

Bishop's Message for November 2007

The fall months not only signal a change of seasons, they signal as well the time of Conference Conventions. I remember as a parish pastor that there were those Saturday mornings (I confess) when slogging off down the highway at an ungodly hour to be in a neighboring parish by nine left a little something to be desired. Why bother? Once I got there, my attitude always improved. As they say, getting there is always half the battle! I also remember as a conference dean that my impressions of Conference Conventions changed for the better. The chance to gather with my Lutheran neighbors, exchange ideas and strategies, share in Eucharist, enjoy a delightful lunch and do the business of the Conference began to take on the tenor of "importance". As dean, I also remember the faces of colleagues I consistently saw, and those that I consistently didn't see. We need this chance to be in each other's company. The host congregations always went out of their way to provide for the needs of attendees. And often, the discussion over lunch was just as important (or maybe more so) than some of the agenda items. Now as bishop, I have seen that the Conference Conventions afford one of the best opportunities for clergy and lay leaders to have interface and be in dialogue with the Synod Office. These are the smallest gatherings of clergy and lay leaders that take place, other than individual parish visits. As such, they lend themselves to the kind of communication I need to have, and you want to have, with your bishop. So on those November Saturdays when I am slogging off down the highway at an ungodly hour to make it to the next Conference Convention, I am going to remind myself what I wrote here. I look forward to seeing you at your Conference Convention!

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
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