

Briefcase reveals work to come

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It's 9:30 on Monday evening, and I just finished the exciting, challenging exercise of unloading and processing the materials in my briefcase.

I hate to admit it, but neither Fibber McGee's closet at its worst nor a city block of sofa cushions could yield more than my briefcase did. I found everything but a half-eaten and long-forgotten peanut butter sandwich.

Normally I would have accomplished that chore over the weekend, but two incredibly beautiful weddings and a Sunday trip to the Southern Tier delayed its completion.

As is usually the case, the bulk of the material fell easily into three categories: correspondence which calls for my personal attention; memos or reports I need to review and to which I must frequently respond; and longer articles or background papers that help me to prepare talks or articles.

It was all fairly routine tonight. I got some of the work done, and some re-

mains to be tackled.

What leads me to dwell on the experience tonight is the fact that the material in the case represented an uncommonly wide variety of today's pastoral concerns.

Among the items was material relating to our diocesan synod, school reorganization, two painful human situations brought recently to my attention, education for ministry, development work, Stewardship Council, Priests' Council, Thanks Giving Appeal, personnel policies, personnel problems, programs in support of initial and ongoing formation for our clergy and women in the church.

These and many other concerns, questions, problems and opportunities are part of the ongoing agenda of our local church and most other local churches with which I am familiar.

While I am not in love with the prospect of tackling all of the issues before us, I can honestly say that I am content that we who make up this local church are going in good directions. By that I

mean that we are dealing with important issues in constructive ways and with a growing sense that we really need one another.

My musings tonight are not so much about the specific items on our common agenda, but about the qualities that should characterize our community as we deal with them. I'd like to share a short list of descriptive characteristics with you. I do so with the hope that you might think about them, test their worth and propose others for our common consideration:

- Attentiveness to the concerns of others and a committed disposition to treat others with respect.
- A willingness to speak the truth in love whenever we are invited to do so or whenever we judge that will be helpful to others.
- A willingness to put the best possible interpretation on the words and actions of others.
- A liberal readiness to praise and a notable reluctance to find fault.
- A disposition to dwell on what we



hold in common with others rather than on our differences.

• An explicit recognition that we are all daughters and sons of God — that the love that joins us to God joins us to one another.

I hope that what remains of the summer will be blessed and peaceful for you.

Peace to all.

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Mary Kessler appointed director of Qualified Pastoral Ministers

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced Aug. 12 that Mary Kessler will assume the post of diocesan director of Qualified Pastoral Ministers effective immediately.



Qualified Pastoral Ministers was formerly known as the diocesan Division of Personnel.

A parishioner at Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford, Kessler has served as director of parish personnel services for the diocese since 1986. In her new position, she replaces Robert Mason, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack on May 7, 1991.

In making the announcement, Bishop Clark said, "Mary brings to this position a wonderful understanding of who we are as church and where we are going as we approach the next century. She has a vision of lay ministries in the church that will be of great benefit to our diocese."

Kessler, who worked with Mr. Mason on numerous projects, said she decided to apply for the position because "it seemed like a natural flow."

One of Kessler's first tasks will be overseeing the reorganization of Qualified Pastoral Ministers, as part of restructuring efforts at the diocesan Pastoral Center.

In addition to her diocesan duties, Kessler also serves as president of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators.

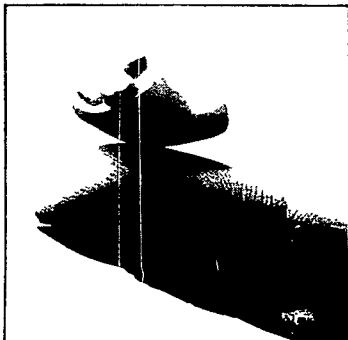
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