

Province of Canada
Diocesan Report 2010, Western Newfoundland

Description of the Diocese:

- ▶ 32 parishes from the South Coast of Labrador through Western Newfoundland as far east as Springdale and south to Francois
- ▶ Anglican population of approximately 24,000
- ▶ mostly multi-point with one full time clergy
- ▶ Diocesan staff: Bishop, Archdeacon, Coordinator, Treasurer and Secretary
- ▶ small Bookroom
- ▶ 22 full time parish clergy [four parishes (two parish clusters served by two clergy)]
- ▶ 1 full time hospital chaplain
- ▶ 2 half/part time parish clergy
- ▶ 3 parishes waiting appointments
- ▶ 300 + licenced lay ministers
- ▶ 10 retired clergy, 2 retired bishops, 2 licenced, resident clergy

Good News Stories/Highlights/Initiatives:

- ▶ The Congregational Development/Stewardship Education Initiative, Taking Care of God's Business; The Rev. Canon Roberta Woodman, Coordinator
 - ▶ Stewardship Education
 - ▶ Revised Confirmation Program
 - ▶ Strategic Planning
 - ▶ Covenant in Ministry
- ▶ Other Diocesan Committees:
 - ▶ Evangelism and Renewal Committee
 - ▶ Evangelistic Mission
 - ▶ Mission and Outreach Committee
 - ▶ Marks of Mission
 - ▶ Youth Committee
 - ▶ Confirmation Facilitator's Training
 - ▶ Fresh Start
 - ▶ Conclusion with First Group
 - ▶ Beginning Second Group with new appointments
- ▶ Cluster Ministry Process
 - ▶ Northern Peninsula
 - ▶ Bay St. George and Stephenville Crossing

Challenges/Issues:

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| geographical distances | vacancies |
| adverse weather conditions | finances |

Congregational Development and Stewardship Education Initiative:

- **Stewardship Education**

The goal of our new Diocesan Strategic Plan is “to teach and practice a holistic understanding of stewardship”. Through the CD/SE Initiative, we have had Archbishop Douglas Hambidge present to clergy and the Task Group on stewardship, using his book, The ‘S’ Word. Plans are being made through a stewardship committee to facilitate two training events during this Fall: 1. lay/clergy gathering; 2. Stewardship Week-end in four parishes on the South West coast. A resource binder which will include sermons, website addresses, litanies, liturgies, Bible studies, etc., is being developed, and will be distributed to each parish.

- **Revised Confirmation Program**

The Diocesan Confirmation program, Grow in the Spirit, has been under revision for the past eighteen months. To encourage greater involvement and hands on learning, the program now includes a short worship involving Bible study, more activities/games related to the topics, a DVD depicting symbols, vestments, and outreach projects. The program was piloted during 2009-2010 at St. Michael and All Angels Parish, Corner Brook, providing opportunity for adjustments to be made as necessary. With the assistance of a dedicated youth, Jennifer Renouf, this program has now been completed and facilitator training events have taken place throughout the Diocese.

- **Strategic Planning**

1. Since 2009, there have been numerous gatherings to enable the review and revision of our Diocesan Strategic Plan. Six focal areas have been identified: Christian Education; Communication; Evangelism and Renewal; Mission and Outreach; Stewardship; and, Youth. While three of these have committees established, the areas of Stewardship, Christian Education, and Communication work under the Taking Care of God’s Business Task Group. A focus on the Marks of Mission, in particular through the Mission and Outreach Committee, is evident in this Plan.

2. Several parishes in the Diocese have prepared strategic plans under the facilitation of our Coordinator. Parish Strategic Plans are developed so that ministry as a whole connects with ministry throughout the Diocese. The process of developing a strategic plan is being revised so as to facilitate deanery based gatherings to enable parish leaders to develop their own plan.

- **Covenant in Ministry**

Since 2008, clergy entering into new parishes, along with Diocesan staff, have participated in a Covenant in Ministry process which provides guidance to the direction they expect to undertake together. The Covenant in Ministry is then read and signed at the service of Celebration of New Ministry. In the past, the process involved at least two sessions in a parish. This year, the preparation process will be revised so that the Covenant will be completed in one session, in most cases. The Covenant affirms what we believe, makes promises about the ministry that is to begin together, and commits to that ministry. The Covenant will detail various ministries and lead to a strategic plan.