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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update Summer 2020

NEWS FOR SUMMER 2020

1. **Bishop Fenty to give keynote address at Virtual Outreach Conference**
2. **YCV Deacons present "Dinner & A Movie: A Reconciliation Walk"**
3. **Update on Advocacy Campaigns**
4. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle July/August 2020**

1. Bishop Peter Fenty will be the keynote speaker for "**No One is Disposable**," the **Diocese's first virtual Outreach Conference**, taking place on **Saturday, October 24, 2020**. Bishop Peter, who will be retiring as Area Bishop for York-Simcoe on November 30, 2020, has served on the Diocesan Intercultural Ministry Committee, the Planning Committee for the annual Diocesan Black History Month Service, and is a past chair of the Partners in Mission and Social Justice Committee of the Anglican Church of Canada. His commitment to the loving, liberating, and life-giving reign of God runs deep, and we will be blessed to hear from him.

The theme "No One is Disposable" highlights the fact that while our society treats many people (especially those marginalized by poverty, homelessness, racial or ethnic origin, age, disability, or criminal record) as disposable, Jesus calls us to build up communities where each individual has worth and dignity.

We are in the process of finalizing workshops for the event, but those that have been confirmed so far include sessions on justice for migrant workers, dismantling racism, restorative justice housing initiatives, and more. Registration will open in early September through the [Diocesan website](#). As it is a virtual event, we are offering it free of charge; however, donations to offset the cost of honoraria will be gratefully accepted. All are welcome!

2. York-Credit Valley deacons present "Dinner & A Movie: A Reconciliation Walk" The Rev. Deacons Evelyn Butler, Elizabeth Cummings, Alison Kemper and Claudette Taylor present "Dinner & A Movie: A Reconciliation Walk" - a series of events on Indigenous justice and reconciliation beginning in Fall 2020. Events will take place via Zoom on Thursday nights (September 17, October 15, November 12,

19 and 26) beginning at 6:30 p.m. All events are free of charge.

The first session, planned for **Thurs. September 17 at 6:30 p.m.**, features the screening and discussion of the film "**Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners.**" This film tells the true story of 10 Indigenous teens, 9 of them from residential schools, who were chosen as torchbearers for the 1967 Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg. After carrying the Games torch 800 km over an ancient message route, the torch was taken from the boys outside the stadium where the opening ceremonies took place and brought in by a non-Indigenous runner, while the boys were escorted away. 32 years later, the province of Manitoba issued an official apology. Niigaanibatowaad is story of survival, reconciliation, and hope for future generations. Please register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link for the event.

3. Update on Advocacy Campaigns

- Bill 184: Thanks to all who contacted their MPP with concerns about Bill 184, the "Protecting Tenants' Rights and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020." However, Bill 184 passed Third Reading and was given Royal Assent on July 21, 2020. Its provisions offer slightly more compensation to tenants displaced by "no-fault" evictions but drastically undercut the rights of tenants who have fallen behind on their rent - a major concern during the pandemic. Ontario's ban on residential evictions will end when the state of emergency ends, but the implications of Bill 184 apply to arrears incurred during the state of emergency. Please continue to raise your concerns with your MPP, and urge them to make tenants aware of their rights and obligations in negotiating repayment agreements with their landlords.
- Basic Income: The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred calls for a basic income in Canada. In March, over 40 bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada signed an [open letter](#) calling on the federal government to implement a guaranteed basic income. The Parliamentary Budget Office has started to study the potential cost of such a measure. To learn more, and find out how you can support such a measure, see our [webpage](#).

3. Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle July/August 2020

July 26, Pentecost 8 - *Pray for* St. Martin, Bay Ridges, its support for local initiatives including a food bank, Herizon House and Joanne's House youth shelter, Moorelands Community Services, and a newcomer settlement program, its Green Team, its mental health support initiative, and its involvement in advocacy for anti-poverty measures;
for St. Martin-in-the-Fields, its Blessing Box, participation in an Out of the Cold program and youth drop-in, its partnerships with PARC, Romero House and the Redwood Shelter, support of the Pikangikum water project, and education and advocacy initiatives;
and for St. Mary and St. Martha, its support of a weekly community supper, local food bank, community garden, and partnerships with neighbourhood arts and outreach organizations.

August 2, Pentecost 9 - *Pray for* St. Mary Magdalene, its participation in the Parkdale Deanery weekly meal program, refugee support, annual HIV/AIDS walk, and its education programs on Truth and Reconciliation;
for St. Mary, Richmond Hill, its involvement in the Out of the Cold program,

Home on the Hill supportive housing initiative, Richmond Hill Community Food bank, and refugee sponsorship projects;
and for St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, its Good Food Market, after-school reading program at Forest Manor Public School, support for Oriole Food Space, Moorelands "Baby Bundles" programmes, parishioners who volunteer in the community including North York General Hospital, and education and advocacy for Truth and Reconciliation.

August 9, Pentecost 10 - *Pray for* St. Matthew, First Avenue, and its refugee sponsorship;
for St. Matthew, Islington, its hosting of an ecumenical Out of the Cold program, its Food Cupboard, and its engagement in social advocacy;
and for St. Matthias, Bellwoods, its support of Bellwoods House, John Gibson House, and the Fort York Food Bank, and its social justice education and advocacy.

August 16, Pentecost 11 - *Pray for* St. Matthias, Etobicoke, its support for Ingles House and Youth Without Shelter;
for St. Michael and All Angels, its Beeton Cupboard and Sunday hot lunch program;
and for St. Michael the Archangel, 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.

August 23, Pentecost 12 - *Pray for* St. Monica, and its food bank and neighbourhood advocacy;
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;
and for St. Ninian, Scarborough, and its Food Bank.

August 30, Pentecost 13 - *Pray for* St. Olave, Swansea, its support of a weekly mobile soup kitchen, a project to help children in Romanian orphanages, and its partnerships with community arts and outreach organizations;
for St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering, its food bank, scholarship program, shelter clothing program, and support of the Durham Region HIV/AIDS ministry and other local community initiatives;
and for St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, its Food Bank ministry, monthly services at retirement homes, and its Christmas warmth tree which provides hats, mitts, scarves and socks to Ernestine's Shelter and Youth Without Shelter.

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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