

MAR 12 2012



The Honourable Edna Ekhivalak Elias, O.Nu.
Commissioner of Nunavut

Welcoming to Synod 2012
May 29, 2012, Iqaluit, NU

Bishop Andrew, Clergy, Lay Readers and other invited guests, and friends...good morning.

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am very pleased to welcome you all. Welcome to Iqaluit, our capital. Welcome to Nunavut. Thank you for the invitation to the opening of your Synod.

I trust that you all had a good rest. From what I hear you have a very busy and exciting agenda making for full days/evenings. It is good to see familiar faces; some dating back to our school days in Inuvik's residential school days.

Recent years have been a very trying time for many Anglican communities; the desperate need for Ministers, Lay Readers and in some churches, a fuller congregation.

I know in my home community, the church desires to attract the younger people to the church. What once used to be the only formal institution in my childhood has become a foreign one for many; attracting them only for special occasions, funerals, and for Christmas or Easter.

We have a very big challenge ahead of us. Unfortunately, the challenge is far greater for some churches than for others. However, on a happier note...

Throughout 2012, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated around the world, particularly in the 54 Commonwealth countries which make up almost a quarter of the population of the world. This year actually marks the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. She became Queen at the age of 25 on Feb 6, 1952 following the death of her father King George VI.

In today's constitutional monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II is Queen of Canada and Canada's Head of State. She is the personal embodiment of the Crown in Canada.

This occasion is a time for Nunavummiut, and indeed all Canadians, to celebrate the contributions of our head of state and to reflect on our territory and nation's growth during her reign.

To mark the Diamond Jubilee I would like to present this framed photograph of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for St. Jude's Cathedral (on loan). An identical framed photograph will be later presented for permanent display at the church as it is being framed as we speak. On her Royal Visit in 1972, Queen Elizabeth turned the sod for the foundation of the original St. Jude's Cathedral.

I would also like to give each delegate a 60th anniversary Diamond Jubilee pin to commemorate this anniversary.

I wish you all a very successful Synod, a happy stay in Iqaluit and The Lord's Blessings in your deliberations.

Quana.