

Our scholarship essay question for this year references the spiritual journey of the late Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, an African American, the first woman to be elected to the episcopacy in the Anglican Communion in 1988. Bishop Harris spoke of the opposition she encountered to that achievement. In a [2013 interview](#) with the National Visionary Leadership Project, an oral history archive of prominent Black leaders, Harris described the opposition she faced. "I was a woman. I was Black. I was divorced. I had not gone to seminary. I had only been ordained 9 years." Her detractors, she said, argued "that I was outspoken, that I was left of center. Anything they wanted to use, they used."

She shares a quote from a pastor of hers from her youth, the Rev. Van Bird, as she reflects on her own upbringing and her encounters with racism and her own story of lifelong struggle, "There is a remnant of God that lives and looks and speaks to the future in the minds of those who understand the struggle; in the hearts of those who have dedicated their lives; in the hopes of the people for whom it is waged; in the fears of those against whom it is directed; and in the strength of those who will carry it out."

**ESSAY QUESTION:**

What do you understand of the struggle and how has it formed the way you live and look and speak to the future; how has it formed your heart and the dedication of your life; how has it shaped your hopes for others who have known the struggle? How has it given you strength? How has it informed the way you see the fearful people against whom the struggle is waged?

*Please respond with an essay of no more than 1500 words.*