Lent is upon us, and so we are called to prepare to keep the Easter Feast properly. This year, I am calling the whole Diocese to a period of reflection, bible study and prayer. It is time for the Diocese of Brandon to rediscover the scriptures and study them in a form of daily devotion. I know that many of you already do this, but this is slightly different. This year I am hoping we can do this together. I am hoping that the whole family of the Diocese of Brandon will be reading the scriptures and seeking the Lord’s will as we work our way through the Lenten fast.

There is an excellent resource available to you all, for no charge through the Anglican Church of Canada’s website: http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/A-Disciples-Prayer-Book.pdf. This is the Disciples Prayer book which was compiled by members of the Church who do bible study in an Indigenous context.

We will publish the gospel readings for the day, and then using the Disciple’s Prayerbook, we can study the scriptures every day together, by reflecting on the message set to us by Jesus in his holy word.

It is my hope that, by using the Gospel Based Discipleship method we are practicing this Lent, we might all grow in the faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus and draw closer to him.
On the Road Again

The Venerable Dr. Kevin Goodrich, O.P.,
ARCHDEACON OF BRANDON

WHAT IS TEAM MINISTRY? 2017 is well on its way. Already, we’ve seen good things and difficult things around the world. In other words, life, with all its particular woes and joys, continues. As Christians we are to acknowledge both the fallen nature of this world, while rejoicing in the world as a gift that God declared to be “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Tossing our hands up and saying there is nothing we can do about the troubles across the ocean, next door or in our own lives (or our own churches), does not reflect the faith we declare each week in the Creed.

We are called by virtue of our baptism “to persevere in resisting evil” (BAS 159), to “strive for justice and peace” (BAS 159) and to “proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ” (BAS 159). This is not an easy thing, but together as a congregation, as a diocesan family, and as a Church across Canada and the world, we can work with God’s help, take fruitful and faithful action. An outgrowth of this baptismal theology is the fact that Bishop Cliff has invited us to be a Team Ministry diocese.

Team Ministry is a way of organizing ourselves for fruitful and faithful action within our congregations, wider parishes, and wider world. Team Ministry is a model of being and doing church that has two major objectives. First, Team Ministry seeks to develop every member of a parish into a minister. Second, Team Ministry seeks to replace what was traditionally done by one rector with a team of lay and ordained ministers.

Every Christian is a minister of the Gospel by virtue of their baptism. This is an old idea, with roots in the New Testament, that in many times and places the Church has forgotten. This does not mean there is not also a place for ordained ministers: deacons, priests, and bishops; there is, but in the Team Ministry model, the work of the clergy shifts from doing all the ministry themselves to encouraging, organizing, and training the laity for ministry, even while still engaging in certain ministries unique to or usually delegated to the ordained deacon or priest.

Team Ministry involves (wait for it...) a team! This involves the whole congregation in a general sense, but more specifically, refers to the team of lay readers, deacons and priests who have responsibility for Sunday services, pastoral care, teaching the faith, and so on. In our diocese, most Ministry Teams will encompass an entire wider parish. Bishop Cliff is encouraging wider parishes to increasingly think of themselves as being one parish in a number of locations.

Bishop Cliff has shared, that one practical implication of this model, is that ideally, no one minister (lay reader or cleric), is ordinarily leading more than two services on a Sunday. This means that the Team Rector will not be at every service every Sunday in wider parishes of three or more points. This approach not only preserves the energy of the rector and other team members, but allows all points in a wider parish to offer services at ideal, versus less than ideal, times.

Another feature of Team Ministry is the raising up and training of deacons and priests within the diocese versus sending prospective candidates away to a theological college or seminary. We have already seen fruit borne of this approach in the recent ordinations of Deacon Anna Sproule (St. Mary’s, Virden), The Rev. Sally Carter (Holy Spirit Parish), and Deacon Lorraine Bonnell and Deacon Elaine Dixon (Pelly Plains Parish). Bishop Cliff has stated that there are roughly 30 clergy in the diocese presently. His goal is to double that number in the next five years. These clergy will serve without stipend (though with mileage) and under the direction of a Team Rector, who generally will be a seminary trained priest on staff in a particular congregation or wider parish.

With God’s help, we can address the troubles and challenges in our own communities and across the world. Team Ministry is not the answer to all of our challenges, but it is a way that we can more faithfully and effectively face those challenges with the hope we have in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

WOW! That is a lot to take in and that’s a lot for us to be laboring for together in the next months and years. What can you do to help your congregation or wider parish make a full transition into Team Ministry? By talking about it with leaders, with the whole congregation, and having some teaching done about it and a clear plan for how you move from where you are to where you might go. The Bishop’s Ministry Team is here to help with that transition, particularly myself as the executive archdeacon. So don’t hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance in that or any other way.

The Team Ministry model applies at the congregation, wider parish and diocesan levels. The Bishop’s Ministry Team includes of the Dean of Brandon, the archdeacons, area deans, and synod staff. Team Ministry is a reaffirmation of Jesus’ original model of sending the disciples out two by two (Luke 10). In the Kingdom of God, there should be no lone rangers. Sadly, much theological training received by clergy in the past encouraged a loner mentality.

“The goal is to serve for the sake of the Gospel across the diocese and to serve to support and extend the bishop’s ministry.”
Next Licentiate Course to Be Offered
Introduction to Christian Spirituality

What does it mean to pursue the spiritual life? Discussions about spirituality are all around us in the wider culture. Are we aware of the rich treasures of Christian spirituality? How can one’s prayer life grow and mature? What does it mean to have a relationship with God in Christ?

Learn about the major themes and practices of Christian spirituality. This would be a great course for anyone wanting to develop and explore their own faith and spirituality. It will be offered during Lent. So taking this course could be one of your own Lenten commitments this year.

Instructor: The Venerable Dr. Kevin Goodrich, O.P.
Dates: March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, Apr 4   Times: 7-10pm
Location: St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Brandon
Cost: $300 for credit toward the L.Th. Diploma of Huron University College. Bursary assistance is available. Course may also be audited.

From Christ Church Anglican, Cartwright

On September 25, 2016, Father Michael baptized Reece, Max and their new cousin Dana. What a wonderful celebration it was for our church family. One could not be prouder of Reece and Max and sweet little angel, Dana. Most of all, Father Michael made the whole celebration child and family friendly. The children were presented with Bibles. Reece read his bible the next day and when he got to the parting of the Red Sea he made the comment, “here’s where that man was talking about on Sunday”. After church, everyone went across the road for coffee and drinks at the Corner Pocket.

Photo: Left to Right: Mark, Caryn, Reece (10) and Max (8) King, Rev. Michael Canning holding Dana born August 29, 2016 to Denise and Tyler Wallace.
ANNUAL LENTEN RETREAT DAY
Friday, April 7, 2017 (prior to Palm Sunday)

Theme: Walter Hilton & Christian Mysticism
Walter Hilton was a 14th Century English mystic. Feast Day: March 24th.
Come and learn about Hilton and what his teachings have to tell us about our
own spiritual lives today!
Retreat Conductor: The Rev. Dr. Kevin Goodrich, OP, Pelly Plains Wider Par-
ish Rector and Warden of Layreaders.
Place: Fairmount Bed & Breakfast. This peaceful oasis is only 10 kms north
of Minnedosa.
Maximum number of registrants is 16. The cost will be $35 per person
and includes two meals, refreshments, use of the Bed & Breakfast, etc.
Further information and/or to register, contact:
Garry MacDowall at 204-867-5881 or macdowallg@wcgwave.ca or
Helen Nethery at 204-726-1216 or bhnethery@gmail.com

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necessarily those of the Bishop or the editors.

Also posted on the Diocesan web-site: www.
dioceseofbrandon.org

Deadline for submissions: the first of the month.
Please note: all submissions are subject to editing
for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length.
Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word™ or
Apple Pages™ file formats or in the body of an email.
Photographs must be large high resolution jpg files.
Please ensure you have permission from parents
or guardians of all minors that have their photos or
names published in The Mustard Seed.

NEW THIS YEAR! Receive PWRDF’s
Lent Resource as a daily email!
Sign up at www.pwrdf.org/seasonal and each day
you’ll get an email that includes a reading, prayer
or meditation specially chosen by the Reverend
Susan Spicer. Dig deeper into the issues of food
security and food sovereignty and read more
on-the-ground stories from PWRDF.

The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund

Diaconal Ordination With Cheryl Kukurudz, Lorraine Bonnell and Elaine Dixon and Jonathon Hoskin.