

**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, 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 is currently under interior renovation to be ready for its 100<sup>th</sup> 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 2009 reports)

97 parishes, within 10 regions, each having a Regional Dean and an Archdeacon.

Total members: 42,767

Identifiable givers: 13,798

Rectors of parishes: 79

Priests in Charge: 18

Total retired clergy: 103 (9 non-canonically resident)

10 military chaplains, 2 health care chaplains, 2 full-time 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: 25 priests; 9 Deacons (2 retired).

Kelly Appleton continues to produce the Prayer Care list for the Province.

**Good News Stories/ Highlights/ Initiatives**

**Hosting General Synod:**

This was an excellent time for our volunteers to meet the wider church. They learned a lot and, as far as we have heard, succeeded in making people welcome!

**Property Redevelopment:**

Finally, we have all the permits to go ahead with the development of the seniors' assisted living facility, new offices for the Diocese and the Cathedral and shared gathering space.

We had a busy time moving our offices in late June and by the end of July we could find most everything! We expect to move into the new facility in two years or less.

**Bishops' Action Appeal** launched at Synod 2009 has brought in more than \$77,000 in its first year. This initial response is very good. In the next year, we will focus on the Episcopal Ministry Fund part of the Appeal to build up a large enough endowment to generate interest to cover the costs of the diocesan bishop. Then we can take these costs out of the annual budget process.

The **Fresh Start** program is growing in the Diocese. Ms Jackie Pidduck has been the Coordinator for our Fresh Start programs since we started in 2005. We are currently in the process of transitioning to a new diocesan Coordinator, Ms. Helen Chandler. The program includes groups for clergy who have recently moved and sessions for congregations who are in transition. We have 7 clergy facilitators and 11 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 and in the Non-Stipendiary Ordained Ministry formation gatherings. We have 2 congregational programs running and one more to start in the fall. There is a plan to begin Fresh Start in PEI and Cape B 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. Over the next year the focus will be: Youth Ministry training programs offered in all 10 regions, and the development of resources for family ministry.

**Clergy Wellness** We are in the second year of offering reimbursements to clergy who sign up for fitness programs or purchase fitness equipment. Planning is underway for a retirement seminar next spring and to hold the Alban Institute's Long Term Pastorate Seminar. We continue to encourage regional Clericus groups to undertake a wellness event by providing resources to them and we provide course subsidies for clergy engaged in some study focused on renewal or revitalization. The Wellness Commission has been studying the document "Dignity at Work" from the Church of England (workplace bullying).

Our **Stewardship Program**, "Companions on a Journey" has completed its first 5 year mandate and is now beginning on a new process. Workshops developed in the first round continue to be offered to parishes and regions as requested. In addition this past May, we launched the Pentecost Challenge – to increase individual giving by 1% of income. Resources to support this challenge are posted on our web site and on the Netnews each week. A workshop on how to use "The S Word" by Douglas Hambidge is scheduled for October 2010. People from other diocese are welcome. Information and registration can be found on the diocesan web site [www.nspeidiocese.ca](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca).

### **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 develop plans for a new facility on recently purchased land.
- 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. Are we as a Province planning for this?

### **Opportunities/ Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses**

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