

Resolution 2010-7

Title: **The Inclusion of George Kennedy Allen Bell
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 George Kennedy Allen Bell be added to the Book of “Holy Women, Holy Men,” and that the day be that of his death, October 3rd.

Explanation

**George Kennedy Allen Bell
Bishop of Chichester**

Ordained priest, 1908; Dean of Canterbury, 1925-29
Bishop of Chichester, 1929-58

He was exemplary in combining personal creed and social engagement, as well as being a pioneer in the ecumenical movement. A friend of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, he was perhaps the most important international ally of the anti-Nazi Confessing Church in Germany, and brought their cause to his fellow bishops of the Church of England. He was a champion of Christians in Germany of Jewish descent, and assisted their escape from Germany, sometimes hosting them in his own residence. His publicizing the imprisonment of Martin Niemöller was attributed to saving his life.

During World War II, he ministered to Germans interned in Britain and to British conscientious objectors, but was most famous for his repeated condemnations of area bombing, calling the bombing of unarmed women and children ‘barbarian’, an extremely unpopular and courageous position at the time. As a close friend of Bonhoeffer, Bell knew the precise plans to assassinate Hitler, sharing this information with the British government, in the hopes, subsequently dashed, that Britain would reach an official accommodation with the German resistance, rather than to continue to insist on unconditional surrender.

After the War, Bell was one of the first bishops to protest the inhumane treatment of the approximately 14 million Germans displaced from what had become Polish territory, and also opposed the nuclear arms race. In his final years, he befriended Giovanni Montini, who, in 1963, became Pope Paul VI.