

Trenton Convocation Clergy

Dwelling in the Word

Think of things from where we are at, bring our gifts as we are to where we are.

Building community took a whole year, and it can take much longer. It's a very slow/long process.

May be frustrated, but seeing the work of God brings new excitement.

The Holy Spirit was there and God was in charge of growing.

Connection with one another - feel that within the diocese.

The phrase "brought to the Lord" reminds us that most people come to church for the first time because they are personally invited.

In the context of the famine, the response to real human need of a neighbor is at the heart of being a disciple of Christ.

We need to learn to be patient and passive to let the Spirit work.

We shouldn't just take care of ourselves. The whole world needs us.

The early Apostles could have been Parochial and closed themselves off, but they didn't

We are challenged to be in dialogue with each other.

Diversity - some from here, and there, and there. Jesus was humble and he transformed lives.

Also had a prophetic voice against the religious authorities and establishment. The goal of being a disciple of Jesus: we have an abundant life if we really follow Him. It takes conversion every day to be a true disciple.

Antioch was not a well planned church plant but happened as a response to tragedy.

Vital Questions

Are these the right questions?

Things were really messy in the early church and that's good!

Why are young people not there? Our music traditions are too complex. Taize chants are more accessible. Church is the only place where 4-5 generations meet.

Tens like to learn music and liturgy and Bible stories. We need to teach so that it is no longer inaccessible.

Community action is important to the younger generations. But they want to know why we do it, and it's not just to make us feel better. Action/reflection model - we don't allow time for contemplation to make connections.

Jesus always wants us to be in mission not with establishment. We need to go back to mission.

We need to go out and reach others. Teach where they are. We did not inherit a dead body. We have to keep moving - if the body had remained dead, we would not be here.

2 questions - Missional conversation can't happen until we know our story. Are we in maintenance view?

The Constantinian model - we as a diocese have a noble heritage. We have a long history of being missional. All parishes had thrived for a long time. At some point we got distracted by what it means to be a parish - Rector's got settled in one place. It's really the Victorian model. We used to do it differently and we thrived.

US and them language. Yet now we finally say "our bishop" instead of "the bishop."

Why did we stop being connected. Joe Doss was very divisive. Clergy used to have time to be with our colleagues, to be in learning, more pastoral time. We have no staff. The part time element has been a real stressor.

Why are we trying to blame one person? We have the power to change. We need to teach and be

respectful. We need Jesus to change us. When we stay in the past we don't allow change. Young people want us to be concrete and authentic.

There is tension within the clergy. Our people's feelings are taught by us.

Doss was symptomatic of the problems,

We need to name the problems and we need these conversations more often.

Secular order - God is in the world. Too hard to separate between sacred and secular. Pastoral letters are wonderful.

Don't throw the baby (liturgy and tradition) out with the bath water.

We passed the Tithes as the standard of giving in 2012. Now the rectors are being called to task.

Capital campaigns are a good idea.

Issue of women clergy who are not allowed to serve on the altar at some of the parishes.

There were several college students sent to a congregation near their new school. The first week the priest preached and turned them all off.

We are under our vows of ordination. Fresh Start: it's amazing how many clergy don't go.

The focus is not to get butts in pews or more people to pay the bills, the focus is on Jesus.

We need a network of shared relationships.

Need to let blame go and we should move beyond it.

If we want churches to give money, we should place positive results where they are visible.