

Provincial Council 2004

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

This report is submitted to the Acting Metropolitan and the Officers and Members of Provincial Council under a number of headings as follows:

Cathedral

Within a few days of the meeting of Provincial Synod last year, the roof blew off the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax! Hurricane Juan lifted the roof over the tower rising above the transept and hurled in into a nearby parking lot at the Nova Scotia Rehab Centre. The Cathedral was flooded and all the hardwood floor in the nave was ruined. For three months Sunday and mid-week services had to be held in Worrell Hall of the Diocesan Centre. This actually proved to be a good experience for the Cathedral Congregation in terms of growing closer together as a community of faith. Meanwhile restoration work proceeded.

The original flat roof over the tower was replaced by a pyramid style. The hardwood floors were replaced with slate. The pews were replaced with chairs. And the font was moved to a place of prominence in the midst of a large open area behind the chairs in the nave -- a vivid reminder as often as we enter and leave the Cathedral of who we are and what we are called to be about in the world as the baptized people of God.

Labourers and members of the Congregation worked day and night to get the building back into useable condition, and it was our delight to be back in it for the first time for the services on Christmas Eve!

The South Lawn Project **“Chapter House”**

Outside the Cathedral there is a construction site! The Dean & Chapter has leased the south lawn of the Cathedral property for 75 years to a developer. Greenwood Lanes, Inc. is constructing a 42-unit, high-end apartment complex to be known as Chapter House. The first floor will be professional office suites and the three above it the apartments. All parking will be underground. The building is designed to compliment the Cathedral. It will be constructed of pre-cast stone in keeping with the stonework of the Cathedral. Between the two buildings there will be a beautifully groomed green area. Construction is proceeding right on schedule with an expected date for occupants next June.

Chapter House will generate \$80,000.00 a year for the Dean & Chapter. These monies will be reserved for the on-going restoration and re-furbishing of the Cathedral. We hope a major amount of that work will be done in time for the Centenary of the opening of the Cathedral in 1910. As it was opened in conjunction with a meeting of the General Synod, we hope that Synod might meet in Halifax in 2010!

The Election of Consecration of our Suffragan Bishop

On November 22, 2003, The Rev'd Canon Sue Moxley, Rector of St. Mark's Church in Halifax, was elected to be our Suffragan Bishop. She was consecrated bishop on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a wonderful celebration for the Church! Along with

our then Metropolitan, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, all the bishops in office in the Province were present. We were also delighted to welcome the retired Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Arthur Peters; a number of bishops from across the country representing Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Keewatin, Toronto and Saskatoon; the Bishop of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the General Secretary, Jim Boyles; the Prolocutor of General Synod, Dorothy Fiendell-Davies; the Director of Partnerships, Dr. Ellie Johnson; the Director of Faith, Worship and Ministry, The Rev'd Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan; and members of the Joint Commission for Full Communion between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. The preacher was The Right Reverend Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine. Along with all the usual rites and ceremonies for ordaining a bishop, this service included a talk with the children present, a youth choir and a recessional complete with noisemakers and dance!

Sue has adjusted to her new ministry in the Church very well, and she and I enjoy a good working relationship in keeping with a Covenant in Ministry.

A Covenant in Ministry

Bishop Sue Moxley and I, in consultation with a third party, determined that we should have a Covenant in Ministry. We did some preliminary work with respect to our roles and responsibilities and then met with a representative group of clergy and laity to complete the document. It contains . . .

- ✘ A brief Overview of the Nature of the Ministry of Oversight.
- ✘ A Statement of Responsibilities we carry out in accord with the order of ministry to which we are ordained and the particular offices in which we have been installed.
- ✘ Statement of how we will support one another as colleagues in ministry.
- ✘ Statement, on behalf of the Clergy and Laity, indicating ways by which they will “support and uphold us in this ministry”.
- ✘ Pledge to review this Covenant in a year’s time.

The Covenant was read publicly and signed at our Synod Service on May 13th.

The College of Clergy

There have been a number of initiatives in nurturing collegiality among the clergy, which include:

- ✘ An invitation to attend all ordinations; to robe and process with their colleagues in support of those making the very vows they themselves are endeavouring to fulfill.
- ✘ A Mentoring Program that links newly-ordained persons with those seasoned in parish ministry.
- ✘ A time for check-in at each meeting of Clericus.
- ✘ Quiet Days and Continuing Education events.

In Advent 2003, Bishop Bill Hockin conducted a Quiet Day for the clergy, focusing in on the Christmas Narratives of Luke and Matthew.

In September 2003, we had planned a Continuing Education event with a focus on Confirmation, led by The Rev'd Dr. Richard Leggett of Vancouver School of Theology, but Hurricane Juan blew that out of the water! We hope Richard can come sometime this year.

- ✘ The Annual Gathering for the Renewal of Ordination Vows. We have found that holding this event on the eve of Holy Week rather than during that week has enabled many more clergy to participate. Typically we gather on Thursday evening for a program, some "Time with the Bishops", a social and Compline. And then on Friday morning we gather "in quiet" in the Cathedral in preparation for the eucharist which includes the Renewal of Ordination Vows. This year the retired Bishop of Saskatoon, Tom Morgan, led us in our time of quiet.
- ✘ A reminder in each clergy mailing of the value of collegiality and mention of some practical way by which we can support and encourage one another in the ministry entrusted to us.

The Bishop's Commission on Clergy Health and Well-Being

Chaired by Bishop Sue Moxley, this Commission is charged with implementing a plan of action for addressing a number of recommendations from a task force that, in large measure, gathered and reflected on information from the clergy of the diocese, a number of laity and several other dioceses that have done significant work on the topic of clergy health and well-being.

Three interesting questions provided a lot of the "grist for the mill":

- 1) What is the diocese doing to promote clergy health and well-being?
What could it be doing?
- 2) What is the parish doing . . . ?
What could it be doing?
- 3) What are you doing for your own health and well-being?
What could you be doing?

Diocesan Synod: "One Body in the One Lord"

That was the theme for this year's Synod, May 13th-15th in Halifax. The Synod opened with a gathering liturgy in which representatives from each parish brought forward the gift of a loaf of bread, filling many baskets at the front of the auditorium. In and of itself it was a vivid symbol of the truth so well expressed in the much-loved communion hymn . . .

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
One cup of blessing which we bless;
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.*

Later that afternoon, our deacons and a number of other members of Synod distributed most of the bread to soup kitchens, breakfast program locations and shelters in the city for those who are hungry.

Drawn together by these outward and visible signs, the Synod then turned its attention to issues that impact our life together in Christ -- in the diocese, in the Anglican Church of Canada and in our Worldwide Communion.

In the Diocese:

- We considered a Report from the task force for *Renewing Our Vision* with a focus on Healthy Congregations, the Making of Disciples, Youth Ministry and Better Ways of Communication.
- We witnessed the unveiling of the theme for our Capital Campaign -- *Leap for Faith* (further information is included under the next heading in this report).
- We were engaged by a stirring address on the subject of Healthy Congregations. The Rev. Alice Mann, our Consultant from the Alban Institute, spoke to the five marks of a healthy congregation
 - i. The members know who they are before God.
 - ii. They know what they are called to do.
 - iii. They have the resources to do it.
 - iv. People experience the power of the Gospel in worship and in witness.
 - v. The activities of the congregation are making a difference in the lives of individuals and of the community.
- We were challenged by a rather sobering report on the subject of Allotment -- our fair share in the support of the work of the wider Church in the diocese, across the Church and in the General Synod.

In the Anglican Church of Canada:

- We heard a report of the major issues coming before the General Synod.
- We were engaged by a presentation on the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions, including time in discussion groups. All of the feedback was recorded -- something of a sketch of where we are with respect to this issue.

In the Worldwide Communion:

- We heard a very moving report on the pandemic of AIDS in Africa. Ann Kilby, our Coordinator for PWRDF, challenged us to "Pledge to Make a Difference", to support the PWRDF Initiative for "A Generation Without AIDS".
- We entered a Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Manicaland in Zimbabwe. We were blessed by the good company of the bishop, Sebastian Bakare, and two very active members of the Mothers' Union in that diocese, Sonja and Portia. Each of them addressed Synod, speaking of the many challenges their diocese faces in the midst of much suffering as a result of AIDS. Many of us were moved to tears when Sonja told of a moment when she was asked the question, "In the face of so much suffering, how do you remain so joyful?" She responded, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . Behold the dwelling of God is with His people. He will dwell with them and they shall be His people and God himself shall be with them. God will wipe away

every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4)

Following the signing of the Companion Relationship document, we exchanged gifts. We received an ivory bust of Bernard Mizeki, Catechist and Martyr in Zimbabwe (1896), and we gave a chalice and paten set - locally made - as a sign of the grace that we are one body in the Lord

Plans are now being considered for a delegation from our diocese to visit Manicaland next year; possibly in connection with the annual commemoration of Mizeki martyrdom in June.

Synod in 2005

The Region of Prince Edward Island is hosting Synod next year, and the theme will be **Building Bridges
Leap for Faith**

That is the theme of our Capital Campaign to raise the funds necessary to . . .

- a) Fulfill our \$1.2 Million commitment to the Settlement Fund of \$25 Million negotiated between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Federal Government with respect to capping litigation arising from abuse in the Residential Schools.
- b) Resource new initiatives discerned through the work of *Renewing Our Vision* as a diocese; including funding for:
 - A staff position in Stewardship and Congregational Development.
 - A Coordinator for Youth Ministry in the diocese.
 - A partnership with Atlantic School of Theology for training men and women, ordained and lay for transformational leadership in the Church.
 - Improved communication through information technology for all parishes.
 - On-going restoration and refurbishing of the Cathedral Church.
 - The building up of our Growth for Ministry Fund through which we provide seed money for new ministries and support community projects that would not otherwise get off the paper
 - The establishing of an Endowment Fund that will ensure long-term funding for all the good works this Campaign serves.

Professional counsel for the Campaign is provided by RBR. Our Co-chairs, Honorary Chair and Cabinet are in place, and we are in the midst of the Quiet Phase, cultivating and inviting pace-setting, lead and major gifts before the launch of the Every-Member Phase of the Campaign. The Campaign target is currently set at \$3.3 Million, but we are optimistic that, through generous gifts in the Quiet Phase, we will be able to raise our sights to \$5 Million -- a significant leap for faith

Youth Ministry

This ministry continues to be a high priority for the diocese. To that end, we are pleased to report that . . .

- TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) has had its 10th Weekend.
- We now host an annual conference for youth. In 2003 the theme was Am . . . Christian and its focus was what does it mean to be Christian. The theme for this year conference, “JUSTICE: Joining United, Steering Toward Identity in Christ Eternal”, calls on youth to consider the many works of faith and mercy, compassion and justice to which the Lord calls them.
- We have identified the funding of a full-time position in Coordinating Youth Ministry through our Capital Campaign. And, in the meantime, through Diocesan Synod, every parish is challenged to set aside \$500.00 in this year budget to seed money for this position.

Through Anglicans in Mission in the 0 , we funded a staff position in Youth Ministry. Once again we are challenged after many years of talking about the need for funding youth ministry to ut our money where our mouth is to ut our treasure where our heart is

Parish Amalgamation/Team Ministries

In several areas of the diocese, neighbouring parishes have been engaged in conversations leading to amalgamation. In Pictou Country three parishes are working as a combined unit with a Ministry Team of two Associate Rectors, two Non-Stipendiary Priests and a number of Lay Readers. In Sydney four parishes have come together with a Ministry Team of two Associate Rectors and several Lay Readers. In Glace Bay and Area three parishes are awaiting the appointment of a second priest to create a Ministry Team. In the Annapolis Region three parishes are coming together with the hope of establishing a Team Ministry. And four parishes in Halifax are beginning to talk about working much more closely together. These conversations and the arrangements emerging from them are borne of Bible Study, the asking of serious questions, the dreaming of dreams and principals of good stewardship. I have been closely involved in the discussions and have provided through my Executive Assistant a considerable amount of staff support for helping the parishes address the tough questions about property, finances and personnel.

Retreat and Renewal Centre

With the sale of the Motherhouse for the Sisters of Charity in Halifax, we are challenged by the need for meeting space, especially gatherings of a residential nature. An enthusiastic group of people have been exploring the possibility of acquiring a piece of land in a rural area (somewhere in the corridor between Halifax and Truro) on which we would build a facility of our own. We would build something large enough to accommodate 100 people thus meeting needs for conference as well as retreats. We envision a complex built around a central worship space. And we hope to have it staffed for use year-round. The plans are very much in the conception stage at this point. Funding will be the major challenge, but we are optimistic that once plans are approved, there will be a number of donors who will give very generous gifts in support of the ministry such a facility would provide for the diocese.

Keewatin

We continue to enjoy a Companion Relationship with the Diocese of Keewatin. The bishop, The Right Rev David Ashdown, visited the diocese for a Special Synod called to consider our commitment to the Settlement Fund. His Executive Assistant, The Rev Cathy Giroux, the Diocesan Archdeacon, Larry

Beardy, along with his wife Elizabeth, and The Rev s Richard and Nancy Gruyere attended Synod in 2003, at which time we signed a Covenant. Last summer two of our clergy, Carl and Gloria Fraser attended the William Winter School for training clergy and laity, located in Kingfisher Lake. This year several women from Keewatin attended our ACW Annual in Charlottetown in May. And in July Lynne and I made a visit to Keewatin and took in a double wedding, an ordination service at which I preached with a translator, a liturgy in English and a trip by boat to the William Winter School where I spoke about the work of our Faith Worship and Ministry Committee. Then we spent a few days with Bishop Ashdown and his wife in Kenora on the Lake of the Woods.

These kind of visits are the very stuff of which companion relationships are made. We learn from one another and are enriched by one another culture, heritage and tradition.

Atlantic School of Theology

This Spring the Board of Governors announced the appointment of The Rev Canon Eric Beresford as the new President of AST. He assumes responsibilities on December 1, 2004.

As many of you know, Eric worked with the Faith, Worship and Ministry Department of our National Office. With his expertise in Ethics, he also serves the Communion Office in London, England. It will be our pleasure to welcome Eric as our new President and to welcome him into the College of Clergy. His wife, Janet Marshall, has done program work for a number of years in Toronto; specifically in the area of Congregational Health and Vitality, and we look forward to the expertise and experience she brings to our diocese as well.

In December, Lynne and I along with Bishop Sue and Bruce are hosting an t Home to formally welcome Eric and Janet to our diocesan family.

Let Sanja Stay!

Sanja Pecelj fled to Serbia when her native country of Kosovo was destroyed during NATO 78-day bombing. She took a position as a translator with the United Nations, and for a time worked at the Pearson International Peacekeeping Centre in Cornwall, N.S. While here she claimed refugee status, but her application was denied. In the face of deportation to Serbia, she sought sanctuary in St. Mark Anglican Church in Halifax. There she prepared with her lawyer an application for Immigration on Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds. In June her application was denied and she was ordered to leave Canada.

Through considerable public pressure involving petitions, postcard campaign, a Town Hall meeting, and resolutions from various groups including one from our General Synod, the Department of Immigration granted her a 60-day reprieve from sanctuary. Having been in St. Mark Church for 441 days, she has enjoyed the last two months living with Bishop Sue and Bruce Moxley. Near the end of the reprieve period a news conference was held with her lawyer, Lee Cohen. It was reported that there had been no intention on the part of the Department of Immigration to review Sanja case. However, she and her lawyer channeled their energy in another direction.

She has completed her application for Immigration through the Provincial Nominee Program. She has been advised that she must still make application for immigration from another country with a Canadian Embassy office. At the time of writing this report, five countries have been identified -- U.S., Italy, Mexico, France and Austria. Sanja will go to one of those countries and may be there between four and eight months awaiting the processing of her application.

Sanja's struggle to stay in Canada is not over. She needs our support and our prayers. All of us are committed to working with her and the Department of Immigration to secure her immigration into Canada.

Sanja's case is a stark reminder to all of us of the need for a thorough review of Canada's Immigration Policy and, in calling that review, the Church should take a lead role. Perhaps the Minister of Immigration's desire to meet with Church leaders to discuss the subject of sanctuary will be a starting point!

Please pray for us as we seek to be more Christ-centered and mission-minded.

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Reverend Fred J. Hiltz