



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

St. Teresa of Avila

“The feeling remains that God is on the journey too.” (Teresa of Avila)

15th October 2019

Dear friends,

Colin and I would like to share some personal news with you that will be affecting our lives for the next little while. As many of you know he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of non-Hodgkins Lymphoma in 2008 and received treatment at the Cancer Centre in Sudbury and underwent a stem cell transplant in Ottawa. We were on your Sunday prayer lists for months and were grateful for each prayer as well as the outpouring of love we received from members of our diocesan family. Our own families spent significant amounts of time with us during those years and continue to be there for us every day. My faith sustained me then and continues to now.

In 2012 Colin went into remission and this time has been a period of grace for us. We did things we never thought possible, including overseas trips to South Africa, and Alaska and the annual trek to our family cottage near Whitefish Falls. Colin and I went to Rome and Assisi, and a couple of years later we toured the Holy Land with a group from Algoma. He was present for the graduation of our children from high school and university – such a thrill. In October 2016 Colin was fully behind my decision to allow my name to stand for Bishop of Algoma and happily moved to Sault Ste. Marie to support me as I undertook the new ministry of being a bishop in the church. Although his health has not allowed him to travel extensively with me, he has come to know you through my stories and has lots of advice to give me.

Late this summer Colin found some suspicious nodes on his neck and had a biopsy two weeks ago. On Friday the oncologist told us that his cancer is out of remission and that he has the exact form of Lymphoma he had eleven years ago. This wasn't the news we were hoping to hear but it is where we find ourselves. We are at peace with whatever awaits us, but we are hoping that Colin responds well to the treatment which will take place over the next four months in Sudbury. The treatment is not without its risks and so I will be staying as close to Sudbury as possible, and only travelling as needed over the winter months. Please pray for us as we make our way through these days of uncertainty and live each day as the gift it is.

I am deeply aware that we are not the only ones whose lives have been touched by a serious illness or death. Many of you know exactly what we are experiencing, and you are in my prayers. As you have been brave and courageous, patient in suffering and strong in your faith, you show me how I can be all of those things now. I pray that you have a strong sense of God's abiding presence and peace in your life, as I do in mine.

The Synod office staff and I will continue to work together to ensure that the diocese continues to run smoothly during this time. The bishops of the Province have already offered their help for any episcopal duties that I am unable to fulfill. I am grateful to both the Synod office staff and my colleagues in the 'house' for their care and support of me and you.

With gratitude and affection, I remain yours in Christ,

+ *Anne*