
A Message from the Dean...

All Politics is Local

I am writing this blurb two weeks ahead of time, as I will be at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for almost two weeks prior to today. I am one of the more vocal deputies on the floor of General Convention.

The two more significant issues to be debated are (were) a proposal to extend the rite of marriage to homosexual couples and a whole slew of resolutions to restructure the governance of the Episcopal Church. At this point, two weeks ahead of time, I suspect that both proposals will end in a whimper. Although I have very strong opinions on each of these matters-and I am happy to share those with anyone who asks-I am convinced that neither of these will greatly affect our Cathedral life. (Oh, and we will be electing a new Presiding Bishop, and I doubt that will have much affect on our life together, either.)

Is the time spent at General Convention much ado about nothing? No. I believe that the effects of what occur there will eventually trickle down to our congregational life. Am I being cynical? No. I believe several things that the General Convention will pass will also have their local effects on us.

I believe, as former Speaker of the House of Representatives "Tip" O'Neill said, "All politics is local."

Indeed, the church is, in the end, about our common life together here in the East End of Dallas. The Articles of Religion ("The Thirty-Nine Articles") have this same view: "The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance. . ." Art. XIX, p. 871, BCP.

Just as all politics is local, all church is local. Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, praying for a friend or family member, visiting those in the hospital or homebound, sharing one's faith in Christ-each of these can be a mustard seed act that can grow into something much larger.

The Cursillo movement has a saying that encapsulates this whole notion really well: Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ.
