

On November 9th and 10th our diocese came together for our 242nd Diocesan Convention. Our first Bishop, The Rt. Rev Samuel Provoost was called to the episcopate at the first Convention in 1786 and had to travel to England to be consecrated Bishop in 1787. Two years after the new section of the present Rectory of St. John's was built by the way.

The connection of the Diocese of New York with the birthing of this Nation runs deep, a patriot from the beginning, Provoost was the Chaplain for the Continental Congress and held the first prayer Service for the newly inaugurated President George Washington.

Our present Bishop, The Rt. Rev Andrew Dietsche is only the 16th Bishop of this diocese and the connection of this diocese and of the Episcopal Church of the USA with the stresses and strains of our Nation continues. This was made eminently clear by Bishop Dietsche in his address on Saturday morning, in which he pointed out the "imperative" for all Episcopalians, all Christians to "...choose [to be a part of] the Beloved Community [of Christ]." He reminded us that the courage of the Christian is to "not hide out, to not make peace with evil but rather to reach across the divide," that is fracturing and polarizing our nation.

The Lay Delegate to Convention from St. John's, Pleasantville, Debbie Paruolo; was so moved by this preaching and that of others, as well as the readings and prayers of the Eucharist offered in five of the dozens of languages spoken in Liturgy's across this diocese on any given Sunday, that she prepared and introduced the following resolution to the floor of Convention:

Proposer: Deborah Paruolo

Parish: St. John's Episcopal Church, Pleasantville, NY

Whereas there is a culminating crisis at the Mexican-US border concerning immigration, relative to the spirit and commitment of Dr. King, as referenced in Bishop Dietsche's speech, "the imperative to choose the Beloved Community."

Be it resolved that the 242nd Convention of the Diocese of New York call upon all churches, synagogues, temples, and religious institutions, that no matter what the individual stand on immigration may be, we do everything in our power, both communally and individually, to prevent bloodshed at the meeting of the caravan and the border.

The Resolution passed unanimously. This, ladies and gentlemen, is Church.

Yours in Christ,
Mother Mary+