

## REPORT from DIOCESE of WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

### Questions to be addressed in Diocesan Reports:

- 1. Please provide a brief description of your diocese at this time, including statistics for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the most recent year for which you have prepared statistics. The year 2020 would be ideal, but 2019 would be great as well.**

*The Diocese of Western Newfoundland comprises 30 parishes and 81 Congregations as well as a full-time Hospital Chaplain. Our geography covers all of the South and South West Coast, Bay St. George, Humber and the Bay of Islands, White Bay and Green Bay, the Great Northern Peninsula, and Southern Labrador. We have one Bishop, 26 paid priests and 5 deacons. Total parishioners, 17,612. Baptisms in 2019 were 213, marriages were 61, and confirmations 209. Burials were 402. Five of our communities are medical, commercial, and transportation centres and the remainder are rural communities. Gros Morne National Park is a major attraction for local, national and international visitors due largely to its natural beauty and also extraordinary geology. The See City is Corner Brook with nearly 20,000 people. We are a major Christian denomination in the region and our history dates back 200 years, with Anglican presence three hundred years before there were officially established parishes, with clergy.*

- 2. Describe in detail any initiative by churches and members of the diocese that is producing real hope for the time ahead, especially after Covid 19.**

*As with all dioceses we have made use of technology and social media to maintain worship, pastoral care, and administration during lockdowns especially. We have reached far beyond our usual in-person gatherings and this has provided all parishes with extended presence and additional ministry opportunities post-covid. We have become assured in our hope in many respects as this pandemic has proven to have positives as well as many negatives.*

- 3. Where did you experience “rejoicing in hope” at difficult times during this pandemic?**

*There was tremendous rejoicing when occasions allowed us to gather in-person. We have experienced all along the way the importance of being part of the wider community. The efforts of our nation to provide support and help to organizations, applied also to faith communities. We felt included and supported by the federal and provincial governments. And, our virtual gatherings gave us occasion to meet and to do what was needed to maintain our worship and witness. Much to rejoice about!*

- 4. Despite our limited resources of time, energy and money, our relationships among dioceses of the Province continue to be important. Have you any thoughts about ways to gather and to support one another within our Province?**

*The diocesan bishops met weekly during the early months of the pandemic and monthly or so thereafter. It was very helpful to meet virtually and to support each*

*other. Virtual meetings are not expensive and they are beneficial. Perhaps we could meet more often virtually. There are many different contexts in our ecclesiastical province but also many things we hold in common. For example, the possible Fixed Link between Labrador and Newfoundland is of importance to Quebec as well as to NL and indeed it would further open up our entire country. There are major concerns in the wider community we could learn about and lend our voice to and also aspects of our church life that we could help extend and develop.*