

newsletter from Bishop Geoff Peddle

# Moments of Grace

The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador



**October 6, 2014**

## **"You have a son!"**

Dear Friends,

Today, I begin a series of short reflections to you entitled, Moments of Grace. These will generally be weekly thoughts – sometimes more frequent, sometimes less frequent – inspired by my life and my ministry as a bishop. They will reflect what I believe is God's Grace in my life and in our common journey. I thank Canon Sam Rose for inspiring me to do this. These messages, by their very nature, will be quite personal at times and are intended only for those who want to receive them. They will not be as carefully written as my pastoral letters because here, in this space, I will allow myself to respond more freely and immediately to God's Grace. Although I had not intended to begin these letters until later in October, this day is such an overwhelming moment of grace for me that I think I hear God telling me, "it's time to begin!"

This morning I find myself in Happy Valley-Goose Bay following nearly a week in Labrador with our clergy and people in the Big Land. In a marvelous coincidence, my thoughts when I awoke this morning were transported back exactly 27 years to another morning when I awoke in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. I was a young deacon then (all of 24 years of age!) serving in Cartwright for the fall before transferring to the Parish of Lake Melville. I had flown in the night before from Cartwright, intending to travel on to St. John's the next day for a very important event. But I awoke that morning to discover that the very important event I was hoping to attend had happened overnight. For that very night, a few days earlier than expected, Kathy had given birth to our first child. He now lives in England and as soon as I got up this morning this is what I wrote to him:

**Dear Adam,**

**Happy Birthday! This morning I find myself in Goose Bay where I was exactly 27 years ago when your mother called to tell me, "You have a son." My life was changed forever by you and I would not have missed the journey for the world.**

**With much love on your/our special day,  
Dad**

My Moment of Grace today is the memory of becoming a father in that way, on that day, in this place.

Blessings,  
+Geoff