

CHAPLAIN TO RETIRED CLERGY

Over the years (more than ten), I have had the privilege of serving as chaplain to retired clergy and surviving spouses. Primarily, that means two things. First, to assist the bishop in planning and scheduling an annual luncheon, usually held at a restaurant. Recently, however, Bishop McConnell has encouraged not one, but two yearly luncheons. They provide great social occasions whereby we bring one another up to date with any significant events. The bishop and Betsy share in that time together as well. Lately, we have had the privilege of meeting in the home of a clergy couple, which has provided a relaxed way to meet and eat.

A second part of this ministry centers on greeting cards. Recognizing the birthdays of clergy retirees and spouse or surviving spouse, includes mailing cards to some 170 persons on our list. These include those canonically resident in the diocese as well as those from other dioceses living in the Pittsburgh region. A number of cards are mailed to those no longer living in the Pittsburgh area, but in places such as California, Kansas, and Indiana. In turn, there have been many expressions of gratitude from those receiving cards. It should be noted that diocesan funds support this ministry with the purchase of greeting cards and postage. Cards are mailed for other occasions, in addition, such as in cases of hospitalization or the death of family members.

This chaplaincy also allows me to attend Province III meetings, organized by the Church Pension Group, and to be in contact with chaplains in other dioceses of the Episcopal Church.

I am most grateful to serve in this capacity.
(The Rev.) Arthur C. Dilg