



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE MOST REVEREND FRANK T. GRISWOLD
PRESIDING BISHOP AND PRIMATE

October, 2005

For the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition

Dear Friends in Christ:

During the month of October, the Episcopal Church dedicates itself to the global fight against HIV/AIDS, and we designate October 16, 2005 as a *National Day of Prayer for HIV/AIDS*. It is during this period of time that we are invited to reflect upon our profound sense that when one member of the body suffers, all suffer, as the Apostle Paul tells us.

During October, we have an opportunity to examine how our lives and witness might help eradicate HIV/AIDS, and to recommit ourselves to prevention efforts that must be encouraged and promoted both domestically and internationally. Millions of people worldwide have been impacted by the scourge of HIV/AIDS, and statistics now indicate that half of those infected with HIV each year are under the age of 25.

The Episcopal Church is working, through our Office of Government Relations, Episcopal Relief and Development, and the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition to fight the spread of this devastating disease. Our church strives to combine compassion with action through outreach ministries and social justice programs, and we will continue to do so.

It is my hope that the community of the faithful will renew its commitment to stand with those who live with HIV/AIDS and the families and friends who love them. May we also pray for caregivers and advocates whose empowering work inspires us to bear one another's burdens in fidelity to Christ. Through personal and corporate support, educational efforts, and prayers, we remember that anything is possible with God as our hope and our strength.

With prayers and best wishes I remain

Yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold
Presiding Bishop and Primate

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER