

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Diocesan Report**

Diocese WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND **Year** 2006

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

Parishes - 32 *
Congregations - 80
Total Membership - 25,000
Average Sunday attendance - 3,481
Identifiable givers - 8,421

*One-point parishes - 9
2 -3 point parishes - 13
Active parish clergy - 30
Retired (including those living in the diocese those on disability) - 12
On leave and living in the diocese - 1
Vocational Deacons - 3

ACW membership 1,182
Other women's group membership - 191
Men's group membership - 197
Mixed adult group membership (Bible Study and Prayer groups) - 287
Youth Group membership - 261
Sunday School membership 1,028

Baptisms - 344
Confirmations - 238
Weddings - 162
Funerals - 307
Reception from other denominations - 7
(Stats not available but note that many weddings and baptisms are of people living outside the province)

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

1. Youth Conference held April 2006; approx 100 youth and youth leaders gathered to address the youth ministry. Motion came to Spring Synod asking the diocese to sponsor an annual youth event. Motion carried.
2. Diocese is in the early stages of Letting Down the Nets. A condition of the agreement was for the diocese to engage a half-time stewardship officer; diocese to make that a full time position with programming filling the other half.
3. Diocese pursues the concept of Baptismal Ministry; Cathedral parish currently planning a fall event.

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

The diocese continues to witness the effects of the cod moratorium of 1992. Rural parishes are beginning to witness the long-term effects. While statistically we show more baptisms than funerals one must bear in mind that many native Newfoundlanders and Labradorians come home for weddings and baptisms.

The tenuous nature of fish-plant operating licenses make for an uncertain future for some outport communities.

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

1. Since the cessation of programming on the National Church level in 1994 the diocese has been left to its own devices for many aspects of programming. The time, energy and cost required to create programmes for the various elements of ministry are prohibitive.

Would the dioceses within the province consider sharing innovations and resources?

2. New models of ministry and training programmes have been explored, introduced and tested locally, nationally and globally. Some models have emerged which relate to Eastern Canada while others do not.

Do we have sufficient common ground to share our experiences on a provincial level?

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