



**Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's
STRATEGIC PLANNING
Zone 5 – Parish Representatives**

**NOTES FROM CONSULTATION
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
PROPOSED ZONE 5 – Kelligrews & Area
Parish Representative
October 25, 2016
47 in Attendance**

QUESTION #1

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL ZONE MAKE SENSE IN LIGHT OF OUR PRESENT REALITIES?

- What is the difference between “zone” and “deanery”? This needs to be explained more fully. In Zones – present parishes will become more integrated vs what currently happens in a deanery.
- Question on zones – what about all the other Catholic communities in these areas?
- Why was the zone described in terms of geographic areas rather than parishes? Need to re-visit this and be consistent.
- Zones would have been better described if they had referred to parishes rather than geographic areas – for example - St. Edward's, St. Thomas of Villa Nova and Holy Family Parishes.
- Deaneries have status in Canon Law – how are zones going to be tied into Canon Law? If zones are activated will this do away with deaneries? Will we have a situation where we have a parish priest and all the rest are associate priests? Who is going to decide who the pastor is going to be? Are we still going to have 3 individual parishes with 3 parish priests who will be autonomous or 1 parish priest who will tell the others what to do?
- There is no proposal that will get rid of deaneries. Intent is to see would this work in this area. The zone is simply a proposal where we will co-operate more fully in a smaller area than a deanery but will also be in part of a deanery.
- Basically, we are putting another level between the deanery and the people? There may be places where the concept of the zone will allow for a greater sharing where the numbers are too small or not enough leadership to provide for this.
- Zone needs an explanation so that it has the flexibility to fit across all the areas within the Archdiocese. Can't cookie cut.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #1 CONT.

- The concept of zone is to get more definition.
- The term “Zone” is too commercial and too business like – brings nothing from the old or new testament. We need to see how the deaneries could work before we start creating “another church within a church”.
- Has this been tried anywhere else in Canada? Apparently this was tried in Corner Brook and was a failure. Two examples were provided: Diocese of Saskatoon – had an attempt to cluster where 4 parishes were served by 3-4 lay people and a pastor. Diocese of Edmundston is another example. These appear to have been more successful.
- Employees of the parishes in the proposed zones legitimately question whether or not their jobs are in jeopardy.
- There was not a clear understanding of what a zone is. It is good to understand that the deanery will not be lost.
- Zones – sharing of resources question – will one parish be expected to share resources?

QUESTION #2

a) DOES THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA MAKE SENSE?

- The three parishes in this zone are in a very strong growth area – therefore there is a need for three parishes. At St. Thomas of Villanova Parish – there is slow but steady growth. Finances are slowly but steadily growing and there is a slow and steady growth in people contributing to ministries
- We are lucky in this region with having growing communities

b) WOULD SOME COMMUNITIES BE BETTER PLACED IN ANOTHER ZONE?

- Perhaps St. Edward's Parish and St. Thomas of Villa Nova could be one area or “zone”. Paradise is such a fast growing area – that putting Holy Family Parish in Paradise with St. Edward's and St. Thomas of Villa Nova would be disastrous.
- There is some thought that maybe the school zones are not such a significant/relevant issue to this purpose.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #2b. CONT.

- For school zones – half of the parish is one zone and the other half in another zone. If we are going to do anything in this area – it should take a long time.
- Geographically the zone may make sense. This area is unique – and this needs to be considered. They are not closing schools – in fact they are adding on to them.
- Again – zone term is not liked. A new term would fit better. However when it comes to the 3 parishes proposed here – there has already been co-operation.
- We have moved on from question 1 and trying to expand on these questions without fully having a good understanding of what a zone is. This is something that definitely needs to be explained more fully.
- Haven't we already put this into practice on the southern shore?
- There is also the problem with the zones up the shore – Witless Bay etc. Fermuese and area etc.
- St. Mary's Bay already has one priest – with all those Churches.
- We need to look at the difference between the urban and rural and the reality that the rural always gets hit and the urban doesn't get touched.
- We look at churches around the bay but do not look at churches in the City – St. Paul's is an example.

c) **WOULD SOME COMMUNITIES FROM ANOTHER ZONE MAKE MORE SENSE IN YOUR ZONE?**

- In the interest of building community and bringing in young people, Mount Pearl should perhaps be considered given the proximity.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #3

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL TEAM OF PRIESTS AND LAY MINISTERS MAKE SENSE?

- Feeling is that parishioners will go somewhere else and cancel their contributions to that parish – in order to attend a service with a priest.
- Question for Fr. Critch – what portion of your pastoral duties was spent on administration outside of your priestly duties? Would it not be worth considering having the laity of the Church look after administrative matters and leave the pastoral matters to the priests? It seems to be common sense that the role of the lay people is to deal with administration.
- Fr. Critch answer- In the past 5 years – he found himself devoted to pastoral work. He hired lay people to help with financial and administrative work. Having lay people handle more of the administrative side would definitely be helpful. In the Burin peninsula there was not a lot of time to do temporal duties. There were a lot of people in the parishes that took over the administrative duties.
- Perhaps rather than having lay people do pastoral work – have them handle more administrative.
- Feeling is that people are expecting a priest for funerals, weddings, baptisms etc. Are having lay people performing duties mentioned in proposal going to turn away any young people?
- Perhaps it will be a matter of scheduling a time when the priest is available
- If we are to paid lay ministers – then those people who already volunteer their time are going to feel discouraged etc.
- Lay ministers will be recruited and recommended to the vocations committee – what will the vocations committee have to do with this? It is assumed that there will be a structure put in place to ensure that people who will want to take on these things will be properly screened and supported etc.
- One time in the Church we used to talk about various vocations, priest, religious, married etc. Who is going to be doing the recruiting?
- Whether or not a person is being paid or volunteers to do it makes a difference but there is also the related point of the role of lay people.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #3 CONT.

- Why should the Archdiocese pay for lay people to get trained? Now we are saying that our parishes are in debt. We may be paying these lay people \$40-50k. Why does this say to those interested in being deacons – that we don't recognize this.
- If we are going to spend this kind of money – why not bring in foreign priests?
- Deacons have come up a lot in the feedback received to date from e-mails etc.
- Deacons might be an option.
- What about the option of Deacons vs lay ministers? Why are we putting priests on the level with lay people? Older generations are used to having parish priests.
- We have to recognize that we are in a hierarchical Church. Our Archdiocese has to look at the option of Deacons. For some reason, there is some opposition to Deacons.
- If there is a paid person in the zone – and a baptism is required – and both the priest and the lay minister are available – who will perform the baptism?
- Companions of the Cross – “all the Bishop has to do is ask”.
- About 10-12 years ago, the Archdiocese had a committee set up to look at the Permanent Deaconate. We have a few in our church who are opposed to it. There are people in various parishes in our Archdiocese who would like to be deacons. It is a vocation.
- What will be the role of the lay person that we can accept and work towards in the Church 5-10 years from now? Is it a volunteer, committee member etc. Should they be baptizing? Etc. Five years from now – what will our Church look like if we don't do something?
- Consider paying people for services – i.e. sing at weddings – paid for each wedding
- Over the last couple of years the Archdiocese has come a long way with bringing outreach to MUN. That's a start – evangelization. That is where lay people and others can become involved – they can give proper help to our young people. Catholic Christian Outreach at MUN is a perfect start and we need more of that in our parishes to get people involved.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #3 CONT.

- Holy Family – has had many visiting priests and have lost priests – but the people have still survived
- What will happen to liturgical committees etc.? Are we going to have another layer of government – which will increase taxation etc.?
- What about the laws of the teaching of the Church about Mass? In rural areas, it is understandable what happens there. They are so appreciative to get the Eucharist.
- With respect to Women priests, married priests etc. – this is not something that we can change right now – as this is in the hands of the pope.

QUESTION #4

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA?

- One of the risks of zones – is a certain sense of loss of parish community that attracts young people.

QUESTION #5

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS WITH THE FEASIBILITY OF THE OVERALL PLAN OF THE PASTORAL ZONE AND PASTORAL TEAMS?

- There needs to be a lot of work put into this and it must be led by the Holy Spirit.
- Every parish has its identity. Questions will be around whether our identities will be maintained?
- In the area where there is both a priest and layperson – who will be the leader? Having co-responsibility may not work. What about stronger personalities? There has to be in this overall plan at least 3 people or 5 so that there is a leader.
- Archdiocese will have the responsibility to ensure there is proper oversight.
- One positive comment – is that this is not a fait de compli. Many people have offered suggestions etc.
- If it's not broken – don't fix it.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

QUESTION #5 CONT.

- In the past – there have been these consultation efforts and decisions had already been made. Is the Committee really going to listen?
- People are well interested in turning this proposal inside out and engaging in this process. Lots of good thoughts and genuine interest that has been brought out and heard for future consideration.
- Where is all of the money for this coming from giving the current financial difficulties of the Archdiocese as a whole? Why pay people for something that they may be willing to do for free?
- If we go with this plan – each parish is going to have to contribute financially to these people. These people will also have families and will want benefits. What happens if something goes wrong? i.e. claim of some sort etc. – there is no way that some will feel comfortable to pay a lay person to come into our parish to perform services that others would do for free. Deacons are a preferred alternative.

QUESTION #6

WHAT SHOULD BE THE NEXT STEPS IN OUR PLANNING PROCESS?

- Continue to listen
- Build consensus
- Consider the priorities and especially pay attention to the areas that are not being addressed at present
- Consider the buildings that we need to carry forward the best ways to meet the needs
- Set up sub-committees to look at how financial resources will work and how sacraments will work?
- Did the planning committee develop any other options that may have been discarded? Or is this the only option?
- This meeting provides a good opportunity to get feedback that the committee has not considered.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Parish Representatives

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

- As a member of a parish and its committees, our job is to keep the parish going and build a community.
- Where do we see youth coming into our community in the next 5-10 years?
- St. Thomas of Villanova Liturgy committee sent a letter with extensive suggestions and comments.
- The youth and their parents are our future. It was suggested that there be a paid teaching position to attract and tend to youth in our parishes. Have a Friday night get together – bible study etc. Have them know that Sunday is a day of rest and prayer.
- When we look at this concept we have to realize that in this province there is also out-migration. We have to prepare for the influx of people that are also coming in. We are putting the horse before the cart. We need to identify why people are not going to Church – this will increase funds and therefore may result in the need for more priests etc.
- How do we get the people in the church?
- Culture of the Catholic Church is not a democracy.
- Other Options – the Bishops should be looking for women priests, priests who have left their ministry and are now married.
- This is going to take years and years to implement.
- Treatment of the foreign priests when they came into the diocese into NL – some of them were here a week when they were sent out to parishes – without being given an experience of our culture etc.
- Baptisms – it was very much discouraged that private baptisms take place – they are supposed to take place in a Mass – if it's not in a Mass then we are changing the rules of how we do things



**Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's
STRATEGIC PLANNING
Zone 5 – Public Meeting**

**NOTES FROM CONSULTATION
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
PROPOSED ZONE 5 – Kelligrews & Area
Public Meeting
October 26, 2016
80 in Attendance**

QUESTION #1

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL ZONE MAKE SENSE IN LIGHT OF OUR PRESENT REALITIES?

- The concept of a pastoral zone makes sense in the zone that you're living in at the present time. This zone does not necessarily have a lot of the problems that another zone (e.g. Zone 9) might have. Feeling is "We're doing alright."
- Agree with the idea in principle but don't like the term "Zone". What other word would get it better? "Region", "Community" – We are a community people. "Deanery"
- Zone is not a word we want to hear. How about our "Archdiocesan area" 1-9? What the Committee has to look at more so is that the emphasis needs to be placed where it is most needed – e.g. Burin peninsula.
- Zone 9 is a difficult zone.
- Have the boundaries of the Archdiocese been considered? – i.e. Holyrood is so close etc.
- If we are in the zone, does that mean that there will be consistency throughout the zones? E.g. Born of the Spirit program – committee of St. Edward's were doing as the Archdiocese specified but other parishes were doing what they like. Will consistency be achieved in policies etc.? Will we be on the same page? Need to have creative thinking on an individual zone basis. This may create an opportunity to share these ideas across the zones. However, it's really important that there are core services that are consistent. While there will be variation, we have to make sure that certain services are core. A child in Kelligrews and Marystown should have access to the same program. Access to pastoral services and support should be consistent.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #1 CONT.

- Will Churches close if we put these zones together? Do we need to put parishes together in a zone or can we better equip each parish?
- Phrase “in light of our present realities” is critical. There is a need for change in our Archdiocese. Having more parishes than priests is not sustainable in our current reality. Our input is critical and how we bring about that change and make a positive change is critical.
- There are much greater issues in the Church than zones. For example, no parish councils in some parishes etc. Can decisions be made that a priest may decide that we don't need a parish council or a finance committee etc.

QUESTION #2

a) DOES THE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA MAKE SENSE?

- This zone is so different than many of the other zones because it is growing population wise.
- Every parish has challenges. Holy Family has a great parish.
- It would make sense depending upon how many are on the team. There should be at least 5 people on the team. There has to be a leader. Everyone on the team can't be equal. So depending on how you group the zone – will determine whether or not it makes sense.

b) WOULD SOME COMMUNITIES BE BETTER PLACED IN ANOTHER ZONE?

- No particular comments for this question.

c) WOULD SOME COMMUNITIES FROM ANOTHER ZONE MAKE MORE SENSE IN YOUR ZONE?

- No particular comments for this question.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #3

DOES THE CONCEPT OF A PASTORAL TEAM OF PRIESTS AND LAY MINISTERS MAKE SENSE?

- Has there been any work done around the need for lay people to be on-call? What will be their work week etc.?
- If a lay person is hired on for 40 hours/week – if we have money issues now we are going to have worse problems. Business concept. This could get much more expensive and where is this money coming from?
- Proposal is meant to be a team approach. A similar situation is the coverage in the hospitals in St. John's. Now more and more there are people covering for more than one religion. We will have to be more creative as to how we do this. We cannot have a work load for priests that is so unreasonable. Not fair to have this expectation on one part of the team and not on the other.
- Question from Committee – what does this group see lay ministers/people doing in our Church in the long-term? What is the most acceptable and reasonable thing for a lay person to do 5-10 years from now? Is it current day practice or is it what is listed in the proposal? We will need to reach a consensus or some understanding of what parishioners see in the long-term for the Church.
- Strategic Planning Committee – Parishioners should look after everything that is needed to make a vibrant Church today. There are a couple of things that only a priest can do – so those services would be assigned to the priest. How do we continue to use the volunteers? We need to figure this out together. It is not meant to be more expensive – rather a more efficient use of the present resources that we have.
- Why do lay ministers have to be paid positions?
- How this is lived out will be different here than what it would be on the Burin Peninsula for example.
- Leadership teams – we know that the Church is a hierarchical Church. It is not a democracy. In the zones - they will be comprised of parishes. Priests have three roles – preaches God's word, minister the sacraments, attend to the Pastoral needs of the parishioners.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #3 CONT.

- In NL, we have 3 bishops. Vatican II has made it clear that in no way is their ministry superior to the ministry of the lay people. The services the laity perform are what they should be doing – Evangelization, take the Gospel out to their own homes and introduce people personally to Jesus.
- We're not building a church for those children. We are trying to keep the Church going to protect us until we die. We can't depend that somewhere volunteers will come to do this for our children and grandchildren. We shouldn't be risking this.
- In South America, people are leaving the Church in large numbers. Pope Francis says that one of the main reasons is because the laity is not mature. Like Sr. mentioned, in Corner Brook the Bishop is looking for more priests rather than increasing role of lay people.
- Paying lay people will be a disincentive to those already working in our parishes. Those who are already doing excellent work in our parishes will be put off. Why should the parishes be paying for a lay leader? If the zone has the money, maybe we need to go out and get a youth leader.
- Older people are disillusioned with the Church – we need to take our money and get some young people who are trained.
- Committee response to number of comments above – in some zones we may not need paid lay persons to provide ministries. These are details that need to be worked out zone by zone. Some of these specifics will need to evolve as zones evolve.
- The tormenting question is “how is the work going to get done – and who is going to do it given the diminishing resource of the parish priest”?
- Whether someone is paid or not is not as relevant as is if they are competent and able to provide the service. Do they have the competencies and training?
- Youth Ministry – this might be an area where it might make sense to pay someone. It would all depend on education, training, commitment, etc.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #3 CONT.

- The most important thing that we can pass onto anyone is Mass. The proposal only mentions Mass twice - and in both instances it says "Without Mass".
- Strategic Planning Committee – We don't need to create another group of clergy. Sr. has a Passion for keeping our Church alive. If she dies in St. John's – a priest will be available. However, if in Fox Harbour – most likely not. This is not the Church to leave behind. We can say "let them worry about it". This is not fair to the next generations. Many people here tonight are here because of their children and grandchildren.
- We do not know if this is the right model or not. However, we do know that a model that depends on having a priest for every parish is not possible either. Our children deserve a vibrant Church – just like we had. If this is not the right model then so be it, but let's find one that works.
- Twenty years ago, 35 lay people did the pastoral program with the Archdiocese – but they were not used. Suggestion: if some money was put into educating the volunteers we already have and helping them with their different ministries – and using the people that we have in our parishes at the moment – this may help them pass on the teaching of the Church. Educate and train the people that we already have helping out. These people know our parishes and will be able to continue volunteering.
- One fear with the duties of the lay ministers is that we are going to be teaching our youth that you can come into the Catholic church without a Mass and leave without a Mass. We need to leave a vibrant church that involves the Mass which is the most important piece. We are getting away from the opportunity to offer Mass to our children.
- The Holy Spirit has performed miracles and in our hour of need will ring out and help us find solutions. But to do the description to the lay ministers that is outlined in the proposal – the importance of Mass has been lost.
- Suggestion – bring in 9 -12 foreign priests with the money that would be spent on lay ministers.
- We need lay people to carry out services.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #3 CONT.

- If we are going to use the lay person model, we will be asking each parish to contribute - \$15-\$20k per year. Rather, why not spend that money to bring in priests from other countries? The amount of money that it would cost to bring a lay person will be more expensive than a foreign priest.
- NL demographics – we are all aging. These three parishes are three very vibrant communities. We are an aging laity as well. Youth is where our strengths are going to lay in the future. While we have lots of volunteers in our parishes- they are aging.
- St. Thomas of Villanova - Answer to “Who’s going do all the work” – 2 people co-ordinating the Baptismal program, Bereavement team, music program, visiting of the sick and shut-ins, co-ordinating wedding rehearsals. Parishes already have people (volunteers) doing this work. Are we really expecting a paid lay person to come and do the work of 35-40 people in the Parishes? We’re not prepared to pay a lay person to come in?
- “Is it sustainable for every parish in this diocese to get all the services that are needed – that are not provided by the priests – from lay people”. That is, will the parishes have sufficient support?
- It will be a sad day in our Archdiocese if any zone cannot have a priest. There is a major distinction between the Mass and the Liturgy of the Word with Communion. Our Archdiocese has to consider very seriously the Permanent Diaconate.

QUESTION #4

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPLICATIONS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PASTORAL ZONE IN YOUR AREA?

- If we are going to bring about a vibrant church – then we need to do it the right way. It is concerning to parents – will children be losing their faith – will we be encouraging this if priests aren’t performing these services.
- The whole goal is that the faithful have access to the sacraments of the church. We have to be really clear as to what the lay people can do etc.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #4 CONT.

- Where will children go to have Mass? If lay people have services – Liturgy of the Word and Communion – the Church will lose out drastically because the sacrifice of the Mass will eventually be lost.
- Younger people don't believe in a lot of the things that we have taught them. How can we teach the young people about Mass if we are not going to have the Mass? The Church needs to be really open and most of the parishioners need to be open to having women priests, married priests etc.

QUESTION #5

DO YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS WITH THE FEASIBILITY OF THE OVERALL PLAN OF THE PASTORAL ZONE AND PASTORAL TEAMS?

- This is such a controversial topic which causes concern. But what is more concerning is if we didn't do anything at all.
- This may not be the perfect solution – but it is definitely a step in the right direction.

QUESTION #6

WHAT SHOULD BE THE NEXT STEPS IN OUR PLANNING PROCESS?

- We have tabled a plan, listen to feedback, go back and make adjustments and come back.
- Keep doing what we're doing and come back. We are grateful for the opportunity to get the input.
- We will gather feedback
- Committee itself should have a representative from each of the nine zones. This would enhance the communication between the committee and the parishes and better buy in. Committee needs to look at how we can include the proposed zones in a more inclusive way. Need to find someone in each one of the zones who can serve on the committee.
- Timelines – it will probably take us the first quarter of next year to put this together.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

QUESTION #6 CONT.

- There is a sub-committee of the main committee looking at property and accommodations as well
- We also need a priest on the committee from each prospective zone.
- Make sure that the priests get together first and discuss these proposals before it goes to the parishioners. This will provide for more wisdom. This is owed to them.
- A concern re: committee membership. There are paid committee members/employees of the Archdiocese on the team. Is this a conflict of interest? There are 4 paid people. We need both internal and external expertise?

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS

- In Ottawa, there is a group called NET Ministries – they go to different parishes to help bring youth back to parishes. They help parishes bring youth back by making Mass more exciting etc. Why can't we get this group here? They already have the knowledge.
- Maybe we should get 80 young people here - we would get their ideas as to what they would expect in the future.
- We need to give the youth something to come into the Church for. We need to really reach out to them. In order for anything to survive you need the youth – look at sports organizations.
- The children growing up today are not getting what we had growing up. No religion programs like we had in schools. We didn't have this problem years ago, because more children were joining religious programs etc.
- We need to evangelize the youth.
- How can the successful parishes help those parishes that are struggling or need assistance?
- We need to look at why we have gotten where we are?



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS CONT.

- The sole objective for the committee is to open the door to our Church and see what happens?
- Has anyone checked with Grand Falls and Corner Brook dioceses to see if they are experiencing similar problems? What are they doing? Any ideas from those dioceses?
- Change process is happening all throughout our Church.
- Bishop says to Vince that every bishop is going through the same challenges that we are experiencing today.
- We need to climatize foreign priests to our culture, environment, weather etc. Don't send them out to the rural areas without doing this.
- Strategic Planning Committee says that in their meetings with Bishops – there is talk about how there are struggles with fewer priests, providing enculturation with priests from other dioceses etc. The three dioceses are very different in our province.
- Evangelization ministry – we don't have this “ministry” as such.
- People in St. Mary's Bay – came to the Admin board a few years ago – and they on their own initiative sought to reduce the Churches from 11 to 5 in anticipation of declining enrollment etc. They were very proactive in dealing with the realities that we have today.
- People that were not at the meeting last night do not have the advantage of knowing what was discussed last night.
- One concern re: foreign priests – is that we are soon going to be robbing foreign countries of priests belonging there. This is also an ethical issue.
- Pretty soon – the Bishops and other hierarchy – should be looking at married priests, women priests etc. and also calling back priests who have left the priesthood and are willing to come back.



Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's STRATEGIC PLANNING Zone 5 – Public Meeting

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS CONT.

- Has there been a survey done on why the priesthood is not attractive to youth in Canada? All of North America has the same pattern. What is more frightening is that it is beginning to happen now in Latin America. Latin America is catching up to where North America is gone faster than it happened to us.

- There is 80 people here tonight – 47 last night