

JUNE 9, 1968

(Following is the last part of the sermon preached by Al Reiners on June 9. Since it was said to each of us in St. Bartholomew's, we felt that you might like to have a copy.)

Will you please stand -

My dear friends: The objects you see on or near the Holy Table are to me some of the symbols and sacraments of our life together in this church. There are, of course, many, many others, but I have chosen these as representative of all. My wish is that the sacramental bread and sacramental wine of our communion will stand for the love and the reality of Christ's spirit and power among us, as we have lived and worked together in the various ways represented by the objects you see before you.

It has been my wonderful privilege to be part of your lives, to baptize some of you and your children - to teach and be taught to preach and to be preached to, to marry, and simply to be with you in sickness, sorrow and frustration and in joy and laughter and fun.

It has been an especially wonderful thing to grow along with you in tolerance, in loving, in self understanding, in freedom and in responsibility, and in service to others.

In the days ahead, I hope you will keep uppermost in your minds the truth that no man can be all things to all people. I pray that you will secure a Vicar who will be able to do many of the things I have not done and who will lead you into a bright and joyful and noble future. It is very hard to leave this place which I have helped to build and which has been consecrated by our prayer - frustration - tears - laughter - work and love.

It is even harder to leave you have become so much a part of the Reiners family. But I feel it is to our mutual benefit and I know that the deep and abiding joys of the seven years far outweigh the sorrow of ending this chapter of our lives.

In many ways, these years have been my Camelot and what we have enabled each other to be and to do can only be shared with others who we touch to the Glory of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May we continue to be freed-up and imaginative - to be faithful - to be real - to be responsible - to be loving - to remain in the spirit and be born again - and may each of you continue to grow in these Christ-like graces.

The Lord is with you
(And with thy spirit)

AMEN"