



Office of Lay Formation Diocese of Antigonish

Diocesan Pastoral Centre

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

for year end 2019

The Advisory Board for Lay Formation has members: Bishop Dunn, Debbie Aker, Heather Carson, Berkley DeCoste, Monique DeCoste, Margie Gillis, Director Cecile Miller, David Nearing, Tom Penney and Mary Samson.

We met four times in 2019, in January, March, June and November.

1. This was a year of evaluation discussing how to best serve the needs of the adults of our Diocese.

2. At each meeting, we received a report on the work of the planning committees in the pilot zones in the Diocese. The Pictou Zone hosted Alpha beginning in March with forty participants. The Inverness North Zone hosted Alpha beginning in September. The Inverness North Zone also did an intergenerational Advent program entitled Joy and Hope. They began work on a Photo Directory for the seven parishes using the services of Universal Portrait Studios.

3. There was no ongoing formation day for the graduates of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program this year because resources for a parish mission with Cardinal LaCroix and activities for March Break Camps had been provided to all parishes.

4. An evaluation survey of the Mission and March Break Camps was circulated. A number of areas availed themselves of the resources including Cheticamp which used the French resources.

5. The last four candidates in the Diocesan Faith Formation Program, John Bourgeois, Maureen Campbell, Peggy Lamey and Michael McCarvill, completed their studies in May 2019. A celebration was held for them on May 18, 2019 in the context of a prayer service. They concluded their final year with a retreat directed by Sheila O'Handley in June. On May 4, 2019, Maureen, Michael and Peggy graduated from the Atlantic School of Theology with a Diploma in the New Evangelization. Maureen was accepted into the one-year Catholic Women's Leadership Program which began in June 2020. Michael is now in the Permanent Diaconate Program.

6. Bishop Dunn reported on discussions and priests' reflections on the question of restructuring in the Diocese. He mentioned that if restructuring is to be successful, it must begin on the deanery level.

7. In June, we said goodbye to Berkley and Monique DeCoste. They were thanked for their dedication and generosity in sharing their talent and time with the Advisory Board. Bishop Dunn was also thanked for his ongoing commitment to and support of the work of the Board.

8. The last meeting was held in November at which time Board members discussed ideas for adult faith development in 2020. It was planned that parishioners would be encouraged to make use of the

resources on the Eucharist provided by the Eucharistic Congress Planning Committee, especially the Holy Hours and the Pauses. The need to develop a Eucharistic Culture was emphasized.

9. The Board expressed a desire to meet with Bishop Kirkpatrick in the new year to discuss with him his vision of adult faith formation.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecile Miller, Director