

2017-08-26 Notes from DoCC Latino Bishop's Forum – San Jose, Elizabeth

Dwelling in the Word

Where did you stop?

Need to be based on the life of Jesus

When he came and saw the grace of God

Give thanks to God

Disciples decided as they were able to give support to their brothers

Went to get Saul, and when he found him he brought him back and they worked for a year

Prophets predicted a great famine in Judea

Called Christians in Antioch for the first time

A man filled with the Holy Spirit and faith

Words or phrases – and why?

Filled with the holy spirit and faith –

- Great famine in all the world – how can we really prevent and do something (not prevent but respond) – mindful of Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

Firm faith in God and the Holy Spirit and the works of God – follow faith; most time we think of only material things but we're hungry for the Holy Spirit too.

Great number were converted – sometimes you have to do some work with people but we feel don't have the necessary equipment to do it; even in situations of challenge there are opportunities; faith helps us keep our eyes on Jesus.

This took place during the reign of Claudius – in this specific culture and situation – “for just such a time as this” – need disciples; time of persecution and that they knew they were the hand of God

- Mindful that many people in this country (especially Latinos) feel they're being persecuted because they are; in this community this text speaks in ways that others may not hear but must hear; but the proclamation was in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Church persecuted is much more faithful and understands its life in Jesus than the church comfortable.

Great number were converted and believed in Jesus – people started to preach and so people started to believe.

Persecution is physical and moral; (we need more people to be more disturbed about current events that raise issues of profiling and discrimination); help us to act; we live in fear; express the gospel of the justice and peace of Jesus Christ.

- Troubles me when politicians say that Americans want this or that; “you're not speaking for me”; same as when people speak on behalf of all Christians.

Persecution was helpful to the church in the beginning for unity; sign that we need to be together as the Body of Christ; if others suffer, we all suffer.

- Diocese is made up of many types of people; reflective of entire country; have some who are supportive of President; speak out clearly for Christian values against injustice; baptismal covenant doesn't allow the kinds of things they are trumpeting; many people of good faith who get it and are coming alongside as allies and supporters; need to keep telling the stories; Bishop and other leaders are taking active part in vigils and marches for peace, anti-racism.

How is the Spirit nudging you?

In the situation we have now, feeling pushed to be united and seeing how many people are in need; live into this every day.

Have to be active at all levels; especially locally but also at state and national levels.

Barnabas goes to Saul; work that we were doing to support the group – we are community.

Word to action; once converted, called by the words to action; that's how they came to be known as Christians; disciples living into the Christian life.

This time resonated with the sentence that the disciples in Antioch were the first to be called Christians not the ones in Jerusalem.

How we see Jesus guides how we see ourselves, how we see others; need to see all through the lens of Jesus Christ; being disciples of Jesus means change and transformation; we in the Hispanic community need to be disciples of Jesus; testimony of rejoicing at the work of the Holy Spirit; disturbing to see Latinos against Latinos; Jesus needs to be at the center; Jesus accepts, Jesus loves.

Vital Questions:

Relationship with Jesus in congregations, in Diocese and in wider Episcopal church.

Bishop - for me as Barnabas one of the great graces I see is the work that God is doing in our Hispanic congregations.

Growing, vibrant and alive.

One way to be very close to God; involved with all the activities of the church; I grew up in Mormon church; now have privilege to be part of universal church; health and healing; strength and connection in the church; importance is the community, supporting the community.

Do you think these are the important questions? What's important about our life together?

Holy Spirit woke me up.

Reading is so wonderful.

Testimonies so moving.

Put in practice; this is like the law; framework in the law.

We need to be more together and follow his teaching.

Formation is what we need to follow.

We live in difficult times; Jesus Christ is where we need to live in our life.

More difficult times; have to live according the Word; hold on tight to the Word; because the media methodology is completely different than before.

Social media; we have to learn to communicate; to take care of the message.

We live in a time of more powerful media; constant need to reaffirm existence in Jesus Christ; put on the whole armor of God; justice is not "up there", it's right here; we should be looking always here, not always up; mindful of what God is doing here.

Importance of being together; help our brothers when they need help; brothers and sisters are together; listen to one another, help one another, heal one another.

Lessons to be learned about interconnectedness particularly from our Latino community; great American myth is about self-made individualism; it's a lie – no one is self-made; we all need each other, we all rely on each other; need to name the lie; that's why the church is so important as a caring community with values that begin with the love of Jesus Christ; we can't just "not see" the image of Jesus Christ in one another.

Every day in the strength of prayer and being together, sometimes the only thing holding us together is loving each other.

We have to invoke the name of God, Jesus, Holy Spirit; God is here in the difficult times; we are leaders; have to help change.

In the Hispanic community it is important to work together not only as Latino community but also as larger diocesan community at the same time so we can be one as a diocese; we all have a lot of things to learn and challenges in front of us; community comes with challenge; will be different than the ones we're used to; the goal is to be able to be a community that is one of compromise but also of formation and transformation; formation of lay people is very important; as priests we have to promote that.

Anything you've not yet had a chance to say?

5th question – Daily life – in work, in community – how can I be more committed? Have to change every day; be a disciple every day when I get up I pray; when I leave my house, opportunity to think and reflect on how to be a better person and serve better; it's my obligation; don't have to be afraid; keeps me on the straight path.

- I take very seriously that God calls; I believe that God has called us all to be community together; that takes work; we're actually being pulled apart by our culture and by Satan; need to be that much stronger in our resolve to stay together and ask how we're called to be God's people.

September 5th would be good time to be together.

Maybe 15 years ago had strong fight against discrimination; now is time to come together like that again.

[Bishop]

Reminders about Trenton gun violence prayer vigils.

Need to stand with you in Camden and other areas too – need you to help me by letting me know; I'll change my calendar because it's important.

I know many people are terrified; without getting partisan, people are afraid; my place as a Bishop is to stand with those who are afraid no matter where they are; so I want to go with you when you need me to go with you and stand with you; please invite me.

Trenton convocation people have difficulty articulating relationship with Jesus Christ; that's a reason that people don't participate; we need to learn how to talk about Jesus and our relationship in our heart so we can go out into the world and do his work; like the Bishop being Barnabas; I see how the Bishop pushes himself into uncomfortable places; confronts racism, stays in places of challenge; people

recognize him as a prophetic voice; that's how the Holy Spirit is calling us; how come we don't feel the same way about rejoicing – like John the Baptist in his mother's womb; challenge to live the same way that the first Christians lived; in love and in empathy; when they see need, they send.

Tomorrow's gospel – “Who do you say that I am?” (Most important question in the whole Bible.)