



The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Claude W. Miller, Bishop of Fredericton

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TO THE CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

Dear Friends in Christ,

In thanksgiving for the past, present and future ministries of camps Medley and Brookwood, I have pledged to 'walk the diocese' and raise at least \$50,000 for PWRDF in support of the fight against AIDS.

The issues we face in this diocese challenge us to do better on many fronts and we are privileged to work from positions of strength to address them. The issue of AIDS in Africa and other developing regions of the world, however, is a heartbreaking human tragedy of proportions so immense they are difficult to comprehend. I hope a profoundly moving video, which I will send to your deaneries to be shared with the parishes so you may show it to your people on April 30, will begin to put the situation into focus.

As much as I would like to actually walk the diocese and visit each parish along the way, that is logistically impossible. Instead, from early April until October, I will log the distance of my morning prayer walks -- about seven kilometres -- against the 500 kilometre diagonal distance across the diocese. I will sponsor myself financially and several others have also offered generous pledges to my Walk-a-Thon. My dear wife, Sharon, is also participating and is already ahead of me in kilometres and pledges.

I would greatly appreciate your help and support as well.

I encourage you to enter into the spirit of this lifesaving and lifegiving endeavour. Parish-based walking activities, that I am sure would be generously supported by the entire community, will not only raise the essential funds to combat AIDS in Africa, but are golden opportunities for fellowship and community-building.

In the fall, we will plan archdeaconry events throughout the diocese and at each one, I will collect the pledges and the stories generated by the walks. In mid-October I will present the offerings, hopefully totally \$50,000 to national PWRDF representatives when they gather for their annual general meeting in Fredericton.

Please share this with your wardens and Corporation and encourage your parish's participation.

I beg your prayers and your active support of this effort in the name of the one who comforts and heals us all.

Sincerely in Christ,

Claude W. Miller
Bishop of Fredericton

CWM/pc