

1. Consultations – January 15 we had a useful conversation about how our Diocese can contribute to Building Leadership for the future. February 12 we will consider what we need to do about Developing Healthier Congregations and March 12 we will consider Mission and Outreach. These consultations are part of preparing for a potential change of Diocesan structures that will be considered at Synod. Details of each consultation appear weekly on the Netnews.
2. March 7, 2011. A day with Canon Herbert O’Driscoll on preaching during Lent. It will be hosted at Trinity Anglican Church, 321 Main Ave., Halifax. More information on registration will be coming soon.
- 3 The Retirement Seminar will take place on March 29 at St. Thomas Fall River. Those within 10 years of retirement have been notified. If we missed you, or you are younger and would like advanced warning, you are welcome. Details are on the website. You must contact Kathy Saunders to register to ensure that we will have personalized information for you from the pension office.
- 4 Long Term Pastorate Workshop. If you have been in your parish 6 or more years, this is for you. See the Netnews for more information.
- 5 Quiet time and Renewal of Vows - April 7 evening and April 8 morning. Speaker will be The Rev’d Charles Lafond. Included in Charles’ current responsibilities are management of stewardship teaching and program design, conflict resolution programs, vitality analysis and encouragement, consultation, disaster preparedness, and the spiritual depth and life of our congregations and clergy. Charles preaches and teaches in most of the 46 parishes of the diocese throughout the year.

Charles began his vocation in the corporate non-profit sector as a Senior Corporate Vice President for Financial Development and Communications/Marketing for an urban corporation of 14 YMCAs where he raised more than \$20 million in capital and planned giving assets and increased annual giving from \$200,000 to more than \$4 million per year. More recently Charles has eight years experience as a parish priest and lived for the three years as a novice and monk at the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist where he did spiritual direction and led retreats.

Charles’ current ministry combines a decade as a fund raiser and a second decade as a priest and monk. Charles comes at stewardship, congregational development and spiritual conversion of life not solely as logistical issues, but also as pastoral, spiritual and theological issues. We live in a church which has exchanged being a movement for being an organization. We also live in a culture weighed down by wealth and power, in a world weighed down by poverty and illness and in a church which seems unable to have a bold conversation around money and spirituality. We live in a society over-whelmed by words, over-caffeinated by stimulants, over-burdened by schedules and anesthetized to the ways our material and financial life gets in the way of our relationship with a Saviour who loves the poor.

Charles treats formation around stewardship as a combination of spiritual reflection, conversion of life and the provision of the latest tools being used in the church and non-profit sector to encourage increased giving. Charles has consulted with more than 20 dioceses and 200 parishes and is currently developing curriculum for small-parish stewardship programs. Charles is an adjunct professor at Virginia Theological Seminary teaching a winter term in stewardship,

fundraising, strategic planning and communications and Chaplain to the New Hampshire State Senate.

Charles' interest is in calling the Church to a deeper awareness of how much we are loved by God and to a simpler and more aware life in that context. A master potter of 25 years, Charles lives on a farm with a pottery in the woods of New Hampshire with his black lab named "Kai".

- 6 Synod is coming! May 26 – 28, 2011. Information about Synod is now being posted on the Diocesan website. If you are planning to submit any resolutions, please get them in to the Acting Executive Secretary of Synod, Gordon Redden, by the required date of February 25, 2011.
- 7 May 31-June 2, 2011 Vital Church Planting Conference, St. Paul's Church, Bloor St., Toronto. Speaker, Rt. Rev. Stephen Croft, Bishop of Sheffield. More information coming shortly. Part of our approach to evangelism has to be getting comfortable with engaging strangers in conversations about our faith. If you have a team from your parish and you are trying to grow your congregation, you can apply for half the costs to participate in this conference from the Healthy Congregations Fund.
- 8 5/3 Covenants. What is this? Remember the Five Marks of a Healthy Congregation that Alice Mann brought to our Synod?
  1. Our congregation's members know who they are before God.
  2. Our congregation knows what it is called to do.
  3. Our congregation has the resources and leadership necessary to carry out its calling.
  4. People experience the power and energy of the Gospel in their worship and life together.
  5. The activities of the congregation make a discernible difference in individual lives and in the larger world around us.Number 3 talks about the resources to do the ministry of the parish. So the 5/3 plan is an analysis of whether a parish does in fact have those resources. The Parish Relations Committee works with any parish who asks for this help with a view to moving forward with hope. For some parishes this leads to the forgiveness of past allotment arrears.
- 9 I have appointed Janice Roby as the new Registrar following the resignation of Kelly Appleton. As part of this new appointment we are assessing how best to keep the records required by Canon with current technology.
- 10 The Diocese/Shannex Property Redevelopment is now moving forward at a good speed. The mild winter weather is helping. The target date of July 2012 seems in sight!
- 11 Certificates for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. will now be done by Jana O'Neil, so please send your requests to her [joneil@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:joneil@nspeidiocese.ca) with sufficient time to get them out to you.
- 12 A recent note from the Canadian Coordinator for Education for Ministry (EFM) included the following: "I thought you might like to know that your diocese was among the first in Canada to have EFM students. In all 167 people in your diocese have taken part in

EFM – 71 of those are graduates. Some bishops have been able to note differences in parish and diocesan life as the numbers of EFM participants grow.” I think this would also be true in our diocese. Thanks go to David Fletcher who has been instrumental in encouraging the development of EFM Mentors across the Diocese so that groups can be formed and maintained.

13 I have heard from six parishes and three individuals so far in response to the pastoral letter of October 2010. Please respond when your parish is in a position to do so.

14 Grants for Clergy health are still available on a first come basis. Send your request to +Ron.

15 I hope that you Annual meetings have gone well or will go well.

Blessings for a long and happy season of Epiphany.

+Sue