



REPORT TO THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA

THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Provincial Council September 2010

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 approximately 35,000 members served by 43 priests. With 30 parishes on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland and 5 parishes in Labrador comprised of 88 congregations our diocese is diverse in geography and demographics.

Good News Stories / Highlights / Initiatives

Over the last two years we have been working to strengthen the Archdeaconry model to encourage fellowship, collegiality, spiritual development and administration on a regional level.

The Archdeaconry of Trinity Conception now has two parishes formed by clusters of congregations and served by "Team Rectors" under the direction of the Territorial archdeacon and Diocese.

In the Archdeaconry of Avalon East and West the Parish of St. Michael and All Angels is following the tradition of their parish in being a "mission church" and have sold their building on St. Clare Ave. in St. John's and are working to plant a new church in an area of extreme population growth on Kenmount Rd. west.

In the Archdeaconry of Labrador we currently have two cluster ministries and are concentrating on raising up local vocational deacons to serve the communities in which they live. We have two people in various stages of the discernment process and 4 deacons ordained. One of these deacons is currently at Queen's College studying in preparation for the priesthood. It is our goal to have a Priest and/or Vocational Deacon in every congregation in Labrador. The development of new roads in Labrador has greatly increased the mobility and interaction between parishes.

Challenges / Issues

Many of our buildings are no longer meeting the needs of the congregations due to changing demographics.

The Archdeaconry of Avalon East and West is filling up as people move closer to the Capital City. The challenge is how to respond to ministry in this new context .

We are searching to find ways to ensure healing in our diocese of both clergy and laypeople after the arrest and recent conviction and sentencing of one of our priests on

child pornography charges. Through this issue we have tried to communicate with our clergy by letter and in gatherings and educational sessions. We have communicated with our people with pastoral letters. We have also revised our Protocol on Sexual Misconduct and expanded it to include other areas of Maltreatment.

In order to serve the people of Labrador we continue to struggle with the high cost travel, gathering people and providing priests.

Opportunities / Suggestions For Sharing With Other Dioceses

The three Newfoundland and Labrador dioceses continue to share many things of a financial and administrative nature. The three bishops meet frequently to discuss matters they have in common. A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is currently in preparation with participants from the three dioceses.

We would welcome an opportunity to share in an educational event, within the 3 NL dioceses. By pooling our resources we may be better able to afford to bring high quality speakers to the province.

Sharing the process of discernment within the 3 NL dioceses would be a benefit as we all share in Queen's College.

Some Ways Your Diocese Can Contribute to the Provincial Structure And How The Ecclesiastical province Can Support Your Diocese

We have recently developed *A Protocol on Maltreatment and the Promotion of Respectful Relationships* which we expect will receive final approval at our Diocesan Council meeting in early November. We would be willing to share this document and encourage the possibility of developing a protocol to be used by the whole ecclesiastical province.

We would welcome a provincial handbook on liturgical, administrative and human resource policies and procedures. Recognizing there are differences across dioceses, a "template" that could be customized would be a wonderful idea.

We would also welcome a large scale adult gathering or training event in the ecclesiastical province comparable to a national event. Topics suggested are Spiritual Development, Stewardship, Parish Development and Missional Leadership. By having such an event closer to home we may be able to send more participants due to decreased travel costs.