

Calvary's Rev. Pike vows to preserve Gramercy Park

By Maciej Wroblewski

Having been recently elected a Trustee of Gramercy Park, long-time neighbor and a known community leader and civil rights activist, the Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Pike says preservation of the park for future generations is a priority.

Dr. Pike, who was elected a Trustee with 53 votes out of 63 that were cast, arrived in the neighborhood in 1971 when he was called to Calvary Church on Gramercy Park North. Four years later he became rector of Calvary/St. George's

Parish as a result of a merger of Calvary, Holy Communion, and St. Georges.



REV. TOM PIKE

"I've lived in the park for almost 40 years and I've raised three children here and I think it's a very nice place to live," he told T&V.

While he recognizes that some people are uneasy about the park being private, Dr. Pike

told T&V he views Gramercy Park as a bouquet of greenery and flowers that all New Yorkers benefit from, and a very precious gift from the past that must be pre-

served for the enjoyment of future generations.

I think presence of green spaces like Gramercy Park is one way you culture hope and peace and joy in people's lives," said Dr. Pike, whose main interests are religion, social justice and art, and their relationships to each other.

Evoking the old saying, "if you want something done, ask a busy person," he vowed to work even harder toward park's preservation in spite of his numerous religious and civic responsibilities.

Dr. Pike has been a Commissioner of Landmarks in the City of New York since 1991 and served as chair of Partnership for the Homeless for ten years. He was also a commissioner on Human Rights in Yonkers, NY, chair of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and president of the Preservation League of New York State.

"I have always felt that in American society everybody should be given an equal opportunity to participate in the society and should be prevented from it be-

cause of their religion or race or sex," he said of his extensive involvement civic activities.

Likewise, in his pastoral work, he has served on many committees for the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and for the National Church. He has

Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Divinity degrees from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University and a Doctorate of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary.

He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1963 and served as assistant at St. Mark's in the Bowery until 1965. He then was



Rev. Dr. Thomas Pike was recently elected as a trustee of Gramercy Park.

been and is again a trustee of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

Dr. Pike was a founder and is the chair emeritus of Partners for Sacred Places, a national group based in Philadelphia dedicated to helping churches, mosques, and synagogues in poor neighborhoods maintain their buildings.

Born and brought up in Westchester County, Dr. Pike received his

called to St. Andrew's Church in Yonkers where he remained until 1971.

Dr. Pike is married to Lys McLaughlin Pike, who served as executive director of the Council on the Environment of New York City until she retired. In his free time, Dr. Pike is a painter, a passion he will convey to others next month as the artist scholar in residence at the American Academy in Rome.