

Thank you!

“You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5: 13, 4, 16)

Dear Ascension friends - our family will be heading to the Sault later on today to prepare to welcome family from the States, and to get ready for this weekend's service of consecration. I (we) did not want to leave without expressing my sincere thanks for all the expressions of love, care and support that I have received over the past few months. They have been a time of high emotion - joy tinged with sorrow but mostly the certainty that God is in the midst of everything that is going on right now. That gives me a feeling of tremendous peace and hope.

Thank you for the ways in which you have reached out to me over the last little while. The emails and cards with words of encouragement and assurance of prayer; the gifts too many to mention, and the one on one conversations have all been a source of great strength. We've been through a lot over the last 16 years and you have played an important part in my own faith formation.

I am attaching two photos showing two of the gifts I received from the Ascension yesterday. Your donations towards the cost of the San Damiano mitre were such that I was also able to buy the amethyst and have it set in a Celtic ring I already own. I chose this particular mitre because of the prayer that St. Frances said as he knelt in front of it. It is very much my prayer...."*Most high, Glorious God, cast your light into the darkness of my heart. Give me, Lord, right faith, firm hope, perfect charity and profound humility, with wisdom and perception, so that I may carry out what is truly your holy will. Amen.*"

The children of the church who have been part of the Sunday school for the last 16 years decorated a square of a quilt which was sewn together into a quilt for me. What a beautiful, unexpected gift! Thank you to the Sunday school teachers for this token of love. I have already chosen a place for it in my study at Bishophurst.

I am confident that as I take my leave of you that the parish is in very good hands. I give thanks for the honorary clergy who will provide services of worship for you, and to the wardens and parish leaders for their help in the day to day running of the parish. This is Christ's church and with Him at the helm things will go well. Remain steadfast in your mission and faithful in all things. You will be daily in my prayers during this time of change and that I will be looking forward to my first episcopal visit on February 19th.

With gratitude for each one of you - your kindness and love will always remain in my heart.

I remain yours in Christ's love.

Anne

