

Church life is altar centered. The Holy Altar serves her specific purpose by those ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood. Only a priest can celebrate the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion and other Sacraments as instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. If there is no church building, the priest still can celebrate the sacraments. Church communities however build and maintain churches so they can enjoy the celebration of the sacraments on a continuous basis in a suitable atmosphere, and with a priest to serve them for that purpose. The first and foremost duty of the priest is to lead the congregation in the prayer service of thanksgiving; the Holy Eucharist, for the glory and praise of God. Also he is called to conduct other proper religious services and to administer to the sacraments. Difficulty in performing these duties in 20th century America is because the church no longer finds herself in the surroundings of her ancestral homeland where she existed for thousands of years. Our church communities today in America are composed of very diverse groups. Each has a right to be heard and served equally. He is always mindful of the fact that all have an equal and legitimate right. How can this be done? By being innovative and having flexible policies. Doors must be opened so others can benefit fully from the services offered by God through the church to our people. This is no easy task and there are no simple solutions.

During the course of the year, there were five Baptisms; 1 wedding; 2 funerals and also assisted in ~~one~~^{two} marriage ceremony.

In addition, the priest is to visit the people of the parish; to comfort the sick, the needy and the bereaved; to perform all good deeds prescribed in the Holy Scripture and by Ecclesiastical Council and the Holy Fathers of the church for the advancement of spiritual life and good order in the church.

The priest is called to supervise the church schools; to ensure by careful supervision, the proper observance of the provisions of the Diocesan By-laws; the proper execution of the decisions of the Parish Assembly and instructions of the Primate and the Diocesan Council. He is to present an annual report to the Parish Assembly and to the Primate. The Parish Priest presides over the Parish Assembly, Parish Council, and all church affiliated organizations. He supervises their activities. Everything pertaining to the church and activities centers around the church is under the direct supervision of the Parish Priest and Parish Council. All of these requirements have been fulfilled.

In doing work outside of his priestly duties, the priest does these on a voluntary basis and is accountable only to himself for he already is called to supervise.

But he holds the right to supervise the work of all church organizations and individuals by virtue of the office of the Parish Priest being President of all church organizations.

Priestly duties and obligations are always given priority over voluntary services. Some of the following is a random report of some of my activities.....

- 1...lectured to Dept. of Religious studies at Randolph Macon College and also Virginia United Methodist Assembly in Blackstone, Va.
- 2...made arrangements for picture-article in local paper on 'water blessing' service.
- 3...devised and implemented the church Stewardship program.
- 4...organized the Mid-lenten service.
- 5...assisted in publication and mailings of church's newsletter and circulars.
- 6...handled monies received during the week and passed them to the treasurer.
- 7...worked with Sam Baronian Sr. with the various church funds.
- 8...participated in joint Thanksgiving Day services held by the WestEnd churches.
- 9...made arrangements for the Martyrs Day Memorial Service and for speaker on that day.

Rev. Arthur B. Cannon