

Report of the Executive Officer

The Provincial Synod exists to support the work of our dioceses and the parishes and ministries within them, and the Metropolitan, and the Provincial House of Bishops. These are some of the fundamental principles on which we try to base our work:

- the Province should only take the lead in a task when it is best done at this level; that is, when it does not make sense to have each diocese duplicating the work, and it is not a matter best handled at the national level. Examples of this are OPCOTE, Government Relations, and work on the challenges and opportunities that exist for all our diocese.

- the tasks undertaken at the Provincial level should be limited in number and designated as priorities by the Synod or the Executive Council. These priorities should be clearly thought out as part of the Province's overall strategy for its work. They should only be undertaken when the resources needed to do the task well are available, and when there is a reasonable prospect of success, and the success or failure of these initiatives should be regularly measured and changes made where these will bring more effective results.

- a guiding principle is the colloquialism "keep it cheap and keep it effective". Whenever possible we use volunteers for our tasks and keep travel and related expenses to a minimum. We now hold one of our two "Provincial Meeting Weeks" online and one in person.

- the COVID pandemic brought a broad and time critical challenge to each diocese in the province. The Executive Officers came together weekly to share understanding, challenges, best practices and council to each Dioceses' Bishop. While each diocese had it's own guidelines and timeline, the work done as a group helped each build and manage with shared resources and allowed for mutual support in difficult situations and decisions.

- there has been significant investment of time, energy and funding in the work of the "Calling and Forming Priests for Tomorrow's Church initiative. This is the main priority for the Triennium. The fruits of this work will come in the upcoming years

- two areas of focus have been the ongoing work with the Bereavement Authority of Ontario relating to cemeteries and on the rapidly escalating costs of Insurance to cover the risks of Property and Liability damage. These areas of focus are high priority for each diocese. We benefit from the pooled expertise, effort and resources that we bring as a province.

Alex Pierson