

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 (31 parishes) and covering most of Labrador (6 parishes).

Good News Stories /Highlights /Initiatives

Our most recent initiative is in the northern part of Labrador where we have now established a Memorandum of Agreement with the Moravian Church whereby the Anglican Church will offer clergy to staff some of their positions on the coast of Labrador, beginning at Hopedale. A search is now underway for appropriate personnel to fill these positions. This is in addition to the **Battle Harbour Mission Project** on the south coast of Labrador whereby a second Priest has been added to the parish for a two-year term to enhance ministry in that very challenging parish.

Clergy Sabbaticals: A growing edge for our diocese is in the area of clergy sabbaticals. In 2007 some of our clergy took sabbaticals of varying lengths to engage in studies at home and overseas ranging from genealogical surveys to doctoral research to travels around the Holy Land. This trend has continued in 2008 and we are now in the early planning stages for a group visit to the Holy Land for up to 40 of our clergy and their spouses in 2010.

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 (now about 50%). 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. A fall conference on Missions will discuss this challenge.

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 also share in the administration of health and financial matters through the Joint Committee that meets twice yearly. Anglican Joint Investments (AJI) also oversees shared investments for the three dioceses. The three Newfoundland and Labrador Bishops are also in conversation today about sharing a single Postulants Committee.

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. We are open to a serious conversation around the area of governance as identified at General Synod in 2007.