

## Lost in Translation: Bishops discuss how to commemorate saints inclusively

*(Episcopal News Service)* The House of Bishops considered at length July 10 where the proposed revisions to Lesser Feasts and Fasts ought to be translated into other languages.

The discussion ended where it began, with approval of [Resolution A097](#) to authorize trial use of "Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints," a revision of the church's calendar now known as "Lesser Feasts and Fasts."

But the sometimes colorful comments bishops offered during the discussion reflected one of the challenges facing the post-modern church in the midst of a multi-cultural society -- which language to use?

First, the bishops approved a related resolution, [A096](#), which proposes revised and additional commemorations in the Calendar of the Church Year as set forth in "Holy Women, Holy Men." Then, immediately after Resolution A097 was brought up for consideration, Bishop James Jelinek of Minnesota proposed an amendment to replace the book's Rite 1 collects featuring Elizabethan English with a Spanish translation of those collects.

"Rite 1 is a language of the past. It's very good for evangelism of retired English teachers, but that's about it," Jelinek said. "Spanish is a language for this church in the future and in the present. And if you want to get practical it saves us money to do it in one book."

Western Kansas Bishop James Adams said he agreed with the idea of having a Spanish translation, "but there still are a lot of people out there who still speak Elizabethan English in their worship, and this cuts them out, and I don't want to do that."

Assistant Bishop William Gregg of North Carolina then offered an amendment to the amendment that would add French collects as well. That idea was voted down after Bishop Pierre Whalon of Europe reminded the house that all church documents already are required to be translated into French as well as Spanish.

Discussion briefly returned to the idea of substituting Rite 1 with Spanish before Bishop Suffragan Bavi "Edna" Rivera of Olympia proposed another amendment that would have collects appear in Rite 1, Rite 2 and Spanish. "We would appreciate all three," she said.

Bishop Edwin Gulick of Kentucky, however, argued that only one English collect is needed: "The rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer are very generous in allowing us to stylize collects appropriate to the rite we're celebrating. Clergy of the Episcopal Church have the intelligence to change 'you' to 'thee' if necessary."

The proposal to publish collects in Rites 1 and 2 as well as Spanish failed.

Attention again returned to the original proposal to substitute Rite 1 with Spanish, and the church's historical language, however misunderstood by some, held firm in the hearts of those who voted.

"I'm not a retired English teacher," said Bishop Suffragan David Reed of West Texas, "but I do have a great love for the language of Rite 1, and find that it is still a way to attract people into the Episcopal Church and I would hate to sacrifice it."

Southeast Florida Bishop Leo Frade, who is Cuban, agreed: "I've always defended the right of people to speak Spanish in this country, and I believe in it, but I also would like

to defend the right of people to speak Elizabethan English in this country... It's never good to substitute Spanish for English."

The bishops voted down the idea of replacing Rite 1 collects with Spanish translations, then quickly approved the original resolution, which goes to the House of Deputies for approval.