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**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Social Justice and Advocacy Update March 2020

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#### 1. Vestry Motion Campaign - Please report back!

Thank you to all the parishes which presented and considered this year's Social Justice Vestry Motion, "Taking Action on Climate Change," at your recent Vestry meetings. If you haven't already done so, please take the time to [let us know](#) of the results of the Vestry Motion in your parish, including any changes to the wording of the motion as well as the particular actions your parish has committed to undertake. Your feedback is valuable to us!

#### 2. Give It Up for Lent Campaign - Thanks and Update

What a great response! One thousand "Give It Up For the Earth" postcards have been distributed to nearly 30 parishes in our Diocese! These postcards invite individuals to commit to a personal action to reduce their own carbon footprint as well as calling on the federal government to invest in a just transition and decarbonization strategy for Canada. They require no postage and can simply be dropped in any mailbox when filled out. We have no more postcards available at the Diocesan office, but if you would like to order some, please visit [cpj.ca/fortheearth](http://cpj.ca/fortheearth) or sign the online pledge at [cpj.ca/pledge](http://cpj.ca/pledge).

#### 3. Have Your Say: Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy

The Ontario provincial government is seeking public input into the next 5-year phase of the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy. Before **March 30, 2020**, you are invited to share your input by taking the [online survey](#) or making a written [submission](#). The Diocesan Social Justice & Advocacy Committee is preparing a

submission that will be uploaded to the Diocesan [website](#) by March 9, 2020.

#### 4. Events in March:

Many parishes are holding Lenten study programs on themes of social and/or ecological justice, and welcome all with an interest in these topics. Here are a sampling - perhaps there are similar programs near you.

- **Living the Gospel at St. Martin in-the-Fields** (151 Glenlake Avenue, Toronto) Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., March 4-April 1. Each evening will feature a guest speaker on topics such as: charity and justice; income security and housing; migrants and refugees; and Indigenous justice.
- **Caring for our Common Home at St. Aidan** (2423 Queen St. E., Toronto) Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., March 5-April 2. This series explores the nature of the environmental crisis, what movements are making a difference, and how the church can respond.
- **Living our Faith at St. George Memorial Church** (39 Athol St., Oshawa) Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., March 4-April 1. Speakers will present on homelessness, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and local neighbourhood concerns. Includes a screening of the documentary "**Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts**" on **March 25, 2020**, cohosted by the Canadian Federation of University Women. Popcorn will be provided! Donations gratefully accepted.

#### 5. Looking Ahead:

- **Voices for Peace Conference, April 24/25.** "Spirituality, Justice, and the Land." Held at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre (95 St. Joseph St., Toronto), this conference begins on Friday evening and continues all day Saturday, with keynote addresses from John Dear, Sylvia Keesmaat, and Andrew and Esther Wesley. Tickets are \$75 before Mar. 31/\$95 after; \$25 for students and include a reception Friday night as well as breakfast, lunch, and refreshments on Saturday. Co-sponsored by the Church of the Redeemer, the Henri Nouwen Society, the Canadian Council of Churches, Citizens for Public Justice and the Basilian Centre for Peace and Justice. [Register here](#).
- **Save the Date: Cahoots Festival, May 21-24.** Cahoots is an annual festival of "Faith, Justice and DIY" cosponsored by the Student Christian Movement of Canada and the Beansprout Collective. All ages are welcome to this inclusive retreat, which takes place at Pearce Williams Camp and Retreat Centre near Fingal, ON. To learn more, visit [cahootsfest.ca](http://cahootsfest.ca)

#### 6. Internship Opportunity: CPJ Public Justice Internship 2020-21

Our friends at the ecumenical advocacy organization Citizens for Public Justice are currently accepting applications for their Public Justice Internship program. Open to recent university graduates, this one-year internship involves working with senior staff in CPJ's Ottawa office, engaging in research, policy analysis, presenting to Parliament, meeting with MPs and engaging the Canadian public. Applications are due March 31, 2020 for a start date of September 7, 2020. Learn more [here](#).

#### 7. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle

**March 8, Lent 2** - *Pray for the Parish of Penetanguishene and Wabauskene, and its community breakfast program; for the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., 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, 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 15, Lent 3** - *Pray for* San Lorenzo, its community centre and Voces Latinas radio programming, and its annual Caravan of Hope, bringing supplies to the needy in El Salvador;

*for* St. Aidan, Toronto, its Out of the Cold program, weekly community lunches, refugee sponsorship in partnership with the Beach Cares and the East End Refugee Committee, and support of Restorative Justice Housing Ontario;  
*and for* St. Andrew by-the-Lake, its transportation for those with mobility issues, support of those with health and housing concerns, support of Street Health, and funding for community arts and musical programs.

**March 22, Lent 4** - *Pray for* St. Andrew, Alliston, and its "It Takes a Village" Kids' Club;

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

*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* St. Anne, Toronto, its monthly community dinners and its refugee sponsorship.

**March 29, Lent 5** - *Pray for* St. Athanasius, Orillia, and its support of the Good Food box;

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

*and for* St. Barnabas, Chester, its participation in the interfaith "Chew on This" initiative, Prayer Shawl ministry, support of Kennedy House Youth Centre; provision of space for new and emerging musicians, its support of local artists through hosting the Riverdale Art Show, and refugee sponsorship.

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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