

Youth Prod Bishop for Answers About the Next Generation

The St. Alban's Youth Group made a trip to the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle to attend the *Business of God* program presented by the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP). The keynote address of this program was entitled, *The Next Generation: Conversations with Our Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori*.

An often-stated goal of the evening was to engage youth and young adults in a conversation with the Presiding Bishop regarding topics of faith that are a concern to their generation. To focus and encourage youth participation, no one over the age of 35 was admitted unless they were accompanied by one or more individuals under the age of 35. The St. Alban's attendees were Patrick Greenlaw, Emily Bee, Meridith Bee, Barb McClain, and Ben Johnson.

The evening began with a quick welcome by Bishop Greg Rickel and then transitioned to Bishop Suffragan Nedi Rivera who introduced Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. The Presiding Bishop's lecture discussed healing the world by reconciling it to God through Jesus Christ. She promoted creative thinking in getting beyond parish walls for worship and fellowship in order to minister to the world by example. Above all, she encouraged the youth, specifically 18 and under, to "prod" their leaders in regards to the change they envision for the church.

Once the Presiding Bishop was finished speaking, a good portion of the evening was then given over to the youth to take the floor for a Q&A session with her. Examples of questions and answers that were put forth are paraphrased below:

Q: How can we incorporate contemporary Christian music into the service?

A: Prod your music leaders for change.

Q: What are other ways to study the Bible for youth that don't find Bible stories relevant for their lives?

A: Find other books with Christian values and refer back to the Bible for validation.

Q: What actions can parishes take to get involved in healing creation (the environment)?

A: Check out www.earthministry.org.

Q: How can we minister to kids before they become "at risk kids"?

A: What is your parish doing for kids after school, during spring break, during summer vacation, or whenever kids may be looking for something to do?

Overall, the discussions of the evening allowed the attendees to head home feeling empowered, important, and thinking about how they can improve their church and communities. If you want to know more about the evening, prod one of the St. Alban's Youth Group attendees to sit down with you and discuss their experience.