

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Diocesan Report
Diocese: Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
Year: 2008

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 Rt. Rev'd. Sue Moxley was elected diocesan bishop on October 20, 2007 and installed on November 23, 2008 in the Cathedral Church of All Saints. Our Suffragan Bishop is the Rt. Rev'd Ronald Cutler, elected May 23, 2008 and ordained on June 29, 2008.

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, who completed his term on August 31, 2008. The new Dean, Paul Smith, arrived on September 1, 2008.

Statistics: (Based on 2007 reports)

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

Total members: 20,000

Baptized communicants on parish rolls: 13,900

Identifiable givers: 6,200

Total Non-retired clergy: 171

Total retired clergy: 100 (10 non-canonically resident)

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

Non-Stipendiary: 23 priests; 10 Deacons.

Good News Stories/ Highlights/ Initiatives

Leap for Faith Capital Campaign: Total to date \$2,884,982.46. The great news is that folks who have completed their pledges are signing up again! We will begin our Bishops' Annual Appeal in spring of 2009.

The **Fresh Start** program is growing in the Diocese, with 10 clergy and eight lay people trained as Fresh Start facilitators. Ms Jackie Pidduck is the Coordinator for our Fresh Start programs which include groups for clergy who have recently moved and sessions for congregations who are in transition.

Youth Ministry: Our Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator, Michael Janz, was part of the leadership team for "Generation 2008"- the national youth leadership event. Our Diocese sent a team of team of 8 clergy and lay leaders (including Bishops Sue) to this excellent event. Michael has moved on to different work with youth and we are now revising the Job Description with an aim to hiring a new person in November 2008. Three regional Youth Workers are now in place in Cape Breton, the Valley and Metro Halifax to initiate and support work with youth. This has resulted in increased youth participation in these regions and their parishes.

Diocesan Council accepted the report of our Allotment Task Group and has taken steps to decrease the size of the Diocesan Budget. This has resulted in the closure of the Diocesan Book Room, reduction in two staff positions to half time and the elimination of some committees that had completed their work. This will decrease the amount requested from parishes to support the Diocesan Mission to 19% of parish income.

The Organizational Effectiveness report was also accepted by Diocesan Council and has begun to be implemented in stages. This has resulted in the reduction of the number of regions in the diocese in order to provide a larger population base from which to draw lay and clergy leadership to form a strong regional ministry team (Archdeacon, Regional Dean, Youth Worker, lay leaders in finance, administration and property).

Our Stewardship Program, “Companions on a Journey,” is experiencing great success. The leadership team has now engaged all of the regions of the Diocese except PEI. The most recent regional workshop had 65 lay and clergy participants engaged in seeing the big picture of stewardship, learning to tell their personal stewardship story, trying out Gospel based discipleship Bible Study, and beginning to engage with the question of how vision directs mission and the resources needed for it.

Challenges/ Issues

- Population shifts continue around the diocese from rural and coastal areas to Halifax Regional Municipality. Some congregations are dwindling in population and others are bursting at the seams. Two new church buildings are nearing completion and one congregation has closed its building, is now meeting in a school library while they seek an appropriate location in which to build.
- We have enough postulants to keep up with retirements until 2012. Then there will be a large number of retirements. It seems this will be true for many dioceses. How are we as a church planning 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 and experienced workshop leaders available
- 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.