



Dear Kitty -

Nov 16, 1985

Thank you - thank you for the care package - and please pass that on to the Guild - It was like Christmas - and I'll come back a few pounds heavier, but I'll do it in style.

Couple items of business: First, with regards to the lay readers schedule - as far as I know Tom Campbell will be available to do Christmas Eve - at least that was the last word. You might confirm that with Elizabeth or you can write him at: St. Edward's School, Vero Beach, Florida 32963.

I'm disappointed that there is no priest available for December. Hopefully soon we can rectify all that. I have no idea how the conversation with the Bishop and the Hunters turned out. Stephen did talk a bit with Merrill and as far as Stephen could determine was that I'd be coming back to Madison as soon as I can - I will be seeing the Bishop over Thanksgiving break & I'll try to confirm that and start working out the details - I am concerned, also, about Stewardship and the finances - I am going to prepare a letter for the Parish to be included in the December "Alpha & Omega" about Stewardship - not to sound like I'm trying to raise my salary - but if the church wants full time, consistent leadership, the church will have to help pay for it - I would

Suggest that the Bishop's Committee meet sometime before Dec 1 and take a long look at finances & priorities and then conduct some sort of Every Member Canvass - at least to visit with everyone and listen to the wish dreams about the parish - whoever is in charge, whether me or someone else will need that kind of input and it probably shouldn't be the clergy at the beginning - in other ~~words~~ words, you might do a parish profile and then solicit support financially and otherwise, for it. If I come back, it will not be the haphazard way it was done this summer - we all need to plan & dream, pray & listen for the Lord's direction - as I said earlier, the Lord has a purpose for Grace Church and I am convinced it isn't just to keep the doors open - Anyway, the Bishop's Committee can get that started.

I have had a wonderful semester in many ways. I have missed home, but I have tried to listen to the Lord speak thru the classes in Liturgics & Theology particularly for clues & insights into what we at Grace Church can be and do. I have learned much about liturgy and see myself as liturgical officer at Grace - to carefully consider how we do liturgy and what our possibilities & potentials are - how liturgy as the articulation of what we believe is central and primary - obviously something we all do together, but with a purpose - I'm excited about it - and between you and me & the fencepost, I have come to understand in a rich

and powerful way how my role and presence as a woman and as a priest are & can be integrated in a way that I never imagined - That's not to denigrate the role of male clergy, but I have discovered gifts that I never knew I had and ones that will make the ministry so very exciting. It's hard to articulate, but the liturgy, the faith, the patience for ministry have become abiding and abiding - I am grateful to the Lord for all of that.

Classes are going well - I'm inundated, hampered, with final papers, projects & take home exams. I just create out one at a time - I will be home Thanksgiving & then again at Christmas - back here for the General Ordination Exams Jan 2 and then home by Jan 9. If the parish decides to hire me, I'll be available on Jan 19. One thing to consider & this might be an item for a Bishop's Committee meeting, I'll need some sort of office - I can't work out of my car and feel any sense of permanence - I've had that some thought, ~~had~~? Also perhaps schedule an annual meeting sometime after Jan 19 -

I am so grateful for your friendship & support - It is a blessing - Keep the faith

and give everyone my love - I am
truly looking forward being back with
you -

Love & blessings
Karen