

New Year's Greetings to One and All,

I trust that you all have had a joyful celebration to mark the beginning of 2012 and I want to wish you greetings as we move into the New Year which marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of our diocese. I would like to share a few items of information with you around happenings in the diocese.

First Annual Bishop's New Years Levee

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the people of the Parish of St. Thomas, Belleville and to the members of the 150th anniversary organizing committee who helped make our kick off event a great success. Nearly two hundred worshippers gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist and the "first annual Bishop's Levee" which followed in the parish hall. We dedicated and blessed our anniversary banner and candle which will make its way around the diocese throughout our anniversary year. Our anniversary theme "*Into the World*" calls us to carry forward the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in all that we think, say and do on behalf of the one who is the Light of the World.

Comings and Goings

Christmas Eve marked the final service for **Canon Claude Delorme** as Rector of the **Parish of Kitley** as he moves into retirement. Canon Claude was ordained in 1985 by Bishop Allan Read and prior to his Incumbency in Kitley, served the Parishes of Lansdowne Front, Parham/Sharbot Lake and Augusta. He has also served as Rural Dean of Leeds Grenville, as pre-ordination retreat leader and was appointed to the Canonry of St. Benedict in 2004. Claude has served our diocese faithfully and well and I know I join with his clergy colleagues, former parishioners and members of our Diocese as we wish him and Lynda God's richest blessing on the next chapter of their life and ministry.

I am pleased to announce that **The Rev. Doug Richards** is appointed as full time Interim Priest in Charge of the **Parish of Kitley** effective January 29th. Doug will conclude his ministry as priest associate at the Parish of St. Lawrence, Brockville and also in providing liturgical and pastoral support to the Parish of St. John the Evangelist, Lyn. I want to extend my thanks to him for his service to the people of those Parishes and in support of the Incumbency of Canon Michael Read. Prior to coming to Brockville, Doug served in the shared ministry of the Parish of Parham/Sharbot Lake with the Diocese of Ottawa Parish of Maberly/Lanark.

Clergy Retreat

The clergy of the Diocese will gather for their annual clergy retreat at the Glen House on the Thousand Islands Parkway just east of Gananoque. The dates are **May 8 and 9** and I am pleased that my colleague, **Bishop Stephen Andrews** of the Diocese of Algoma has been confirmed as our retreat leader. More details will follow in due course.

Compass Rose Society

The Ontario Chapter of the Compass Rose Society invites you to attend an information session on **Sunday January 15th, 2012 at 3p.m.** at Christ Church, Cataraqui. We will be pleased to welcome my colleague, **Bishop Phillip Poole** who will speak to us about the society as well as the mission, education and ecumenical relationships of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Please share this invitation with your friends to join with us. Bishop Poole will also preach at St. George's Cathedral at the 8am and 10:30am services. —

Congratulations to Rev. Greg Long

I am pleased to pass on the news that **Rev. Greg Long** of the Parish of St. Alban's Odessa is being honoured by the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by being installed as Honourary Canon of their Cathedral Church. Bishop Filadelfo Oliveira of the Diocese of Rio de Janeiro wrote me to pass on his sense of gratitude to God and friendship for our diocese. He writes that this honour for Greg is *"recognition of all that he did to strengthen the relationship between our Churches, by the footsteps of love, loyalty and justice he left among us."* He went on to further state that *"this invitation is a sign of gratitude to God for the Diocese of Ontario, for the life and ministry of Bishop George Bruce (ret), Canon Bill Clarke and the whole community of St. Thomas, Kingston, Canon David Ward (ret) and the whole community of St. Paul's, Kingston and the community of St. Alban's Church Odessa."*

The Service of Installation will take place on January 14th and Greg will be travelling to Brazil on January 10th. I want to express my congratulations on behalf of our Diocese to Greg and my appreciation to Bishop Oliveira for recognizing Greg and the relationships that have been built between us.

Archbishop Douglas Hambidge's visit to the Diocese

I am pleased that Archbishop Douglas Hambidge will be visiting our Diocese and speaking at a number of events planned for early February by our Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee. Archbishop Hambidge is no stranger to our diocese and has spoken at Synod and at other diocesan events. Douglas brings us stewardship theology he has taught in congregations and at diocesan, ecumenical and international events. He uses familiar Scripture as well as heart warming stories to teach that money is sacramental, our own need to give is the basis for our stewardship and our love for God is shown through our offerings.

Archbishop Hambidge will speak at the following events:

- The Annual Meeting of the **Diocese of Ontario Foundation** on Thursday, February 9th at 7p.m. at St. Thomas Church, Kingston.

****** I want to put in a plug here for you to prioritize attending the annual meeting of the Foundation which is open to all members of our Diocese and to let others know about this event. I strongly feel that the capitalization of our Foundation is a key part of the financial strategy for our long term future. Come out to hear a great speaker and**

learn about the priorities of the Foundation in providing for the diocesan ministries we want to see continued.****

- The **Diocesan Clergy College** meeting Friday, February 10th at St. George's Cathedral from 9am-3p.m.

- A **Diocesan event** open for all members of our diocese but with wardens, treasurers and parish council members specifically in mind to be held on Saturday, February 11th at St. Thomas, Kingston from 10a.m. to 12:30p.m.

- Sunday, February 12th at **All Saints Church in the Parish of Tyendinaga**, The Archbishop will speak at their Christian education class at 9:15a.m. and preach at the 10:30a.m. Eucharist.

Parish Vacancies

The Anglican Churches of Quinte West (Trenton, Frankford, Glen Miller)

- expressions of interest being received until March 15th

St. Mark's, Barriefield

- moving to interviews

Pastoral Unit Comprising the Churches of Christ Church Gananoque and Church of the Redeemer, Rockport

- moving to interviews

Parish of Kitley

- recently clergy vacant with the Retirement of Canon Claude Delorme

Bishop's Principal Engagements

January 6th

- Solemn Eucharist for Epiphany at the Cathedral Church of St. George

January 10th

- meeting of the Justice and Peace Commission, Archdiocese of Kingston, 7p.m.

January 14th

- Planning and Priority day with the Stewardship and Congregational Development Committee at Providence Spirituality Center, 9a.m. to 3p.m.

- Dinner with Compass Rose Society members at the University Club, Kingston 5:30p.m.

January 15th

- Celebrant at Cathedral Church of St. George with Bishop Phil Poole preaching 8a.m. and 10:30a.m.

- Christ Church, Cataraqui, Information Session re Compass Rose Society. 3p.m.

January 19th

- Diocesan Events Committee meeting 4p.m.

January 24th

- Meeting of the Synod Council at Christ Church Cataraqui, 5:30p.m.

May God continue to richly bless you in the leadership you provide within your parishes and our diocese and your faithful commitment to the ongoing ministry in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May the Light of Christ illumine your hearts, mind and path as you continue to live the Gospel.

In Christ's Service,

Bishop Michael

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