

GAMBLING POLICY

For more than fifty years, the Diocese of Newark has consistently been on record as opposing games of chance. Diocesan publications, websites and listservs are not to be used to promote gambling or games of chance. A list of resolutions on this topic follows:

Gambling: Diocesan Journal of 1954

The Reverend Welles R. Bliss moved the adoption of the following resolution, and seconded by the Reverend Benjamin Minifie:

WHEREAS the prevalence of gambling is increasing, and

WHEREAS certain forms of gambling such as bingo and raffles have acquired legal status in the State of New Jersey, and

WHEREAS gambling never represents a fair exchange of property, and

WHEREAS the basic principle of Christian giving is that of supporting charities and Church in imitation of the divine compassion of our Lord without any thought of personal return,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this Convention hereby draws attention to the fact even though raffles and bingo are now legal, they are still not moral;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Convention reaffirms the position previously taken by the Convention of this diocese and draws attention to the grave moral and social evils arising through the prevalence of gambling; and that in view of these evils it is urged that no Church or Church organization make money by gambling, and that this Convention further warns of the danger of acquiring the habit of gambling and therefore urges that the members of the Church in this diocese be on guard against participating in gambling practices which have in so many cases been detrimental to the soul and to society.

The Reverend Montgomery Throop offered amendment to strike out in the fifth paragraph the words 'they are' and substitute 'gambling is', and in the sixth paragraph to strike out the word in the last line 'soul' and substitute 'individual'.

The Reverend Jay Hughes offered amendment to omit the third paragraph and the fifth paragraph, and in the sixth paragraph strike out the word 'further'.

It was moved and carried that Dr. Throop's amendment be adopted.

It was moved and carried that Father Hughes' amendment be adopted.

II. I.

It was moved and carried that amended resolution as follows be adopted:

WHEREAS the prevalence of gambling is increasing, and

WHEREAS certain forms of gambling such as bingo and raffles have acquired legal status in the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS the basic principle of Christian giving is that of supporting charities and Church in imitation of the divine compassion of our Lord without any thought of personal return,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this Convention reaffirms the position previously taken by the Convention of this diocese and draws attention to the grave moral and social evils arising through the prevalence of gambling; and that in view of these evils it is urged that no Church or Church organization make money by gambling, and that this Convention warns of the danger of acquiring the habit of gambling and therefore urges that the members of the Church in this Diocese be on guard against participating in gambling practices which have in so many cases been detrimental to the individual and to society.

The resolution was adopted as amended.

CASINO GAMBLING: Diocesan Journal of 1974

On motion by Mrs. Nancy Hawkins, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS legalization of new forms of gambling has acted to legitimize and encourage gambling in general and now legalization of casino gambling has been proposed in the State of New Jersey,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Diocesan Convention go on record as opposing the legalization of casino gambling in the State of New Jersey, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey and State Senators and Assemblymen representing districts within the Diocese of Newark.