

newsletter from Bishop Geoff Peddle

# Moments of Grace

The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador



**October 8, 2014**

## **Breaking Bread Together**

It has been an interesting week. On Sunday I released a pastoral letter to the Parish of St. Philip's granting permission for their application to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's to take down the deconsecrated church building. I knew my letter would be controversial. As I anticipated, the unhappiest persons were members and supporters of the Church by the Sea Inc., the group dedicated to the restoration of the old church. Their views were certainly made clear to me on CBC Radio Crosstalk with Ramona Dearing on Tuesday at noon.

But it was what happened after the radio call-in show that was a moment of grace for me.

For right after the show I had lunch with the head of the Church by the Sea, Stephen Sharpe. He was even one of the people who called in to challenge me! Although Stephen and I find ourselves on opposite sides of this debate, we were still able to share a lunch together. You see, despite our differences on this issue, over the past number of months we have formed a deep and respectful relationship. And even though we are not in agreement on this matter we continue to recognize in each other a common humanity that we honored yesterday by breaking bread together. We still have miles to go on this road but I am most grateful for the time we shared. It actually gives me hope for our tortured world today.

Yesterday was an unexpected moment of grace for me thanks to Stephen. Somehow I can't help but think that with God, life doesn't always have to be "either-or": sometimes life really can be "both-and."

Blessings,  
+Geoff