Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

After much prayer and reflection, I am writing to share with you my intention to retire from episcopal ministry in 2027.

It is hard to believe that ten years have passed since I was elected the eleventh Bishop of Algoma in October 2016. I could not have imagined then all that these years would hold, the places God would lead us, the challenges we would face together, or the countless blessings I would receive through the people I have been called to serve.

It has been one of the great privileges of my life to serve as your bishop and, since 2018, as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

When I think about these years, my thoughts turn first to people and relationships. I think of the congregations I have visited across Algoma's five deaneries, the clergy and lay leaders with whom I have shared in ministry, and the many occasions when we have gathered for worship, prayer, celebration, and fellowship. I think, too, of the difficult moments when we have accompanied one another through grief, uncertainty, and change.

These relationships have been among the greatest gifts of episcopal ministry. They have reminded me again and again that the Church is not simply its buildings, structures, or institutions, but the people of God, called together in Christ and sent out to share his love in the world.

My years as Metropolitan have brought the additional blessing of serving alongside the bishops, clergy, and people of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. Together we have navigated significant changes in the life of the Church, none more challenging than the COVID-19 pandemic. Those years tested us in ways we could scarcely have anticipated. Yet even when our church buildings were closed and we were physically separated, we discovered new ways to pray, worship, care for one another, and remain connected as the Body of Christ.

I am profoundly grateful for the faithfulness, wisdom, and companionship of my colleagues in the Ontario House of Bishops, and for the extraordinary dedication of clergy and lay leaders throughout the Province during that time.

I am also grateful for the opportunity I was given to serve as Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada during a period of transition in our national Church. It was an unexpected responsibility and a privilege to serve the wider Church in this way.

Of course, these years have not been without their difficulties. We have faced hard decisions, experienced losses, and wrestled with questions about the future of our congregations and ministries. There have been moments of disappointment and times when the way forward has not been clear.

But through it all, I have continued to see the Holy Spirit at work—in the generosity of our people, in the courage of those willing to try something new, in the quiet faithfulness of

those who serve without recognition, and in the many ways our churches continue to bring hope to their communities.

As I look toward retirement, I do so with deep gratitude and with confidence in God's continuing work among us. The Church has never belonged to any one bishop or generation. We are each entrusted with a part of its story, called to serve faithfully in our own time, and then to make room for those whom God is calling to lead in the years ahead.

In May 2027, the Diocese of Algoma will gather for Synod and the election of its next bishop. I ask you to hold this process in your prayers, trusting that the Holy Spirit will guide the Diocese in its discernment. In due course, there will also be a time of transition in the leadership of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

There is still much ministry for us to share in the months ahead, and I look forward to continuing that work with you. There will be time for farewells and thanksgiving as we draw closer to the conclusion of my episcopal ministry. For now, I simply want to say thank you.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, your generosity, and your partnership in the Gospel. Thank you for the ways you have welcomed me into your churches, your communities, and your lives. Above all, thank you for the privilege of walking alongside you as we have sought to follow Jesus Christ faithfully.

May God continue to bless and guide us, and may we remain open to all that the Holy Spirit is doing among us and calling us to become.

With my love and prayers,

The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario