

Highlights from Bishop John Chapman's Charge to Synod

October 21, 2011

Bishop John Chapman says it's an onerous challenge to plant in the soil of our consumer society the seeds that promote mutual care, guardianship of the vulnerable, generosity, sacrifice, and healing, for this kind of "soil cannot sustain growth and vitality." But as the refrain of the Charge says: "Listen to the parable of the sower . . ." and be inspired to proclaim and nurture the growth of the Kingdom.

Legal issues settled

The Bishop said he was thrilled to announce that the legal issues with the Anglican Network in Canada have been concluded. While we compromised in some areas, the Diocese was able to establish title to its lands and able to sell the property of St. George's to ANiC and resume diocesan activity at St. Alban's.

GIFT campaign

The Bishop thanked the "many, many people" who have already contributed to the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) campaign. The pilot is already under way, with other parishes poised to begin, "and the excitement and energy are intense."

Real estate review

The Real Estate Working Group has been looking at the most creative ways to use properties in the Ottawa West Deanery. "Solutions may include the status quo, partnerships, reconfigurations, or a variety of other notions that may not be typically considered by parishes."

Charrette at All Saints' Sandy Hill

Next month All Saints' Sandy Hill will be hosting a "charette" – a weekend gathering of parish leadership, architects, engineers, heritage planners, urban planners, social service agencies, community associations, tenants, real estate advisors and those who understand development economics. The aim is to see how the church buildings might be used to support ministries and outreach in the area.

Child poverty

A special task force has been set up and a Community Development Assistant hired who has prepared a comprehensive report, "Labour for Learning." It included a nutrition education programme, in partnership with the Western Quebec School Board, that has been launched for students at a Gatineau elementary school. The Bishop said the launch was "absolutely fabulous." It is hoped to expand the program.

Government relations

An Episcopal panel has been set up to advise the Bishop on building relations with some key government departments, especially those concerned with issues that "we Christians value.

Ottawa Hospital Chaplaincy

After many years, the Anglican chaplaincy has been restored at the Ottawa Hospital, with the appointment of the Rev. Di Jaggassar.

Partnership with Jerusalem

The Bishop and seven other members of the Diocese will be visiting the Diocese of Jerusalem shortly to explore ways we can “partner in our ministry with women,” as well as explore parishes there willing to form deep relationships with parishes in the Diocese of Ottawa.”