

RETIREMENT REFLECTIONS

An Occasional News Letter for the Retired Clergy/Spouses of the
Diocese of New Jersey

Bob Legnani, Chaplain

The next luncheon of the Retired Clergy/Spouses is Wednesday, March 13th, beginning at noon in the Bishop Matthews Conference Room of Diocesan House. Our speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Bud Holland on “The importance of Legacies received and given: Rediscovering our life portfolios”.

On Being a Priest after Retirement...and a Clergy Spouse

A subject that occasionally comes up at conferences of chaplains to the retired clergy and spouses is what does it mean to be a priest or the spouse of a clergy person in retirement. We all know what ministry meant when we were rectors or vicars or the spouses and children of the local Episcopal priest. But in retirement maybe we're not so sure. There is, of course, the feeling (relief) that the pressure is off. Even in doing Sunday Supply, we don't have to worry about the numbers (as in the Parochial Report lines about Average Sunday Attendance and amount of Plate and Pledge). But our Episcopal Church has very definite ideas about the permanence of ordained ministry and there is nothing in the Book of Common Prayer about a distinction between “active” and “retired”. And what does all this mean to those spouses who have answered the rectory phone, attended ECW meetings (sorry, husbands), and raised families in the shadow of the church steeple? Now, I realize that this doesn't describe the parish experience of every priest and spouse in our group but, nevertheless, there was a time when we were “active” and now we're “retired”. So what?

I met Bud Holland at a conference for chaplains to the retired sponsored by the Church Pension Group last fall. He's been thinking about these questions for some time and I've invited him to share these thoughts with us at our Lenten Ember Wednesday luncheon. Bud has served in a variety of capacities in the Church including being rector, staff resource in two dioceses and on the Presiding Bishop's staff. He believes that we all have gifts and wisdom to bring to the table. These are our legacies, and retirement is a time to rediscover our “life portfolios”. He sees the glass as always “half full”.

In Christ,
Bob Legnani

PEOPLE TO KNOW AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO HAVE

Ms. Pat Hawkins is the Benefits Administrator for the clergy and spouses of our diocese. Call her with any questions regarding insurance and health benefits. Her office is at Diocesan House: Telephone (609) 394-5281, ext. 22. Email benefits@dioceseofnj.org.

Any questions about pensions and retirement issues may be directed to the Church Pension Group Client Services at (800) 223-6602 or email www.cpg.org. The Pastoral Care Office is staffed by the Rev. Laura Queen and Mr. Sean Scheller.

CONVOCATIONAL CHAPLAINS

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|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lee Powers | Atlantic Convocation | revlpowers@gmail.com |
| Alan Salmon | Burlington Convocation | aks4taralane@comcast.net |
| Frances Clark | Camden Convocation | clfran45@verizon.net |
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| Joe Parrish | Northern Convocation | JoeParrish@compuserve.com |
| Karin Mitchell | Trenton Convocation | rector@stdavidscrnbury.com |
| Ann Holt | Watchung Convocation | ach34@comcast.net |
| Brian Burgess | Woodbury Convocation | frburgess@christchurch.woodburynj.org |

Convocational Chaplains are your local chaplains who help the Bishop and the Diocesan Chaplain stay in contact with retired clergy/spouses and are available when a hospital visit is requested or there is a need to “check in” on a fellow retiree. We thank them for their service.

DEPARTED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Isabel Lambelet, widow of Clarence, died on January 17th at age 95. The Lambelet's were active in our diocese including when Clarence was the chaplain of the Episcopal Ministry at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Ann Holt, the Convocational Chaplain in the Watchung Convocation, officiated at Isabel's service.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Many of us retired clergy doing supply or other liturgical and sacramental ministry may not remember (I for one don't), that we are responsible for filling out an annual report of our ministries each year. The 2018 report can be found on the diocesan website under **for congregations/clergy**. Follow to **Resources for clergy**, then **Non-parochial or licensed clergy**, then **Report of non-parochial clergy**, and finally **Form for 2018**. Our cooperation is appreciated by the staff at Diocesan House. Thank you.

Below is the registration for the luncheon on Wednesday, March 13th. Please return it by Monday, March 11th to Bob Legnani so our Diocesan staff will know how many to expect for the luncheon. All retired clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of New Jersey and their spouses, all retired clergy and their spouses from other dioceses living in our diocese and, of course, all surviving spouses are invited to our quarterly luncheons and programs. Please join us for the Retired Clergy/Spouses Luncheon, March 13, 2019 at 12 O'clock noon at Diocesan House. Reservation Deadline: March 11th.

_____ I/We plan to attend the luncheon

_____ I/We will not be able to attend.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Please return to Bob Legnani
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