



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

Second Sunday of Easter,
April 19, 2020.

“Before all else, let us list sincere thanksgiving first on the scroll of our prayer.”

~ John Climacus, 7th Century

Dear People of Algoma:

It is with deep and sincere thanksgiving I remember you in prayer, and in the same spirit of gratitude that I write this letter to all of you.

We have spent the better part of Lent and these early days of Easter in a strange and disturbing time, coping with a pandemic that has swept across the world. Moreover, our present circumstance shows no sign of letting up anytime soon. We find ourselves prevented from gathering together, and contending with challenges to the many crucial ministries we exercise in our communities and beyond, especially with those most vulnerable. The state of affairs necessitated by the menace of COVID-19 threatens to damage our financial viability, as households and as church. Yet, where each of these challenges is concerned, I am inspired and reassured by your faithful creativity, and your depth of commitment to our Lord and to his church in Algoma.

When we found ourselves unable to gather for worship in early March, diocesan and parish leaders alike wondered what the implications might be for the financial wellbeing of this Diocese and its congregations. How would this impact our mission? How long would we be able to provide remuneration for those who so faithfully serve us in pastoral, administrative, and other key roles? Would financial giving drop significantly without the plate being passed along pews on a weekly basis?

I am so pleased that in the first month responding to this crisis, the people of Algoma have come through! You have recognized that the church remains active in these COVID-19 days, even when gathering around the Lord's Table has been paused for a time. Good things continue to happen. So you have continued to demonstrate financial commitment as congregations, and collectively as a diocese. I thank you for your loyal and generous support.

It will be important that we maintain this support in the months ahead. I do understand that some of you will find yourselves struggling financially because of changed circumstances in your life and determine you are unable to maintain your customary level of giving. I ask those of you able to maintain your usual pattern of giving or even increase your offering to please do so in these challenging days.

At present, we are able to provide remuneration for everyone on central payroll into the first part of May. Along with our Diocesan Treasurer, Jane Mesich, I will be hosting a number of conference calls this week for Incumbents, wardens, and treasurers to look at government assistance that is being made available for non-profits, including religious organizations, to meet payroll and other critical expenses. However, for our own sake and that of the church, it is important we maintain our Christian practices in this time of increased isolation, including that of financial stewardship.

To facilitate your ongoing giving, we have posted on our website a number of ways you can do so beyond the offering plate: [Financial Giving during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

I was recently told of a man who claimed that, at age 92, he knew much less about God than he did when he was 42. Then he added that what he did know in his old age was much more to the point. "I now know that religion is predominantly an affair of gratitude," he explained. "For me every act of worship should be an act of thanksgiving."

Once again, then, I extend my gratitude to all of you, and I invite you to join with me in thanksgiving – thanksgiving to God for God's steadfast love and goodness, and thanksgiving for one another, the People of Algoma.

Yours in Easter joy,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "+ Anne: Algoma". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma