

**The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada**  
**Diocesan Report**  
**Diocese : Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island**  
**Year: 2007**

**Description of the Diocese**

The Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island encompasses the two geographic provinces named. Established in 1787 (as the Diocese of Nova Scotia) and situated on Canada's east coast, ours is the oldest of seven dioceses forming the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada. The Most Rev'd Fred J. Hiltz, the fourteenth Diocesan Bishop of this Diocese, was elected Primate at General Synod 2007. We will elect a new diocesan bishop on October 20, 2007.

Our Suffragan Bishop is the Rt. Rev'd. Sue Moxley.

The Diocese has two cathedrals: The Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, Nova Scotia to which the Synod Offices are adjacent, and St. Peter's Cathedral, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The Cathedral Church of All Saints has had an Interim Minister, The Rev. Robert Richmond, appointed for 18 months, while the Cathedral congregation does an extensive visioning process. That is nearing completion and the Congregational Council plans to unveil their new vision in the Fall of 2007. The we will search for a new Dean with the skills to implement the vision

Statistics: (Based on 2006 reports)

101 pastoral units (parishes), within 14 regions and 10 archdeaconries.

Total members: 20,000

Baptized communicants on parish rolls: 13,900

Identifiable givers: 6,200

Total Non-retired fulltime clergy: 91 (does not include those on leave)

Total retired clergy: 94 (11 non-canonically resident)

6 military chaplains, 3 health care chaplains, 2 full-time clergy faculty at the Atlantic School of Theology, 1 Chaplain at Mission to Seafarers, 1 FT University Chaplain

Non-Stipendiary: 20 priests; 7 Deacons.

**Good News Stories/ Highlights/ Initiatives**

**Leap for Faith** Capital Campaign: Total to date of \$2.83 million.

The great news is that folks who have completed their pledges are signing up again!

The **Fresh Start** program is growing in the Diocese, with 6 clergy and six lay people trained as Fresh Start facilitators. A further 4 clergy and two lay people will attend the October 2007 training session in Ontario. Currently four clergy groups are underway and the first sessions for lay peoples will begin in Fall 2007.

**Youth Ministry** Co-Coordinator, Michael Janz, is networking with youth across the two provinces and involved in planning "Generation 2008"- the national youth leadership event. In a new venture, he mentored 6 youth for a Habitat for Humanity build in Lower Sackville, NS this past summer. A new parish-based approach "Mentoring Congregations for Youth Involvement" will begin in 2008 with 4 pilot parishes.

Following the report of the **Letting Down the Nets** Consultants (June 2006), action was taken by Diocesan Council (September 2007) to form 3 study groups.

- The Communications Task Group reported to Diocesan Council in June 2007.
- The Allotment Task Group is now acting on its recommendations to Diocesan Council. They have recommended a simpler process and consideration of the size of the Diocesan Budget.
- The Organizational Effectiveness study results will be presented to Diocesan Council in October 2007 but we have heard already clear concerns about the complexity and size of our structures.

Each of these is already improving how we work across the diocese. This is good because these were the problem areas that were potential threats to the success of our Stewardship Program, “Companions on a Journey”. The Stewardship Resource Development Group has been meeting monthly, developing resources (e.g. “Vision 2010”), doing workshops to build lay leadership in Stewardship, educating through the Netnews (our diocesan electronic newsletter), and sending potential leaders to workshops in other places. This already producing good results in the 7 regions who have engaged the process.

Allotment arrears, which had climbed to 1.9 million dollars since all debt was forgiven in 2000, were tackled through a series of visits by members of our **Parish Relations** Committee to parishes. This has proven very beneficial to the parishes in most difficulty and to the Diocese in improving the income. Educational sessions by the bishops about how allotment money is used have also been well-received.

### **Challenges/ Issues**

- population shifts around the diocese from rural and coastal areas to Halifax Regional Municipality and Alberta! Some congregations are dwindling in population and others are bursting at the seams.
- We have enough postulants to keep up with retirements until 2010. Then there will be a large number of retirements. How do we plan for this?

### **Opportunities/ Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses**

Joint approach to socio-economic issues across the Ecclesiastical Province e.g. environment, fisheries, farming, energy  
Joint approach to Theological Education is now underway. This is a good start.  
Provincial Interfaith Commission has made a start at conversation.

### **Some ways our Diocese can contribute to the Provincial Structure:**

#### **Contributions that we can offer**

- Stewardship resources on our web site
- Examples of covenants in ministry;
- Guideline on Healthy Parish Life on our web site
- Model for a ministry of reconciliation through the use of mediation and reconciliation advocates trained in conflict resolution.