

REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN ARCHIVIST

I have a modest file on each parish in the diocese. Some will contain important information about the parish for writing a parish history. I also have some parish histories written many years ago and which could be updated. Many older parishioners are a gold mine of past parish history. Don't forget to record this important information before it might be lost.

I also have copies of the Niagara Anglican from the very first one in January 1955 – a small 4 page edition. And I also have copies of the Niagara Synod Journals from 1876 on. Read some of the Bishops' Charges to Synod from the past.

Do clergy know what is kept at the Mills Memorial Library at McMaster University for their parish? Besides the completed parish registers for baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial there are minutes of past parish advisory councils and Vestry reports as well as other legal and historical documents. If you don't have a list of the above material contact me at Cathedral Place and I will send a copy to you.

Also please make sure all signatures are legible. You should print all such names and then sign your name. Penmanship is not taught today in our schools.

Have you sent me clear pictures of all your stained glass windows for our Diocesan Stained Glass Registry?

Remember when parish registers for baptism, confirmation, marriage and burials are completed bring them to me at Cathedral Place with a complete list of what you are bringing to me (4 copies) I will index them and copies will be made in due time and sent to the parish. Please note there is no charge to the parish for this service. It is covered under the Diocesan Budget.

Please read diocesan Canon 2-6 all about diocesan Archives and also ask for "Archives, our story" – a helpful pamphlet about what to keep and what not to keep. Please – no kitchen sinks!

Respectfully submitted

The venerable John Rathbone

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