



Bruce J. MacLeod Jr.

It was at this Diocesan Convention 145 years ago that Bishop Horatio Potter called for a charter to build a great cathedral for the Diocese of New York and established the first Board of Trustees. In 1892, on the Feast of Saint John, ground was broken in Morningside Heights, and ever since, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine has witnessed the glory of God, been a center of culture and theological inquiry for this great city, and a convening authority for the Diocese of New York.

Ours is the largest Gothic building on Earth, and one of the three largest cathedrals. Today it is but two-thirds finished, and the burdens of caring for this institution and growing it are extraordinary. Twenty years ago, the daunting financial challenge and the demands of a building like no other, but no longer new, revealed that the future of the cathedral was wholly imperiled. In the years since, Bruce MacLeod, as President of the Board of Trustees of the Cathedral, has brought the experience of a life lived in professional building development, and the spiritual maturity shaped by his life and labors at Christ's Church in Rye, to lead this institution through those challenges and into the judicious development of fallow portions of the Cathedral Close. This has stabilized this church. Bruce then leveraged those assets to build sufficient endowed funds to secure the life and continuity of the cathedral for the next century, if not indefinitely. It is not too much to say that on his watch the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine has been saved.

Bruce's leadership has bridged the temporal and the spiritual. It has been the privilege of this bishop to walk a road with Bruce in which we have engaged what can only be called the reawakening of the love and shared common life of the Diocese of New York and its cathedral. Within the extraordinary complexity of these two institutions, Bruce has brought voice and vision to the miracles and wonders God may do through institutional health and genuine Christian partnership. When the day comes that Bruce lays down the reins of his leadership, he will leave behind a profoundly transformed institution, and the gratitude of a bishop and diocese, and a dean and church.

Therefore, in recognition and gratitude for his witness to the spiritual possibilities of institutional leadership, and the costs and joys of that leadership, offered to the glory of God, we, on this 9th day of November 2018, in the seventh year of our consecration, do award him

The Bishop's Cross

The Right Reverend Andrew ML Dietsche
XVI Bishop of New York