

“Listen! A sower sent out to sow... for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields” (Matthew 13:3, 23)
E.Y.E. (Episcopal Youth Event) was set in San Antonio, Texas this year it reoccurs every three years and this year we were lucky enough to be apart it. All together there were three kids from the North, six kids from the south, and three adults from all over. The Diocese of Nevada all joined forces at Trinity University on July 8th, 2008 where we learned to never again complain about the dry heat of Las Vegas. In short, Humidity is not your friend.

Upon arrival we were greeted by a Texas Rain Fall which is equivalent to a Las Vegas flash flood. For some of us it was an invitation home right away and for others we saw it as an opportunity to go to a free water park. We luckily were not caught outside during the attack we sat on a cool and dry coach bus while we watched fellow E. Y. E. members from all over get caught in the storm (It was hilarious). Once we arrived at Trinity University we realized how big the campus really was. For the boys there trip from their dorm to events was quick, and the girls on the other hand had quite a walk. The Girls had to walk across clear across campus to see civilization.

Our first E. Y. E. service was overwhelming. The music consisted of Rock and Roll, for a majority of us we had never heard those songs played in that way before it was an experience that will never be forgotten. We saw a familiar face being Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori who proceeded to throw sunflower seeds to the crowd. She gave a speech about the meaning of E.Y.E. We were so overwhelmed the first day that a majority of us wanted to come home.

The second day we started off with a Eucharist and then we went to our first day of Small Groups. Which consisted of eight to ten people from around the World where we met in a safe zone to meet them all in a more personal setting. Two of our youth and our three adults were small group leaders who kept there groups going and had a great learning experience from it. After, we proceeded to lunch, where we had a bunch of options. We then had three hours of free time where we avoided the outdoors as much as possible. We spent our daily three hours becoming more of a family. We then went to our afternoon program where we learned many different songs that were meant to get us closer to God.

Later on that day we prepared for the fiesta, which was kind of like a carnival where every diocese set up a table and played games or handed out gifts. We, being from Nevada decided to do things a little differently. We had two tables and at one table we had a person doing magic tricks that puzzled the crowd. At the second table we took turns teaching our E.Y.E. members how to play Blackjack and Texas Hold’Em. We collected a lot of gifts from other states this night, but we also passed out Thunderbird pamphlets as well as playing cards.

After our fiesta we were given the option to go to a forum. These forums ranged from learning about places of the world to learning about ourselves. Our third day started the same with our morning program, small groups and then our free time. But, today we had the opportunity to go to a workshop ranging from learning the Zumba, to exploring our Art and Spirituality. Following Dinner we went to another forum before going to our Eucharist. The Eucharist this day was in Spanish, the lessons, the gospel, and the music were all in Spanish. Even though most of us did not understand Spanish, the sermon we heard this day touched us all more the others. A young man from Honduras who couldn’t have been more than sixteen delivered a story that was life changing. He had gone

through so many things that could break any person down to nothing but was able to get past it all through his faith in God.

On our fourth day we started with our daily morning routine. But today after lunch we were taken to San Antonio for sight seeing. They dropped us off at El Mercado which was this big indoor market where we found cowboy hats, belt buckles, and ponchos everything we would need for a true Texas experience. On our way to the River Walk we stopped at stores to take pictures with the wrestling masks and Sombrero's. When we got to the River Walk we were surprised, we imagined a beautiful flowing river that would awe us. That's not exactly how we would describe it, the River was surrounded by beautiful architecture but the river itself was, well green. It wasn't what we expected but it was nice to see the famous River Walk that everyone talked about.

When we returned back to Trinity we went on to our province dinners where we were able to meet people from Hawaii to Micronesia. We then proceeded on to our Healing Liturgy where we all became so much closer as a group. The Healing Service was life changing for everyone, it was as if all 1,200 people at E. Y. E. came together and pulled out every thorn they had in their soul that was holding them down. After our healing liturgy we were all exhausted from the day's events and our individual emotion overloads from the service, so we all returned to our dorms.

After the morning events on our fifth day we spent our three hours of free time meeting new people and staying cool in the university's athletic center. We then all participated in a Zumba workshop where we practiced our Latin dancing skills. One of our own even got to teach the class some moves, let's just say it was an interesting experience. Our dinner was BBQ style and they even taught line dancing. Our Final Eucharist was a celebration, we finally made it. This service was not like the rest for us, we stood up and sang every song and became the people that we looked at like aliens. We finally understood what exactly we were doing, our first Eucharist was overwhelming but our last one was a beautiful experience. Where we laughed, we danced and just had an all around good time.

Our last day there was tough, we watched all of our new friends board their buses to the airport, one by one. Unfortunately the Nevada Diocese were not all on the same flight so our little family had to part. Saying goodbye to everyone that we had spent our whole week with was horrible. We must have hugged each other at least three times each, it was so hard to let go. We all made life long friends that we will never forget and will always stay in touch with.

Looking back at E.Y. E. we all came into it with a different assumption of what it would be. For some of us we saw it as a Vacation from our houses and for others we saw it as a way to find god again, and we can all say it was a vacation to get closer to god. Where all nine of us from all over Nevada got together and shared our faith with one another. We share a bond that can only be created through god and some funny moments. If you ever get a chance ask one of us what "Awkward Turtle" is.

E. Y. E. was amazing it is very hard to explain it in words. If you or anyone you know ever get a chance to go to E. Y. E. take it because it is an opportunity that should never be passed up. We will never forget our time at E.Y. E. and will forever have the bond we created there.