

Woodbury Convocation Clergy

Role of the teacher is vital. Also, interdependence of the church. Hellenists weren't without gods, but like today there was a fear of something.

We are being called to be more embracing of people who are more evangelical. We (clergy and lay) need to get out there to attract.

Changing context needs two questions asked: why was the church started, and how do we do it today? The Holy Spirit is working, and then the church acts as a response. Now just same old model trying to engage this new world. Why do we tell people about Jesus? Not just to make us better people, but what we need to bring people to Jesus.

The kingdom of God is active and moving, and we should be serving the kingdom. We need to tap into what is already happening.

Question - our parish is out there doing our thing. What is the distress that started these conversations? Financial issues were symptomatic of deeper issues. Strategic initiatives were ending intentionally. Without them our budget reflected 62% of asking from congregations. Fair share not working, and we've known it for years. We must deal with it. Take just what we are required to do, and then ask what do we want to do about it? Some belief that there is money out there, there is poor stewardship in some places, more parishes deciding our common life is not a priority.

There is a real care in this convocation about each other.

The connection to Trenton is clear, but the one to each other isn't as established.

Just need to be connected to God, but cannot use it as an excuse to not be connected to each other.

Not just the change of the church in society but in the change of the society itself. Church in heirarchy, church in mutuality. We are leaving more than money on the table, and people think they are satisfied with the minimum of buying good things to take care of their family and thinking that's good enough for God.

Have we done any work to see where the problems came from? One of the things is the residual baggage from Doss. It's in the psyche. This is why the giving is no longer mandatory. Whatever happened, we need to name JMD and there were other things that have been swept under the rug long before him.

Financial goes back through Banyard. We seek to live in the both/and of top down and bottom up.

Parishes have 12 months to respond when they are identified as being in distress.

When do we come together? Convention and clergy days. Used to have youth events, celebration for the bicentennial.

Conversation on convention floor. We are challenged to see if the right person is in the right place. Deployment concern. Parishes seem to just kick it up to the diocesan staff. Transition is limited.

Support may not be just money. Work with others in the local community as well. Why do Jubilee centers function on their own?

6 churches have come together with clergy and wardens to: bulk purchase, group contract, Lenten program, now fall program.

What in turn do we do for the national church? National church is now down to a mandatory 15% from all dioceses.

Hearing more about missions help to make the laity feel more connected.

We have done a poor job of teaching and formation.

Would like the committee to take the episcopate budget for one year, and then discuss how the money should be used to best support the true mission of the church.

Again, the money is systematic and symptomatic. Clergy leadership issues.

This process is endorsed but it takes up a lot of time. Could we discuss something more specific?

There are people who feel their identity is threatened by the changes in the church.

Many people don't know about the questions - the communication needs to be encouraged by the priest.

Hard to get congregations into the conversations because of the absence of knowledge and formation. Glad that we did not wait on these conversations even though it might be traditionally tough to get to people in July and August.