

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

Diocese **Central Newfoundland**

Year 2006

Description of the Diocese *(statistical data from the Anglican yearbook, demographics, uniqueness, etc)*

Founded in 1976, when the Diocese of Newfoundland was reorganized. Our Diocese covers 27,000 sq. miles, and roughly runs up the Burin Peninsula along the Trans Canada and into Buchans, in Newfoundland's interior. It includes the south coast of Newfoundland from the Parish of Fortune, Lamaline on the tip of the Burin Peninsula to McCallum in the Parish of Hermitage and the north east coast from Clarenville & Random Island to Twillingate Island and Moreton's Harbour. Six of our Parishes involve travel by boat. Travel and ministry are affected by ice conditions in the winter and spring along the north east coast while the south coast is ice free.

Most of our parishes are multi point rural parishes. Our largest parish in area and number of congregations is Bay L'Argent with eight congregations peppered for approximately 90 km along both sides of the Burin Peninsula. Eighteen of our thirty two parishes have four or more congregations.

There is an Anglican population of approximately 33,500 residing in 32 parishes served by 34 parish clergy the bishop and executive officer.

The Diocese helps provide Chaplaincy services in three regional hospitals in the Diocese through a cost sharing arrangement with the parish in which the hospital is located. The Diocese provides one third the basic stipend and travel for the second clergy in the Parish of Gander and the Parish of Grand Falls/Windsor as well as one third the rector's salary in the Parish of Smith Sound. In turn the Parish provides one third a clergy unit for chaplaincy to the regional hospital in their parish.

The three Newfoundland Dioceses fund and provide a university chaplain at the main MUN campus.

Good News Stories /Highlights /Initiatives *(brief description of three - five)*

Strategic Planning

Our Diocese has begun a Strategic Planning review. Our 2006 Diocesan Synod lead us through a review process and it is intended that the clergy and delegates will lead their parish through a similar process. Parish reports are due in at the end of November with a draft report scheduled to be presented to the Executive early in 2007. Our plan is to have a final report ready for discussion and acceptance at the 2007 Diocesan Synod. It is intended that this process will help us focus our ministry and work over the next few years, helping us discern where God is calling and enabling us to be more effective in ministry as diocese, as congregation, and as parishioner.

Planned Amalgamation of Congregations

The Parish of Fogo Island East has received permission from the Diocese to close their four parish churches and build a single parish church in a central location.. While the three congregations have been financially viable and probably could remain at least marginally so for some time, the rector and parish council have shown courage, faith and initiative in moving in this direction at this time. There has been great support in the parish and while all other financial commitments continue to be met the parish is collecting \$2,000.00 to \$2,500.00 monthly toward their new church They hope to begin construction in the summer of 2007.

Residential Settlement Fund

Every Parish in our Diocese and every ACW branch has supported the Diocesan effort and we have remained current in meeting financial commitments to the Fund without cutting funding to other Diocesan Programs and Ministries. There has been a very deep and inspiring level of support throughout the Diocese which speaks very highly of our lay and clergy leadership on the parish level

Challenges /Issues *(brief commentary on the greatest challenge in your diocese)*

For many years in our Diocese we have been spared the worst affects of out migration. Most of the people leaving our communities were the youth and young families who, unfortunately, were not our core supporters. Of late, however, while our finances are holding relatively steady there seems to be a growing out migration of middle aged and older families who recognize that their children and grand children will not be returning soon and will be building lives in Alberta and Ontario.

Ministry is changing as traditional family and neighborly supports for the remaining population diminishes. This provides both challenges and opportunities for congregations to provide ministry and services in communities.

How do we best provide ministry in our changing parishes, what forms will that ministry take, how will it be resourced? What are the implications for the relationships among the three Newfoundland and Labrador Dioceses? Where are our opportunities for new and innovative ministry, where are the areas to grow excitement, passion and vision?

The biggest challenge will be to avoid thinking of doing more with less and rather to move out in faith and with the certainty that God is calling us to build new ministries, challenging ministries, innovative ministries, requiring greater commitment and greater levels of resources, not less!

Opportunities/Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses *(possible resources, policy development)*

There has been a suggestion that the three Newfoundland Dioceses need to review the restructuring of 1976, which created the three Newfoundland Dioceses. We need to develop some terms of reference for that and perhaps develop a new relationship among the three Newfoundland & Labrador Dioceses which may assist other dioceses develop mutually supportive mechanisms and support structures

We already have the “ Joint Committee” which oversees properties, structures and programs which the three Newfoundland & Labrador Dioceses hold in common; Queen’s College, The Anglican Life Tri Diocesan Paper, Health and Property Insurance. With some experience and a level of trust established through working together, it will be worthwhile for us to explore possibilities in shared Diocesan and Episcopal ministries as well as sharing resources and ministries.

Some ways your Diocese can contribute to the Provincial Structure and how the Ecclesiastical Province can support your Diocese.

The three Newfoundland Diocese may be helpful to the provincial Structure by piloting new ways of working together and sharing programs and resources.

There was a time that Diocesan Finance Officers of the Province met occasionally. This, as well as meetings of Executive Officers, would be particularly helpful in that it establishes supportive relationships as well as help those who deal with administration and finances share insights and expertise. The Ecclesiastical Province can be helpful to all the dioceses by sponsoring such gatherings periodically, perhaps in conjunction with Provincial Synod or Council.