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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update May 2020

NEWS FOR MAY 2020

1. **Invitation to coordinators of front-line outreach**
2. **COVID-19 advocacy for those experiencing homelessness**
3. **Bishops' Basic Income letter**
4. **Save the Date - Annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference**
5. **Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

1. Invitation to coordinators of front-line outreach programs. Are you a coordinator or key volunteer of a front-line outreach program at a parish or FaithWorks ministry of our Diocese? Want to connect with others around best practices, challenges, and other concerns in this time of COVID-19? Angie Hocking from Church of the Redeemer is scheduling weekly Zoom calls on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and helping to coordinate resources. To be added to the mailing list (and to get the details for this week's Zoom call), please contact egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca

2. COVID-19 advocacy for those experiencing homelessness. While the general public is advised to "stay safe - stay home," those experiencing homelessness are at increased risk. As outbreaks within the shelter system have demonstrated, it is difficult, if not impossible, to self-isolate in a homeless shelter; for those sleeping rough, access to washrooms and sanitary facilities is more difficult than ever. Rapid provision of individual housing units, provision of sanitary stations, and adequate testing and protective equipment for staff and guests of shelter facilities are among the concerns raised by homeless individuals, front-line workers, and advocates. Visit our [webpage](#) to read recent letters to Toronto Mayor and Council, and contact your own municipal councillor to amplify these concerns.

3. Bishops' Basic Income letter. The current pandemic and resulting economic disruption have demonstrated the effects of income precarity in our society. On Sunday, May 3, over 40 Anglican and Lutheran bishops in Canada - including all five Bishops of the Diocese of Toronto, signed a [public letter](#) calling for a Guaranteed

Basic Income. Over the next few weeks, we will be posting additional background resources on the concept of Basic Income to the Social Justice & Advocacy [webpage](#). We encourage you to read the Bishops' letter and to contact your MP in support of this measure.

4. Save the Date - Annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference. Our Annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference is scheduled for **Saturday, October 24, 2020**. As you can no doubt appreciate, many of the details of this year's conference are still to be determined. While we hope to return to Havergal College in person, we are planning for this year's program to be accessible online. Your Social Justice & Advocacy Committee is working hard to put together an inspiring and practical day of programming - please save the date, watch this space for news, and keep us in your prayers!

5. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for May 2020:

May 3, Easter 4 - Pray for St. George on Yonge, its work as a pick-up centre for Out of the Cold programs, its monthly distribution of gift cards and TTC tokens, refugee resettlement, ESL classes, its support of the local food bank and local community housing;
for St. George on-the-Hill, its Etobicoke Learning Cooperative, prayer shawl ministry, and involvement in the Out of the Cold program;
and for St. George, Allandale, its Deacon's cupboard, support of Hospice Simcoe, the David Busby Centre, Samaritan House and Grove Park seniors' home.

May 10, Easter 5 - Pray for St. George, Fairvalley, its support of Mariposa House Hospice, FaithWorks and area foodbanks;
for St. George, Grafton, its provision of affordable seniors housing through the Haldimand Court Apartments, Community Care Dinners, monthly Soup Lunch, Christmas hampers and food donations, and support of Transition House in Cobourg;
and for St. George, Pickering Village, its support of the breakfast program at the local high school and the Herizon House women's shelter.

May 17, Easter 6 - Pray for St. Hilary, Cooksville, its food cupboard, annual outreach fundraising walk to support local and global outreach, community vegetable garden, involvement in making bed mats for Haiti and knitting garments for hospital patients, and its Amnesty International circle;
for St. Hugh and St. Edmund, and its community youth ministry;
and for St. James Cathedral, its weekly drop-in for homeless and street-involved people, Amnesty International Action Circle, Christmas food drive, its Seeds of Sanctuary initiative, refugee sponsorship, Indigenous reconciliation education program, and support of Streets-to-Trail.

May 24, Easter 7 / Ascension - Pray for St. James the Apostle, Brampton, and its support of the Bridge Prison Ministry, Interim Place shelter services, the Knight's Table community meals, The Dam youth ministry, the Regeneration Outreach Community, and San Lorenzo's Caravan of Hope;
for St. James the Apostle, Sharon, its Second Chance clothing depot, weekly food closet, and participation in Inn from the Cold;
and for St. James, Caledon East, its support of Sleeping Children Around the World, Water Ambassadors, FaithWorks, the Bridge Prison Ministry, Elizabeth Fry Society, and Choices Youth Shelter.

May 31, Pentecost - *Pray for* St. James, Orillia, the James' Place Emergency Help Centre, weekly "Loonie Lunch" program, thrift shop, and its support of Couchiching Jubilee House and the Pikangikum water project;
for St. John the Baptist, Lakefield, its food bank, its quilts for cancer and prayer shawl ministries, and refugee sponsorship;
and for St. John the Baptist, Norway, its participation in the East End Refugee Committee, and support of the Out of the Cold program.

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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