

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-C027
TITLE: The Celebration of the life and work of Dorothy Day, Christian Activist
PROPOSER: New Jersey
TOPIC: Lesser Feasts/Fasts

Directly Related: (Attached)

2015-A057 Consider Adding Commemorations to "A Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The "direct" resolutions are attached and "indirect" resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

C027 The Celebration of the life and work of Dorothy Day, Christian Activist

Proposer	Diocese of New Jersey
Topic	Lesser Feasts/Fasts
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 79th General Convention recognize Dorothy Day, Christian activist, and her ministry among and to the poor, and as a Servant of God by adding her to the calendar of Lesser Feasts and Fasts (or such other calendar as may be adopted for the use of The Episcopal Church) with the following text and propers:
 - 2 Dorothy Day, Christian activist.
 - 3 Suggested date of commemoration: November 29
 - 4 Collects
 - 5 O Lord, whose grace raises up Thy servants among Thy people: Thou hast given us the life of Dorothy Day, who fed and sheltered the urban poor; who planted hope amidst rural people; and who steadfastly advanced the cause of social justice and peace over greed and war; stir up Thy grace amongst us; that we, too, may provide shelter, food, and hope to those in need; and that we may pursue the justice and peace proclaimed by Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; who dwells with Thee and the Holy Spirit in Thy kingdom that would come amongst us. Amen
 - 6 O Lord, whose grace raises up your servants among your people: you have given us the life of Dorothy Day, who fed and sheltered the urban poor; who planted hope among rural people; and who steadfastly advanced the cause of social justice and peace over greed and war; stir up your grace among us; that we, too, may provide shelter, food, and hope to those in need; and that we may pursue the justice and peace proclaimed by your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in your eternal kingdom that would come among us. Amen.
 - 7 Propers:
 - 8 1 Samuel 2: 1–10 (Song of Hannah)
 - 9 or Isaiah 25: 1–5
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10 Sirach 34: 14–20

11 or Romans 12: 1–16

12 Matt: 10 9: 34–42

13 Psalm 107: 1–9

14 The Life of Dorothy Day

15 Dorothy Day was born in Brooklyn in 1897, to a middle-class family. She experienced an early life of social activism as a journalist, editor, novel and screenplay writer very much tossed on the seas of contemporary ideological currents. Not until her reception into the Roman Catholic faith in December 1927 did she find the disciplined focus of an ardent Christian faith to fuel her social activism. In 1933 she was the co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement.

16 Attending daily local worship for prayer and the sacraments, Day launched a passionate career of radical Christian social action during the Great Depression, focusing on housing and the food needs of unemployed urban workers and their families in New York City. She used her pen to champion their needs. Criticized by some, including the leaders in her own beloved church, and often arrested for her activism, political labels never took hold as she consistently passed on government assistance for her work relying instead on the good will of donors and help from those who could find work.

17 Propelled by the economic conditions of the 1930's, Day's program—typified by iconic soup kitchens— spread to other large cities across the U.S. and in at least 19 countries abroad. She also helped start a rural commune farm movement, emphasizing the values of community and fellowship over productivity. Today, there are over 200 "hospitality houses" world-wide. Her Catholic Worker newspaper served as a channel of information and encouragement selling always for a penny a copy.

18 Day's faith also expressed itself in her pacifism. She challenged U.S. participation in World War II and all subsequent conflicts up to the Vietnam War. She took up the cause of migrant workers, working with Cesar Chavez in the 60s and 70s.

19 The winner of numerous awards for her leadership and personal example, she chose deliberately to live in voluntary poverty among those whom she served. In 2015 Pope Francis in an address to the United States Congress cited her activist passion for justice and service to the oppressed and called her a "Servant of God". She died, beloved and admired, in a hospitality house for women in New York City at the age of 83. Her gravestone simply lists her name, the dates of her life, and her proclamation, "Deo Gratias".

EXPLANATION

At the heart of who we are, as that part of the Jesus Movement that we call The Episcopal Church, is

reaching out to those in need. By our Baptismal Covenant we promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving [our] neighbor as [ourselves]." We promise to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Acting on her faith, Dorothy Day provides for us a contemporary example of Christian witness and life, responding to the challenges she encountered, that should resonate with our own promises and encourage us to answer the challenges that we face.



Resolution Number: 2015-A057
Title: Consider Adding Commemorations to "A Great Cloud of Witnesses"
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to review the following persons in light of the criteria adopted by this General Convention:

- 1/3 Gladys Aylward
- 1/4 Thomas Atkinson
- 1/5 Amma Syncletica of Alexandria
- 1/12 Caesaria of Arles
- 1/30 Charles Stuart, King and Martyr, 1649
- 1/31 Marcella
- 2/10 Scholastica, Religious, 543
- 4/3 Katherine Drexel
- 4/3 Mary of Egypt
- 4/17 Kateri Tekakwitha
- 4/22 Maria Gabriella Sagheddu
- 4/30 Marie de l'Incarnation, Educator and Spiritual Teacher in New France, 1672
- 5/21 Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330
- 7/11 Olga of Kiev
- 7/23 Bridget of Sweden, Founder of Bridgettine Order, 1373
- 8/12 Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
- 9/28 Paula and Eustochium
- 10/3 Mother Theodore (Anne-Therese) Guerin, Religious, Educator, Prophetic Witness, 1856
- 10/12 Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845
- 11/5 Catherine of Alexandria
- 11/8 Elizabeth of the Trinity
- 11/16 Gertrude the Great and Mechtilde of Hackeborn
- 11/29 Dorothy Day
- 12/13 Ella Baker
Emily Ayckbown, Founder of the Sisters of the Community of the Church, 1870
Kate Harwood Waller Barrett
Etheldred Berry
Mary McLeod Bethune
Louise De Koven Bowen, Hull House
Josephine Butler
Denzil A. Carty
Anna Bessant Cassey, Peter Cassey, and Henrietta Lockwood
Rosa Judith Cisneros
Atilano Coco
Florence Converse

Ella Cara Deloria, Native American Poet and Writer
Helen Fuller
Ann Gream
Angelina and Sarah Grimke
Sister Margaret Hawk, Church Army, Native American Activist
Addie D. Waites Hunton
Satoko Kitahara
Susan Trevor Knapp, NY Training School for Deaconesses
Queen Lili'uokalani
Eva Lee Matthews and Beatrice Henderson
Victoria Earle Matthews, Author and Settlement House Worker, 1907
Eleanor Laura McMain
Harriet O'Brien Monsell
Maria Montessori
Anna Newell, St. Margaret's House, Berkeley
Phoebe Palmer
Katherine Parr
Ellen Albertina Polyblank [Sister Albertina] & Elizabeth Ann Rogers [Sister Beatrice]
Richeldis of Faverches
Eleanor Roosevelt
Dorothy Sayers
Mary Kingsbury Simkovitch, Greenwich House, NYC
Therese of Lisieux
Adeline Blanchard Tyler
Ruth Elaine Younger (Mother Ruth, CHS); and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to create collects and biographies for those persons on this list who conform to the criteria and present these materials to the 79th General Convention for addition to "A Great Cloud of Witnesses," with full explanation for those revisions; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$15,700 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 729-731.