DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
The Anglican Church of Canada

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13th Sunday after Pentecost
Refugee Sunday, 2026

Dear people of God at St. Michael and All Angels,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God that I write to share the news of the appointment of your new incumbent. After a short but prayerful process of discernment, in consultation with the wardens and the Advisory Board, I am delighted to announce that I have made a direct appointment of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Brauer to lead this community in the next chapter of its life and ministry. His ministry will commence on October 15th, 2026, and is a full-time appointment for three years.

I know that you will join me in welcoming him with warmth and in prayer. Please keep Rev. Thomas, his family and the whole parish in your thoughts as you prepare to begin this new season together. Rev. Thomas is set to arrive in Thunder Bay this weekend from Smith's Falls in the Diocese of Ottawa, so you will probably get to meet him before he formally begins his ministry with you.

Rev. Thomas holds a PhD from St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews (UK) Institute for Theology; a Master of Divinity with Honours from Wycliffe College, a Certificate in Christian Studies from George College in South Africa, and a Diploma in Electronics Engineering from Sault College.

Rev. Thomas was ordained a deacon by the Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews on October 16th, 2005, at St. Martin in the Fields (on behalf of the Diocese of Edmonton), and as a priest on January 2nd, 2007, by Bishop Matthews. Since his ordination he has served in the dioceses of Toronto, Edmonton, the Episcopal Church in Scotland, Christ Church New Zealand and the Diocese of Ottawa.

Rev. Thomas has just completed his ministry as the Incumbent priest at St. John the Evangelist in Smith's Falls (Diocese of Ottawa) and the Regional Dean of the Deanery of Southwest Ottawa. He sat on the Mayor's Food Security Working Group in Smith's Falls.

In his cover letter to me, Rev. Thomas described his present ministry context in Smith's Falls, which is generally considered as one of the poorest towns in Ontario.

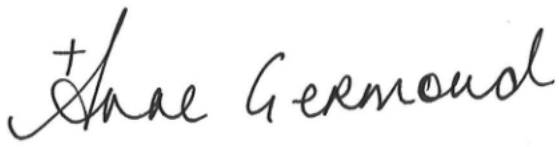
Housing insecurity is of great concern, and the local food bank reported an increase in need of 500% since 2019. This and other factors have made for a very dynamic but challenging pastoral and ministry environment. One of the lovely ministries undertaken by the local ministerial and ecumenical community is that they started what they call, “Pray K7A” - K7A being the postal code prefix for the town. Imagine what would happen if St. Michael and All Angels began to pray for the needs of your local community with other churches, “Pray P7B”?

Rev. Thomas noted that while some aspects of ministry at St. John’s might be unique, ‘*in many ways it is reflective of life in many parts of the province. Times are hard. This, coupled with struggles common to many Anglican churches around congregational health and growth can cause some to despair. However, this is not true: there are things we can do. We can meet every person with dignity, welcome, love, and respect. We can provide out of our gifts in Christ Jesus. We can be honest about the limits of those gifts. And we can creatively and joyfully partner with other congregations, with local governments, and with community leaders to combine our given gifts and multiply the good we can do together.’*

I know that you will be inspired by Rev. Thomas’s depth of faith and by his courageous style of leadership. Please pray for him and his family as they prepare to join our diocese and your community.

Thank you to the wardens and members of the Advisory Board for accepting a direct appointment of your new incumbent. Know of my prayers and support as you prepare to bid farewell to Rev. Elizabeth and welcome Rev. Thomas.

I remain your Bishop in Christ,



The Most Reverend Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma