



ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

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Dear Colleagues,

How are you managing in these strange and new times? Things are changing so quickly around us! I know that you don't hear from me as often as you hear from our politicians, but I am hearing about your imaginative and loving engagement with your congregations, and your experiments with reaching out and nurturing your communities in faith and practice. Even while we all practice social distancing - or "love at a distance" as Bishop Lindsay Urwin OGS calls it - I rejoice that the church is rediscovering the joy of gathering over the internet, and the surprise of making contact using old technology such as the telephone and letters.

This Sunday will only be the second or third Sunday that you have not met for worship in your buildings. I know that many of you are already worried about diminished revenue in offerings and rental revenue. We want you to know that we are looking at what we can do to support and encourage you in this time. The Diocesan Finance Committee met today on Zoom and Diocesan Council will meet next Tuesday. We don't have all the answers but we are exploring various possibilities. I will be consulting with the Provincial House of Bishops tomorrow morning and will write to you with more information next Wednesday, after Diocesan Council has met.

In the meantime, please look after yourselves and keep time for prayer and rest and being in touch with loved ones. I am praying for each of you as we go through this strange new land and as we encounter what is next. If you have to leave your home to go out to buy groceries, perhaps you can wear your clerical collar as a reminder of the faith, hope and love of the church in your neighbourhood. Do speak to people you meet - but keep a safe distance!

I am confident that God is with us and that God's power working in us is able to do much more than we can ask or imagine. Our ministry looks different but it's the same ministry to which we were called in our baptism. It's a ministry which depends on the Holy Spirit to bring life!

Faithfully,