

General Convention Address
Nora Vinas, Diocese of SE Florida

Buenas tardes, mi nombre es Nora Vinas, soy de la diocesis del sureste de la florida y estoy con la presencia oficial de jovenes.

Good afternoon, I am Nora Vinas and I'm from the Diocese of Southeast Florida and I'm with the General Convention Official Youth Presence (GCOYP).

As a youth this is how I live out the Five Marks of Mission.

When working with youth I proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom by letting them know, we have a loving and forgiving God. At youth events we provide them with a community of kids who understand their situations and reassure them they are saved by Jesus Christ.

I lead by example by helping nurture new believers; when serving at my provincial youth event last week, I found courage and strength to share my story, which inspired others to do so as well. And in just seven days the group of strangers whom I embarked on a road of reconciliation and transformation with, became my family.

At youth events I put the needs of others before mine because I know how good it feels when loving service is given to me. But most importantly, I rejoice in being an instrument of God.

I've met angels who empower, support, and encourage youth to transform unjust structures of society because we are all children of

God. Just last week, my provincial youth event educated us on the injustices happening in the United States; past and present. We Realized, we can be the change everyone is waiting for and ready to take everything we learned back to our diocese.

I strive to sustain and renew the life of the earth; by making sure mission work and recycling is part of my life.

My life was transformed through youth events...I found God, and all because my diocese had the programs to quench my thirst. Programs like happening, camp, provincial youth event, episcopal youth event and so many others are the way the Episcopal Church will stay alive.

Through these events young people are being taught a Christian community is ESSENTIAL for one's spiritual growth and that....That motivates us to deepen our roots in the church.

Youth events have taught me to speak up even when my voice trembles and that the weaker I get, the stronger I will become. Youth events are the best way young people can evangelize, because we are able to share our stories and invite and welcome others.

El señor a guiado mis pies, a tomado mis manos en la de él, y a moldiado mi Corazon para hacer su voluntad y no la mia. Y de eso se tratan los eventos de jovenes.

God has guided my feet...taken my hand in his... and molded my heart to do his will and not mine. And that...is exactly what youth events are about.

I now challenge you to support the youth, continue forming leaders, and the church will thrive.

Reality is: We the youth, may be the church of tomorrow, but we are already making a difference today and we are here to stay.