

# **Welcome to Diocesan Synod 2009**

## **Living The Vision: A Diocesan Celebration!**

Welcome to the 135<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Niagara, this has the potential to be one of the most interesting and significant synod's you have ever attended. Thank you for offering your gifts in the leadership of our diocese.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

**This is a two day Synod beginning Friday morning and ending Saturday afternoon.**

### **Core Business of Synod on Friday**

The core business of this day will be to hear the Bishop's Charge, elect Synod Council, elect members to General Synod, approve financial statements, discuss the budget, receive reports, and vote on one Canon change. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with business beginning at 9 a.m.

### **Electing Members of General Synod**

General Synod meets every three years. The next meeting will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We will be electing 5 clergy and 5 lay delegate members of General Synod (the Bishop and Chancellor are members ex-officio), in addition the Bishop has appointed Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh as our youth delegate. Clergy elect the clergy and laity elect the lay delegates. Nominations were solicited through Archdeacons and Regional Councils, in the Niagara Anglican and on the diocesan website. The Coordinating Team of Synod Council acted as the nominating committee, ensuring that enough nominations were received in both orders, that there was an equal number of male and female nominations, and that the biographies of all nominees were made available. It is possible for nominations to occur from the floor of Synod. Nominees would be offered the opportunity to address Synod delegates and would be invited to a microphone to give a 60 word biography orally. Ballots will be given to all delegates at registration and no replacement ballots will be available.

### **Living the Vision: A Diocesan Celebration on Saturday**

Synod continues with a dramatic day of celebration for all members of the diocese. This means that Synod is still in session but all members of our parishes, who wish to attend, will be given the opportunity to join with us in a day of education and inspiration. Here is what to expect:

- A day to include a variety of experiences to both celebrate and bring "Our Vision" to life.
- Two remarkable guest speakers, Gary Nicolosi and Annie Kashamura Zawadi
- Diverse & Innovative worship throughout the day
- Games and activities for children and young adults
- A Ministry Marketplace of ideas for living out "Our Vision"
- Resources to assist parishes in the implementation of "Our Vision"
- A Community Café
- Live Music
- A Eucharistic Celebration with Bishop Michael

This will be a unique opportunity for all our parish members to join with us at Synod and experience this significant moment in the life of our diocese, while engaging and celebrating our Diocesan Vision. This will be a day to bring the Vision to life in practical and experiential ways.

Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday morning and we will continue until 3:00 p.m. Closing worship will begin at 1:00 p.m. A full agenda of the day is included in this convening circular.

I hope you will share this information with others in your parish who would be interested in attending. This event has FREE ADMISSION.

**Thank you and see you at Synod!**

The Venerable Dr. Rick Jones, Secretary of Synod

**P.S. It now appears that this Synod will take place during a time that we are dealing with H1N1 concerns. We will be taking every precaution in our conduct of Synod to ensure the safety of delegates.**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THE PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY TO STAY HOME IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE COMING DOWN WITH A COLD OR THE FLU. IF YOU ARE RECOVERING FROM A FLU, THE GUIDELINE WE HAVE HEARD IS TO WAIT AT LEAST 24 HOURS AND UP TO ONE WEEK AFTER THE LAST FEVER BEFORE GOING OUT INTO GROUPS.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ALL STAY HEALTHY!**