

Diocesan Report to Provincial Council

During the period under review (2003-2005) the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador experienced significant change as the Right Reverend D.F. Harvey retired as Diocesan Bishop and the Right Reverend Cyrus Pitman assumed that role. Coupled with that transition was the appointment of the Venerable Geoff Peddle as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop and Executive Archdeacon, as well as the retirement of Mrs. Barbara Khan from her position as Secretary to the Bishop after 24 years.

Presently, all parishes with the diocese are staffed by clergy and the diocese does not foresee any difficulty in filling future vacancies. The combination of anticipated ordinations (largely from graduates of Queen's College), and the continuing interest from clergy of other dioceses in transferring into the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador will likely ensure that staffing issues remain a minor concern.

In May of 2005 Diocesan Synod was held in Upper Island Cove on the theme 'One Flock, One Shepherd'. Significant discussion had already taken place within the diocese around the future of the church and how that future will look as birthrates decline and the population of our diocese continues to shift from many rural locations to fewer and much larger urban settings. This discussion was reflected at synod in a "Ministry Plan" brought forward from the Diocesan Stewardship Committee that was then adopted as a guiding document for our diocese for the next two years. The plan will focus considerable energy upon issues of stewardship and leadership so that emerging parish and diocesan structures may better serve all the members of our church.

One notable development within the diocese in 2005 was a series of ongoing discussions among parishes around the question of how they might share in ministry together. Significantly, all the Anglican churches in St. John's met to discuss this topic, and there were similar discussions outside of St. John's.

At synod in 2005, Dr. Eileen Scully, a consultant for the Anglican Church of Canada, also spoke on our rich traditions as Anglicans. A handout was circulated to all delegates as a guide to Dr. Scully's presentation. She asked Synod to consider two questions:

1. What is one thing you celebrate about your parish's ministry to the world?
2. What is a gift that you bring from your parish to the common mission of this Diocese?

In June of 2005, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador eagerly awaited a visit of the Primate following similar visits to both the Western and Central Dioceses.