

**Diocese of Central Newfoundland
Report to Provincial Council
September 2005**

The Diocese held an Electoral Synod in September 2004 but did not elect a bishop and the Diocesan Executive requested that the Rt. Rev. Edward Marsh become Episcopal Administrator of the Diocese until December 31, 2005. An Electoral Synod has been called for September 9th & 10th, at which time we would pray the Holy Spirit lead us to elect a Diocesan Bishop. We would hope that the bishop will be consecrated and installed at St. Martin's Cathedral on St Andrew's Day.

In the past year we have been involved a number of projects and initiatives, including the following:

The Parish of Windsor - Bishop Falls is supporting a refugee family, from Sierra Leone consisting of a husband, wife, husband's younger brother, and three small children. The father is an amputee, having lost a leg as a result of the war. He speaks halting English but is learning and the family seems to be fitting in; in the Windsor congregation and in the wider community.

Representatives from our Companion Diocese Committee visited Belize, spending time with clergy and lay people both in Belize City and around nearby rural areas. The Committee visited several schools run by the Anglican Church as well as a prison run by another church group. The Diocese hopes to provide school supplies to the Diocese of Belize, and help build a more meaningful relationship between some of our Sunday Schools and schools in Belize.

The Diocese sponsored a preaching school conducted by The Rt. Rev. Bill Hockin, retired bishop of Fredericton. The clergy attending were mainly from the Central Diocese but there were a number of participants from both the Diocese of Western and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. We feel a need to be more intentional in planning educational events in which people from the three Newfoundland and Labrador Dioceses can participate.

The Diocesan Clergy met for a day to discuss issues relating to blessings of committed same sex unions. We used a resource produced by the Diocese of Algoma. The clergy found the resource very helpful and an open and respectful conversation resulted. One of the main results of the day was to reinforce our need to act in unity as a diocese.

We have encouraged all clergy in their parishes to use this or other resources to give opportunity for respectful conversation in their parishes and to help parishioners become more knowledgeable regarding the issues and the processes the church is following.

In June, our Primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison along with the Ven. Paul Feheley, his principle secretary, visited McCallum, Gaultios and Hermitage, helping the congregations in McCallum and Hermitage celebrate anniversaries. We are grateful to the Department of Transportation which permitted changes in ferry schedules to accommodate the visit. This is the first visit by a Primate to this region of Newfoundland. Following his visit to the Parish of Hermitage the Primate visited the Parish of St. Mary's Clarenville where he preached at a Parish Eucharist and spent a morning with clergy of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland.

In addition to these events we continued our usual programming schedule of youth camps, men's and women's events, Cursillo, Lay Minister's conferences. We hope, each year, to provide a variety of opportunities for members of the Diocese to exercise their ministry and to receive ministry, and pray that led by the Holy Spirit we will continue to develop our Diocesan ministry.