

Primate of Canada at 150th anniversary dinner

BY JOHN CURRY

john.curry@metroland.com

The focus of the keynote address by Archbishop the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, at the 150th anniversary dinner celebration for St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville on Oct. 29 was on where the Anglican Church is today and where it is going rather than where it has been.

Speaking at the dinner at the Irish Hills Golf and Country Club on Carp Road where there were mementoes, newspaper clippings and memorabilia on display about St. Thomas' history since its founding in 1866, Primate Hiltz used the opportunity to outline current initiatives in the church and looked into the future to an Anglican Church being reformed in the way of Christ, becoming the kind of church that God wants it to be.

"A church that sees itself like its Lord, to be in the world and

for the world," is how Primate Hiltz summed up what he termed to be the Anglican Church's glorious future in Canada.

He said that the future of the Anglican Church will revolve around what it means to be a follower of Christ and to be His disciple.

"So we are disciples and that's our future," he declared, saying that Anglican congregations are becoming vital and alive and aware of what is happening around them in the world.

Primate Hiltz noted changes in the church's ordained ministries in the past 25 years such as the restoration of the diaconate, a shift to a more balanced ministry between men and women, and overall a younger ministry.

He noted how the place of women in the church has changed over time, noting that gender equity is a church goal, with many women now holding prominent positions in the Synod and other high church offices including seven women as Bishops.

Primate Hiltz outlined the Anglican Church's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, adding that the Church's 1993 apology to indigenous peoples changed the course of history for the Anglican Church in creating a path of healing and conciliation with indigenous peoples.

He mentioned the Anglican Healing Fund which has supported 500 projects involving indigenous peoples and also the church's support for suicide prevention in aboriginal communities and for acknowledging the cause of missing and murdered aboriginal women.

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At the 150th anniversary dinner of St. Thomas Anglican Church on Oct. 29 are (from left) Rev. Jane McCaig, rector at St. Thomas; Pat McNally, rector's warden; Archbishop The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada; Elizabeth Hall, people's warden; and William Passmore, 150th anniversary coordinator.

Primate notes Anglican response to refugee crisis

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He said that those in the Anglican Church are called to be builders of a new way of being church in relation to indigenous peoples, working to include indigenous spirituality within the Anglican Church of Canada, something that

he said has been underway since 1995. He acknowledged, though, that this is slow, hard work.

"It's a long journey, sometimes a hard journey," he said.

The work has included the appointment of a national indigenous bishop.



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Carleton MP Pierre Poilievre (left) addresses congratulatory remarks to William Passmore (right), 150th anniversary coordinator at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville, at the church's 150th anniversary dinner on Oct. 29.



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Jack MacLaren (right), Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP, presents Elizabeth Hall (left), who is people's warden at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville, with a certificate congratulating the parish on its 150th anniversary.

Primate Hiltz also noted that the Anglican Church of Canada has established formal partner relationships with others parts of the world such as Africa, Jerusalem and Cuba.

He spoke about how Anglican Churches in Canada have responded to the global refugee crisis, raising over \$20 million and sponsoring 678 refugee families.

Noting that Christ himself was a refugee, he noted how Anglican churches across the country have raised money in order to settle refugee families in Canada.

Primate Hiltz noted that the Anglican tradition involves embracing diversity and supporting ecumenism. He said that today's Anglican Church not only embraces ecumenism but is addressing the humanitarian crises of today and is standing up for those whose human rights are ignored or abused.

In thanking Primate Hiltz for his address at the dinner, St. Thomas Anglican Church Rector's Warden Pat McNally remarked that the Primate had reminded everyone there just what Anglicans in Canada are doing today.

The dinner also saw the presentation of two certificates of congratulations being awarded to St. Thomas Anglican Church.

Carleton MP Pierre Poilievre, who presented one of these certificates, noted that in celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, St. Thomas Anglican Church was one year older than Canada itself which is marking its 150th anniversary in 2017.

Carleton-Mississippi Mills MPP Jack MacLaren, in presenting his certificate of congratulations at the dinner, noted St. Thomas' long history, adding that it was the efforts of many great people which made it happen.

In introducing Primate Hiltz, Ottawa Bishop the Rt. Rev. Dr. John Chapman pointed out the significant milestone that this 150th anniversary for St. Thomas is.

He said that there are not many Anglican churches in the Diocese that have hit the 150 year mark and indeed only a handful that have reached the 175 year mark.

"You are up there with the seniors of seniors," Bishop Chapman said about St.

Thomas Anglican Church.

In his introduction of Primate Hiltz, Bishop Chapman said that the Primate likes attending such anniversary celebrations and being with churches as they celebrate sacred milestones like this 150th anniversary for St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville.

He said that Primate Hiltz is known internationally as a peacemaker, calling him "one of the most highly respected

Primates in the global community."

Archbishop the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, is considered the chief pastor of the Anglican Church of Canada. He serves as the chief executive officer of the Anglican Church's national office in Toronto.

He was elected as the 13th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada in June 2007, formerly serving as the

Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Ordained in 1978, Archbishop Fred Hiltz ministered in small communities in Nova Scotia where he cultivated his love for parish ministry and for being with people in times of both difficulty and celebration.

There are 1.6 million Anglican Church members in Canada in 2800 parishes in 30 Dioceses.

LOCATION
EY Centre, Hall 2
(Ernst & Young Centre)
 4899 Uplands Drive
1-877-SAM-TOYS (726-8697)