

Resolution 2010-6

Title: **The Inclusion of James Cardinal Gibbons
in the Book of Holy Women, Holy Men**

Submitted by: Steven Shore, St. Peter's, Ellicott Mills

RESOLVED, that this 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Maryland, meeting April 30 – May 1, 2010, memorializes the next General Convention of the Episcopal Church that James Cardinal Gibbons be added to the Book of "Holy Women, Holy Men," and that the day be that of the Cardinal's death, March 24th.

Explanation

James Cardinal Gibbons Archbishop of Baltimore

Born in Baltimore in 1834, he was ordained a priest in 1861, and served as Archbishop of Baltimore from 1868 until his death in 1921.

He was known as a strong labor advocate, protecting the Knights of Labor, then the nation's largest labor organization, from condemnation in Rome. He was also perhaps the individual most responsible for preventing the disenfranchisement of black voters in the state of Maryland. He was a strong defender of the rights of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States against foreign extremists who failed to appreciate the unique American environment, and were determined to condemn as a heresy something they labeled "Americanism".

H. L. Mencken, a man of few illusions about the clergy, said of Cardinal Gibbons, "He was a man of the highest sagacity, a politician in the best sense, and there is no record that he ever led the Church into a bog or up a blind alley. He had Rome against him often, but he always won in the end, for he was always right."