

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Description of the Diocese

With its Cathedral and Diocesan Synod Office located in the provincial capital of St. John's, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador has nearly 50,000 members on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland (32 parishes) and most of Labrador (6 parishes).

Good News Stories /Highlights /Initiatives

Our diocese continues to develop its existing programs with an emphasis upon congregational development and stewardship. With the adoption of a new Diocesan Ministry Plan in 2005 that specifically called for enhanced congregational development and stewardship education, there has been new energy for these initiatives throughout the diocese. The diocese has also adopted a new Stewardship Manual and this fall will adopt a new Diocesan Handbook to assist clergy and parishes in education and administration.

Challenges /Issues

The Diocese is currently working on a plan to deal with the impact of shifting demographics as more and more of the Newfoundland population resides on the Avalon Peninsula. A declining birthrate and very significant out-migration to other parts of Canada also present challenges to parishes (particularly in the rural areas) as they seek ways to provide effective ministry in the future.

Opportunities/Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses

The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador shares with the Diocese of Central Newfoundland and the Diocese of Western Newfoundland the responsibility for the operation of Queen's College. All three diocese also share in the administration of health and financial matters through the Joint Committee that meets twice yearly. It has been suggested that the website for the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada could be further developed to include a section from each diocese with relevant policy manuals and documents from each that could then be easily accessed by all.

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

Through existing structures and mechanisms for communication.