronto, its support of a weekly mobile soup kitchen, a project to help children in Romanian orphanages, and its partnerships with various community arts and outreach organizations;  
*and for* St. Paul, Beaverton, and its ministry of practical and pastoral support for Latin American migrant field workers and their families.

**September 1, Pentecost 12** - *Pray for* St. Paul, Bloor Street, Toronto, its ESL Café, its support of the Regent Park community dinner, and Advent Ask campaign in support of PWRDF;  
*for* St. Paul, Innisfil, and its support for the Grocery Assistance Program in Barrie, and for the David Busby Centre drop-in for homeless and at-risk individuals;  
*and for* St. Paul, Newmarket, its support of the local food bank and Inn from the Cold program, Karanda Mission Hospital in Zimbabwe, Elimu education programs in Kenya, and school knapsacks for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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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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