



# OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

Anglican Church of Canada

May 6, 2020

Dear friends,

We've been traversing this difficult time together with grace and I am so grateful for your leadership. You've been so generous with your response to this crisis – and with your time. I hope that as we settle ever more deeply into this time, that you are finding a new rhythm. I am keenly aware that I am personally moving into something new. I also hope that you are being disciplined about taking a day off each week. Your wellbeing and health are important to me and will be crucial to how we come through this time.

On a call earlier this week with the Provincial House of Bishops, Archbishop Fred Hiltz who is assisting Archbishop Anne Germond in Moosonee said something that has been in my mind since. He said, “as we're in the season of Easter, I think the question we need to ask is: what do we need to die to? And what will rise again from this time?”

Now I think that this is the right framing of the questions we should be asking ourselves at this time.

But what really stuck with me was that he meant that we as clergy need to be asking those questions of ourselves. So often when we talk change in the Church we focus our thoughts on our people or our structures. That's not wrong of course, but I'm not sure we always ask the same questions of ourselves with such unflinching rigor.

So let's do that. Let's ask ourselves those questions; and let's pray about the answers. Let's be honest about the answers - even if they're uncomfortable – maybe especially if they're uncomfortable. It may be that this is the most life-giving conversation we can have at this time.

Over the coming weeks, I'm looking forward to joining your clericus meetings to have this conversation. I firmly believe that this is a constructive – and redemptive – thing to come out of what has been a very difficult crisis.

And may the blessings of the Risen Christ be with you in this and all things as we go forward.

Bishop of Niagara