

EDMONTON DIOCESE PWRDF SETS GOALS FOR 2009.

Edmonton representation of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) changed hands as Rev. Stephen Hallford, St. Peter's, stepped down as the Diocesan Coordinator, and Bishop Jane Alexander appointed Geoff Strong, St. Mary's, as his successor.

Mr. Strong has been involved with PWRDF for many years in the Edmonton Diocese and his previous diocese in Saskatoon. Rev. Hallford remains on the Diocesan Steering Committee along with Rev. Mark Vigrass of St. Patrick's. This committee has decided to focus on the PWRDF 50th anniversary celebrations for 2009 in order to familiarize more Anglicans with the work that PWRDF does at home and abroad.

Mr. Strong attended a PWRDF regional Workshop in Saskatoon at the end of October with an opportunity to meet with PWRDF staff and board members, to review and evaluate highlights of 2008, and to contribute suggestions for improvement.

Some suggestions included providing a PWRDF DVD that would help parish representatives to give presentations; request for PWRDF materials and web site to focus more on our partnerships 'on the ground' in many countries; persuading clergy to allow more sermon time for PWRDF; and promoting local strengths in parishes and dioceses from which others might borrow. The workshop also offered presentations on development work in Bangladesh, our new partnership with Canadian Food Grains Bank whose funds are matched 4:1 by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and on 50th anniversary celebrations.

A diocesan planning workshop was held at St. Mary's on 15 November, with 15 parish representatives from the diocese in attendance. Rev. Vigrass provided an overview of PWRDF, while Rev. Hallford reviewed available PWRDF resources. The afternoon session broke into groups to 'vision' some potential 50th anniversary celebration activities in Edmonton diocese.

The group brainstormed ideas and actions concerning awareness and education, environmental stewardship and fundraising for the coming year.

For more information, to contribute ideas, volunteer for PWRDF activities, or assist in organizing a parish presentation on PWRDF, please contact the PWRDF Diocesan Coordinator, Geoff Strong at 780-922-0665 or email: geoff.strong@shaw.ca.