



DIocese OF KOOTENAY
The Anglican Church of Canada

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The Most Rev. John E. Privett, *Archbishop*

April 13, 2011

An Invitation to the Diocese

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare for Holy Week we are preparing to walk the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter in company with others. Throughout the Diocese we will be travelling with Jesus and with each other on the Way of the Cross that leads to new life. We will also be walking with others throughout the world as one great company of disciples. I pray that wherever you are, you will be conscious of the sacred path that we follow and the great swell of pilgrims with whom we walk. May our worship and our devotion draw us more deeply into the mystery of the cross, strengthen our own faith and bear witness to the heart of the Gospel in our communities and in our world.

I would also like to bring to your attention and invite you to an upcoming event that will be a unique opportunity in this part of the Province. On Friday, May 6 Michael Harvey of the "Back to Church Movement" will be in the Okanagan. Jointly sponsored by our Diocese and the BC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Michael will present two seminars on how we might encourage people in our neighbourhoods to visit and perhaps find a home our congregations. He will speak about becoming an inviting and welcoming church. Michael is the founder and driving force behind a movement that began in a single English diocese. It has now spread throughout England and caught the imagination of churches in Australia, New Zealand and North America. He is currently on a cross-Canada speaking tour. On Friday, May 6 there will be a seminar in Kelowna at St. Andrew's Church at 1:30 pm (registration at 1:00 pm) and then again at 7:00 pm (registration at 6:30 pm) at Peace Lutheran Church in Vernon. Congregations are invited to bring a team of clergy and lay leaders to one of them. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per person to help cover the costs of Michael's travel. I encourage every congregation to participate as you are able. Please inform Kathryn in our office of your intention to participate and let her know the approximate number of people from your congregation so we can prepare for the event.

May 1, 2011 marks 10 years of full communion between our church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. This relationship is being celebrated throughout the country in many different ways. I would ask that you remember the anniversary with thanksgiving in your prayers on Sunday, May 1.

The next Kootenay School of Ministry course is now scheduled for the long weekend in May. The course is called Parish Administration and will provide answers to "Everything you've wanted to know about Diocesan and Parish organization but had forgotten to ask!" It will be an important course for those considering a call to non-stipendiary ministry, a valuable introduction for new clergy to the diocese, and an important resource for wardens and other congregational leaders. More information is on the Diocesan website. Please don't wait until the last minute to register as preparations are being made now for meals and other details.

All that we do, we do in the knowledge and the promise of the resurrection. May God bless your journey through Holy Week, and may each and every one of you have a joyful and happy Easter.

Faithfully,

+John

Living Faith, Proclaiming Christ, Growing Churches, Empowering Mission