

CHAPLAIN TO RETIRED CLERGY

I have served as chaplain to retired clergy, spouses and surviving spouses for more than ten years, which includes changing times in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and under four bishops in succession.

Currently, the bishop's office and I plan a luncheon/social twice each year for June and December. A variety of places are used. Earlier, we met for lunch at a mutually convenient restaurant in the city. Later, we met in the home of a retiree and spouse. Currently we meet in a church where a luncheon can be served.

Bishop and Betsy McConnell host the luncheons and share in table conversations. The bishop makes it a point to attend all luncheons, along with some of his clergy staff.

Part of the ministry to the retired involves mailing greeting cards. Recognizing the birthdays of clergy and spouse or surviving spouse includes mailing some 170 cards over the span of a calendar year. They include those canonically resident in the diocese as well as those from other dioceses living in the Pittsburgh area. Numerous cards are mailed to those outside the Pittsburgh area, such as clergy and spouses living in California, Kansas, Indiana and Virginia. Many expressions of gratitude have been received. Cards are sent on other occasions as well, such as hospital admissions and occasions of death or grief, and to nursing home residents and those in an assisted care facility.

Diocesan funds support the greater part of the cost of card purchases and mailing, and underwrite the cost of all luncheons.

This chaplaincy allows me, along with my wife, to attend Province III meetings, and we are grateful to the Church Pension Group for making that possible.

My current reading list does not directly relate to this ministry. However, I am currently serving two mission churches on a part time basis so that all professional reading at present is related to service and sermon preparation and scripture commentaries.

Gratefully serving this ministry, I am,
The Rev. Arthur C. Dilg+
Indiana, PA