

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada
Diocesan Report
Diocese : Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
Year: 2009

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, 2007 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 is currently under interior renovation to be ready for its 100th anniversary in 2010. The exterior has been completed. Our property development on the south of the Cathedral is working out well and providing significant funds for this restoration. Our Redevelopment plan on the north side of the Cathedral is currently under review by the powers that be and we hope to have news by the time of Synod.

Statistics: (Based on 2008 reports)

105 parishes, within 10 regions and 10 archdeaconries.

Total members: 20,000

Identifiable givers: 6,200

Rectors of parishes: 89

Total retired clergy: 89 (9 non-canonically resident)

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

Non-Stipendiary: 23 priests; 8 Deacons.

Good News Stories/ Highlights/ Initiatives

Bishops' Action Appeal was launched at Synod 2009. The major part of the campaign will take place in the fall. We are focusing on **Parish Ministry** (Lay leadership development, Congregational development, Reducing our environmental footprint); **Family Ministry** (Families with young children, Youth initiatives in regions, Young adult ministry I universities and colleges) and **Episcopal Ministry** (building an endowment to cover the costs of the Diocesan Bishop). The initial response is very good.

The **Fresh Start** program is growing in the Diocese.. 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. We have 8 clergy facilitators and 8 lay facilitators spanning a good portion of the diocese. We have 2

clergy groups running regularly. Program materials are being used in 2 regular Clericus groups. We have 2 congregational programs running and one more to start in the fall. There is a plan to begin the fresh Start in in PEI and CB in the fall.

Youth Ministry Our new Youth Ministry Co-Coordinator, Susan Naylor , began work on September 1, 2009. Her position is funded by the income from our Leap for Faith Capital Campaign. We look forward to Susan's work among us. Two regional Youth Workers are now in place in Cape Breton and the Valley. Metro Halifax has initiated a different ministry with youth through puppets. We look to see increased youth participation in these regions and their parishes.

Diocesan Council is continuing a process of lowering the request to parishes for allotment to finance the Diocesan Mission. This leaves more money in the parishes for local ministry and means that the Diocese must be more intentional about what work it funds. The Diocesan Council focuses on the Diocesan Vision and its strategies in making decisions about allocation of funding.

The Organizational Effectiveness implementation continues with training for leaders in regions in the diocese in order to form strong regional ministry teams (Archdeacon, Regional Dean, Youth Worker, lay leaders in finance, administration and property, renewal, Fresh Start, PWRDF).

Our Stewardship Program, "Companions on a Journey" is experiencing great success. The leadership team has now engaged all of the regions of the Diocese. All the material is available on our Diocesan web site under "Stewardship". This past winter we had one set of the regional workshops in Dartmouth recorded to produce DVD's for parishes to use as follow education in parishes. These are in the editing stage.

Challenges/ Issues

- population shifts continue around the diocese from rural and coastal areas to Halifax Regional Municipality . Some rural congregations are dwindling in population and others in metro are bursting at the seams. Two new church buildings were consecrated this past year, and one congregation has closed its building and is now meeting in a funeral home chapel while they seek an appropriate location in which to build.
- We have enough postulants for ordination 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 Province planning for this?

Opportunities/ Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses

A conversation about a joint approach to Theological Education is now underway especially around the formation of Deacons. This is a good start. Perhaps there are other parts of Theological Education that we could do better together. I think that each Diocese has a few Deacons. Perhaps a Province of Canada ongoing formation event for Deacons would be helpful.

An Ask & Imagine reunion could be a great event for the Province of Canada.

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
- Guidelines on Healthy Parish Life on our web site
- Covenants in Ministry as a tool for evaluation of ministry in a parish.