

NOYES FROM CHARLOTTESVILLE

On Thursday, September 7, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spoke with diocesan clergy and officers at lunch and later preached at St. Paul's. He is entirely authentic and very personable. An enthusiastic and active speaker. Here are some of his thoughts.

The fundamental issues of the war didn't get resolved. It was like a scab that was ripped off on August 12. Now everyone knows Charlottesville. August 12

Nothing new happened on August 12. What was already there was just revealed.

The demons that were revealed must be engaged.

The issues will polarize. If we engage about the issues, it'll be about us versus them. Don't engage the issues. Focus instead on the values and principles.

In our cities and our communities, even in our parishes, we don't actually know each other – really know each other. We avoid getting too close. Through the church we must reclaim relationships with each other

We need to have conversations about tough subjects. One possible approach is to tell each other stories about how and why we came to our positions on these subjects. When you know the story, you know the person.

We need to allow the truth to emerge in ways that can foster healing. Listen to each other's stories.

In our cities, in our communities, in our parishes we need to risk having this kind of conversation. It's not about hatred. It's about a misplaced longing for relationships. It's about wanting to belong, to something, maybe to anything

This is our opportunity for evangelism. Offer the gift of belonging. Of being one with Christ, with his Church, with our family.

I ask you to stand for love in the way of hate. Don't be ashamed to live the way of love, to show God's love. Keep in keeping on, and don't you quit!