



St. Luke's East Hampton Reflections from Fr. Ben

February 12, 2026



One of the great joys of being a cathedral dean was the opportunity to participate in the annual conferences of the North American Cathedral Deans Association. There is typically one cathedral and one dean in each diocese. As the name implies, the conference included deans (and their spouses) from throughout North America, almost half of which were from Canada. We had deans from Nunavut and New Orleans, from Quebec and Kansas City, from San Francisco to Saskatchewan, and from Hawaii and Havana, and regularly invited the dean of Jerusalem as our guest. In Ottawa, we were invited to sit in on a session of Parliament. In Washington, we made the National Cathedral our home. The North American nomenclature challenged me to change my vocabulary and my understanding of what America means. The friendships created at those meetings reinforced a lesson I have been reminded of throughout my ministry. We are part of a global family. At one time the sun never set on the British Empire. It still never sets on the Anglican Church. Yes, our roots are in the English Book of Common Prayer. Did you know, however, that there are more French-Speaking Anglicans in Africa than there are English-Speaking Episcopalians in the United States, that the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church is in Haiti, and that Mexico and Central and South America are home to more than 250,000 Episcopalians? In Long Island, we have congregations that worship in Mandarin, Korean, and Spanish. Right here in East Hampton, the vast majority of kids who attend our public schools are native Spanish speakers. I am grateful for our partnerships with OLA, Ruta 27, the East Hampton Healthcare Foundation, and other groups through whom we regularly welcome our Latino brothers and sisters into Hoie Hall and our Sunday School rooms. I wonder what we would need to do to bring those same neighbors into the church itself.

The Superbowl Half-time show ended with Bad Bunny saying “God bless America,” listing all the countries in America and leading a parade of flags from those countries out of the stadium. “The only thing more powerful than hate is love.” Neither of these messages should have been a surprise to us. They share truths I hope we already learned in our own Episcopal Church.