

update: December 13, 2007

NO MORE TURNING AWAY:
Responding to HIV/AIDS
HIV/AIDS Environmental Scan by the
Diocese of Toronto



Work continues on compiling the data gathered by Lynn Muir, Registered Nurse and project coordinator of a research initiative by the Diocese of Toronto exploring the spiritual and religious care needs and services of the HIV/AIDS community. Since October, as principal research coordinator, I have been transcribing focus group conversations from over 20 AIDS service organizations (ASO's). While the October target date for completion has long since passed, transcripts are revealing important themes which will contribute to the design and implementation of possible future spiritual and religious care programs. Realistically, I am hoping that a final report will be available towards the latter part of January 2008.

Using the findings of this environmental scan, it is the hope of the Diocese to partner with community ASO's in the development of a pilot project which would bring together the resources necessary for the provision of spiritual and religious care appropriate to the HIV/AIDS community.

May I say how pleased that this research project has been so warmly welcomed by all of the ASO's contacted. Overall, the HIV/AIDS community has been amazingly receptive to this project initiative. I know that the Diocese of Toronto hopes to continue its relationship with the Ontario AIDS Network and its partnership with the Philip Aziz Centre. On Nov. 28th, Bishop Colin Johnson was invited to speak at the Durham regions HIV/AIDS conference "Engaging Communities". Such activities reflect I believe the Mission and Vision statements of the Diocese of Toronto, adopted three years ago which places HIV/AIDS as one of three social justice and ministry priorities.

May I again extend my thanks to all who have participated. A consequence of the nature of confidentiality required by research such as this means I do not have contact names from each ASO. Hence the nature of this generic update.

Respectfully
Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon
Coordinator of Chaplaincy Services
416-363-6021 ext 236
dgraydon@toronto.anglican.ca