

The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada Diocesan Report

Diocese of Central Newfoundland -2010

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

Founded in 1976, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland's see city is Gander. The Geographical area encompasses 27,000square miles and the Anglican population is approximately 33,000. There are 32 parishes with 32 priests serving in parish ministry, and 2 serving non-parochial. 27 priests are retired. There are 330 Licensed Lay-ministers and 423 Eucharistic Assistants.

The Diocese is largely rural with most parishes having multiple points. The economy is fairly stable with many people working in resource based industries and others commuting to and from work on the main land. The population is aging and public school enrollment is declining.

Central Diocese is a close-nit Diocese and in many instances has the feel of an extended family. Diocesan gatherings such as Synods and conferences offer opportunity for people to catch up with one another and renew friendships.

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

- 1.) This past summer saw two rural parishes in our Diocese offer Vacation Bible Schools. Noteworthy is that more than one hundred young people participated in each of these VBSs which were almost entirely facilitated by scores of committed laity.
- 2.) Bonavista Parish hosted a Deanery Youth Rally this past April which was well attended.
- 3.) It is hoped that as early as this fall, a process to prepare persons for the perpetual diaconate will be in place.
- 4.) Canon Nick Brotherwood will be in our Diocese this fall meeting with both clergy and laity to discuss the 'Fresh Expressions program'
- 5.) For the last number of years our diocese has hosted "Schools of Renewal Ministry" by Anglican Renewal Ministries. Most of the leadership for these events have been from within Diocese.

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

"Let Your Spirits Soar" was a strategic action plan that our Diocese adopted a few years ago with the hope that each parish would take at least one recommendation in the plan

and run with it. Many, of our parishes haven't taken deep ownership of this plan and are simply continuing with the day by day matters of running a parish. Trying to move parishes from maintenance to mission is our greatest struggle at this time. The action plan is not dead but is in need of a re-boost.

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

Bishop David along with the Executive Officer, Programme Officer and Regional Deans are continuing in the process of revamping our Diocesan Handbook . When revisions are completed the Deanery Chapters will review the revisions and proposed changes to Diocesan policy, suggest any amendments and ask the Diocesan Executive to adopt the document.

The Diocese has a number of clergy and laity whom upon request are able to lead Anglican Renewal Ministries School of Renewal Ministry or a stewardship workshop.

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

Our Diocese has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with our provincial counterparts. This relationship may be strengthened by the various Dioceses continuing to communicate good news stories one with the other. Learning what works without the necessity to re-invent the wheel is very helpful. For instance, we are in the process of adopting as our own, the Sexual Harassment and Protocol policy used by the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.
