

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

Diocese Central Newfoundland **Year** 2008

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

We have about 110 congregations in 32 parishes and an approximate Anglican population of 30,000. All but three of our parishes are on salt water. An increasing number of our residents work in Alberta or the North and are away from their families for a month or more at a time.

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

In June we consecrated a church in Leading Tickles. The original had been destroyed by fire. The congregation rallied and paid off their new building in about 5 years, long before mortgage and loan was due.

We have a parish planning to close four churches and build a new one. It is hoped that construction can begin this fall or spring.

Our Camping Season has been very successful, with numbers up at most events. We had approximately 130 women registered for our "Women's Weekend". Our camp really only accommodates 120

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

On the Bonavista Peninsula a distance of approximately 100 km from Bonavista to Clarenville we have 30 congregations as well as 30 churches in addition to rectories and church halls. A number of the churches are "historic" and are either the center of a an tourism venture ie St. Paul's, Trinity or there is a hope in the communities that they can become such.

Average Sunday attendance in 12 of those congregations is 10 or fewer, in 10 congregations it is between 11 and 20, in one it is 25, one 70, one 80, one 128 and one 200. Figures were not available for the other congregations. In this area there are two hospitals, two quite large seniors homes as well as numerous smaller seniors facilities. At present there are 8 clergy serving the area, 5 full time and three part time. There is a 1/3 chaplaincy unit funded by the Diocese. We are working on a process of discernment as to how we can most effectively provide ministry in this area

This is a situation not limited to the Bonavista Peninsula and a process we will have to undertake in the rest of the Diocese as demographics change.

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

We need to develop and share expertise in the area of rural ministry and ministry in small congregations.

We need to explore the possibility of a closer relationship/partnership between AST and Queen's College.

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