

The Anglican Church of Canada



L'Église anglicane du Canada

Office of the Primate

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Dear friends,

Occasionally a magazine will highlight special places in a city that are hidden or little known. One such place in Toronto is the convent and guest house of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine! It is tucked into property adjacent to St. Johns' Rehabilitation Hospital, hidden from view from the street, in the heart of a residential neighbourhood – an oasis for those who are spiritually hungry or in need of rest and prayer. In quiet faithfulness the convent and guest house offer a refuge for the weary, congregational retreats, and gatherings of Christians and others needing to reflect in a space that nurtures heart, mind and spirit – a “Home for the Heart.”

Many clergy recall times at the convent in their discernment for ordained ministry through an ACPO weekend – or their ordination retreat or a few days of blissful quiet to pray. Lay women discerning their vocation have found affirmation and renewal as Companions or through the Crossroads engagement. I am deeply grateful for a community of prayer and a quiet place to call home when, as Primate, I am in Toronto.

The Guest House is a core ministry of SSJD in the midst of Toronto that serves people from across Canada and occasionally hosts international guests. Yet, like our own homes, its building needs to be maintained and periodically renewed to meet the needs of its guests and the standards required. There is an urgent need to replace the roof, the windows, and the heating/cooling system with more environmentally friendly systems, as well as to upgrade and in some cases reconstruct bedrooms, bathrooms, and meeting rooms, including new flooring. One of the most crucial reconstruction projects is a new accessible entrance into the Guest House.

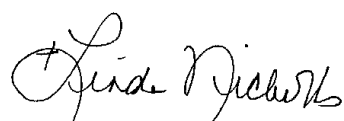
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These extraordinary repairs need your support. If you have visited the guest house you know the importance of its ministry. If you have not – please know that many, many guests have been served and the ministry of a quiet space for reflection amidst a community of prayer as a guest is a gift to the world.

I invite you to participate in furthering the Sisters' mission of hospitality. Please read the accompanying information and consider whether you can join in supporting the needs outlined. Donate personally. Invite your parish to consider a gift. Encourage friends and colleagues to donate.

The Convent and the Guest House are a unique gift to the church and the world, especially in a time when we need places of refuge, rest and renewal in order to face the uncertainties of our times. Please help sustain a 'Home for the Heart' at the Convent.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Nicholls". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'L'.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop & Primate