



The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Metropolitan

Friday, April 29, 2022

Dear friends in Christ:

“The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

I greet you in this Easter season with these familiar words, praying that we become that eastered people who recognize more and more the reality of the risen Christ in our daily lives and in one another.

This is an invitation for Anglicans in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario to include particular intentions in their intercession for vocations on May 8th, commonly referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday. We believe that all are called to serve God according to the gifts God has given them for their particular context and we give thanks for the ministry of the baptized, praying that on Good Shepherd Sunday we will hear God’s call on our hearts in a fresh new way.

God also calls people to serve in a particular way through ordered ministry in the church. This invitation to prayer comes at a key moment in our church and in the province as we move beyond the pandemic in a changing world and church.

Guided by the leadership of Bishop John Chapman and Bishop Susan Bell, we are currently preparing for a conference at the end of June centred around ordained vocational discernment. The “Pathways to Partnership Conference,” facilitated by Archbishop Colin Johnson and Susan Graham Walker, will bring together representatives from each of the seven dioceses in Ontario as well as from each of the theological colleges, universities, and schools for ministry.

With wise and prayerful leaders taking their place alongside others - with both vision and realism, we pray we will see signs of new possibilities and hints of the new creation within the church and within the academy. We hope to forge new partnerships so that in the future we may better support the needs of our parishes in dioceses around the province.

On Sunday, May 8th, I invite you to join with those preparing for the conference, and for those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry that our Church, ‘under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of word and sacrament’ and that we may uphold them in their work for the growth of God’s kingdom. The Ember Day collect on page 395 in the BAS or the Common of a Pastor on page 435 would all be most suitable for this occasion.

May we all, by grace, continue to grow into the full stature of Christ as we hear the Good Shepherd calling us all by name to be his disciples.

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