



The
Episcopal Diocese
of New York

Address of the Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan
to the
240th Diocesan Convention
November 5, 2016

Bishop Dietsche, Bishop Glasspool, Delegates and guests:

It is my privilege and honor to address the 240th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York in my third year as Bishop Suffragan of this Diocese. Let me begin by sharing with you that I have completed the College for Bishops course for new bishops, and I have this certificate to prove it. So, I am happy to say I am no longer a “baby bishop.”

Welcome Bishop Glasspool

What a wonderful blessing it has been to have Bishop Mary Glasspool and Becki with us in this Diocese! Bishop Glasspool brings the gift of her pastoral and insightful leadership. I might also add she doubles the EQ of our episcopal team with her occasional principled curiosity. Being the introvert on this team, it has also been good to discover that it takes an introvert to bring the extroverts back to focus again and again and again. It is pleasure to welcome you, Bishop Glasspool, to your first convention in this Diocese.

With the departure of Archdeacon Bill Parnell, I have been asked to take on the oversight of the regional pastorates, while Bishop Glasspool is overseeing the mission portfolio as well as the campus ministry and young adult ministry. So this will be my last time to report on the campus and young adult ministries.

Campus Ministry and Young Adult Ministry

It is no brainer that we must make the Campus and Young Adult Ministries an important priority of the Diocese. The proposed budget for

2017 envisions new Canterbury Uptown, similar to the model of Canterbury Downtown. It will be centered at Columbia University but will also serve other college campuses in Harlem and the Bronx as well as help expand the Young Adult network in Uptown parishes. The prospect of this new campus and young adult ministry is exciting to me.

Can anything new come out of Ulster County? Yes! A new food pantry ministry is being developed on the campus of SUNY Ulster. I just learned that the university has designated a permanent space on campus for this, which will be opened on Monday. I want to thank the Rev. Robin James and the Rev. Alison Quinn for their leadership in this. This ministry has the potential to grow into other campuses in the neighboring counties.

Episcopal Service Corps/New York Internship Program

I am excited to tell you that we are well on the way of expanding the Episcopal Service Corps New York with a new Director, the Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer. The NYIP at St. Mary's Manhattanville continues to thrive with its new coordinator, Cynthia Bullard-Perez, and the new site is being developed at Trinity Church Morrisania in The Bronx. I am grateful to the Rev. Mary Foulke and the NYIP Advisory Council and Paula Roberts and the Vestry of Trinity Church for their leadership in this transition.

Youth ministry

Our youth are not the future of the Church but the present, active members of our churches today. Youth Ministry in the Diocese has shown renewed energy with regional youth events in various deaneries. Christian Formation Committee is offering workshops on youth ministry during the Convention. In August I joined eighty youth members and their leaders and chaplains at the Summer Youth Conference at Incarnation Camp. This is an important way to strengthen the Christian formation of our young people. I encourage you to consider the Summer Youth Conference for the youth members in your congregations.

Last month we held a Diocesan Acolytes Festival in which over three hundred people participated. There were workshops in the morning and

the closing Eucharist with 200 acolytes processing in was just an awesome sight to behold. On a side note, the event was enhanced by the logo designed by our own resident cartoonist Bishop Dietsche. The T-shirts with this logo, I believe, is being sold during this convention. I urge you to get one as this will be a collector's item someday. Who knows? It may fetch a couple of thousand dollars on eBay someday.

Given the renewed energy for youth ministry in the Diocese, I would like to propose again that we consider a staff position for youth ministry for 2018 or sooner if the finance allows.

Congregational Development Commission

Under the leadership of the Rev. Altagracia Perez-Bullard and the Rev. Claire Woodley-Aitchison, Congregational Development Commission has had another busy year. In three cycles of Renewal Works, over twenty congregations have experienced renewal and transformation. Ten more congregations are participating in the current fourth cycle. I urge you to consider as critical resource for transformation and growth. The Commission has also trained fifteen coaches to assist the clergy in our parishes.

New Ministry Initiatives

In the last two conventions, Bishop Dietsche called for the development of new Latino ministries around the Diocese. After a year of New Camino workshops, it has been a slow start. At the end of August, I took part in the Nueva Amanecer conference at Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina, which brought over 400 participants from all over the country. The Diocese of New York had the largest number of participants with our own Canon Perez-Bullard giving a keynote address. It was an inspiring and exhilarating experience. I urge you to consider a new Latino ministry as a mission strategy for your parish, and contact the Rev. Yamily Bass Choate for consultation and assistance.

This past summer a group of Asian ministry leaders got together to brainstorm a new ministry. A new pan-Asian ministry, called EAST

(Episcopal Asian Supper Table), was launched last month with twenty participants at Church of the Holy Trinity on E. 88th Street. Initially, the group is planning to meet every second Saturday evening of the month at different churches in Manhattan. Connect with them at their Facebook page, EAST, and spread the word. My hope is that this ministry will be developed into a new multi-cultural congregation.

Regional Pastorates and Team Ministries

Before his departure, Archdeacon Parnell worked on developing regional pastorates. The Delaware Catskill Team Ministry of St. John's Monticello, St. Andrew South Fallsburg and St. James Callicoon along with Grace Church Port Jervis is doing well with even a sign of growth in Monticello. Trinity Church and St. Paul's in Ossining have been in team ministry for a few years and now toward stability and even some growth. The Harlem River Valley Team Ministry of St. Andrew's Brewster, Holy Trinity Pawling and La Messa Latino congregation in Dover Plains is in its beginning stage. Christ Church Marlboro and Ascension and Holy Trinity Hyde Park are in their second year of team ministry.

The Mount Vernon Team Ministry has been slow getting off the ground due to the closure of Trinity Church and some internal reorganization of Ascension Church. I will soon be leading a conversation to envision a team ministry with the leaders of the remaining two churches, Ascension and Sts. John, Paul and Clement. We recently received a small grant from the Episcopal Church Center to research and develop a strategic plan for a team ministry in the South Bronx for renewal and new ministry.

After the General Convention last year, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has made Evangelism a mission priority for The Episcopal Church. I believe we must make it a strategic priority for this Diocese to nurture new evangelism efforts for emerging ministries, church planting and church replanting. This past summer a group of people gathered to study and explore church planting. It has been a slow start. But, in conjunction with the Congregational Development Commission, Canon Perez-Bullard and I are planning to form task forces on church planting and on regional

ministries to study and develop processes and models with concrete bench marks.

Conclusion

Since last fall, we have been engaged in a strategic planning process. It has taken a great amount of work by the three task forces and input from many people around the Diocese to produce the proposed document before us. It is almost a miracle that we accomplished this in just one year. This reflects the work of the Holy Spirit and the prayer and trust of many people who worked on this process. But, this is just a preparation for the journey ahead, and the journey will be long, a marathon, as Bishops Glasspool put it. I believe our journey together to live into the vision of this strategic plan will deepen our common life of prayer and strengthen our trust in God and in one another.