

Cariboo Deanery Report Assembly 2017

The past winter has been a busy time in the Cariboo, with the retirement of Rev Margaret Dempster at the end of February. I had a chance to meet with Margaret before she left for Ottawa where she intends to retire to. We have been very blessed to have Margaret in our deanery, she will be missed, and we wish her well on her new adventure.

We had a Deanery meeting at St John's Quesnel on March 4, 2017. There was representation from most of the parishes. The Robson Valley was unable to attend because of bad roads. Bishop Barbara attended and spoke about the proposed narrative budget for APCI (Territory of the People). People were very appreciative of the narrative budget and found it very enlightening. For most of the people in attendance it answered a lot of questions they had. Which was very helpful. The rest of the meeting we spoke about the immediate needs of the parishes. There is a lot of concern in the Cariboo with a shortage of clergy and naturally fear of the future. We did talk about the fact that the days of having a full time clergy in every parish has gone. This will create a need to imagine new ways of doing ministry. We spoke about those different ideas on how we could solve some of the issues raised, like educating the public on the role of the church in the community. Caring for people first and though the building can be costly they are a symbol of the church presence in the community.

They were just a few of the topics we discussed. There was also a discussion on sending the parishes activities to the Website manager so they can be posted on the website.

Thank you to the ACW in Quesnel for providing lunch for us, we closed our meeting with a Eucharist service.

Respectfully submitted

Len Fraser